

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	KT20006
Post Title:	Human Microbiome Research Associate – KTP Finisher
Grade:	Ad hoc £26-30k depending on qualifications and experience
School/Department:	School of Chemistry, Food & Pharmacy. Food & Nutritional Sciences
Reports to:	Anisha Wijeyesekera (UoR) and Edward Green (CHAIN Biotechnology Ltd)
Responsible for:	None

Purpose

The University of Reading is pleased to be working on a collaborative Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) project with CHAIN Biotechnology Ltd supported by academic colleagues in Food & Nutritional Sciences.

We have an exciting opportunity for a KTP Finisher to incorporate specialist anaerobic gut modelling expertise into CHAIN Biotechnology's technology platform which delivers therapeutics directly to the gut therefore, accelerating time to market for a range of novel live biotherapeutics.

The role is for 12 months and based in two locations: the University of Reading and CHAIN's laboratory in Nottingham. The budget has an allocation to cover the cost of travel/accommodation for the Nottingham element.

The main aim of the partnership is to identify how the *Clostridium* survives in, and affects, the human gut microbiota. The project will involve building the gut model at CHAIN (using defined culture inocula).

The KTP Finisher will also communicate the outcomes of the project both internally and externally to relevant identified parties.

Main duties and responsibilities

The Finisher will undertake in vitro studies that use live biotherapeutics. This will involve continuous culture gut models to assess effects upon the microbiota, assess microbiota changes and metabolite generation. Transfer the gut model technology to CHAIN. Contribute towards administrative tasks as appropriate.

Report on progress and results of the KTP within the University of Reading and the funders Innovate UK.

Supervision received

Day to day supervision will be provided by the designated supervisors at CHAIN Biotechnology Ltd and University of Reading. This is supplemented with regular visits and input from the academic and industrial teams.

Supervision given

None. There could be an opportunity for undergraduate project supervision.

Contact

Regular contact will be with key partners involved with the KTP project; including appropriate contacts at CHAIN Biotechnology Ltd and the academic team in Food & Nutritional Sciences at the University of Reading plus additional external contacts as appropriate.

Terms and conditions

A combination of the University of Reading and CHAIN Biotechnology Ltd T&Cs will be used. The KTP Finisher will be supplied with T&C's from CHAIN Biotechnology Ltd which will be effective and work alongside the University of Reading T&C. Holiday entitlement will reflect CHAIN Biotechnology Ltd policy plus public holidays.

This document outlines the duties required for the time being of the post to indicate the level of responsibility. It is not a comprehensive or exhaustive list and the line manager may vary duties from time to time which do not change the general character of the job or the level of responsibility entailed.

Date assessed: October 6th 2020

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Human Microbiome Research Associate KTP Finisher	Chemistry, Food & Pharmacy; Food & Nutritional Sciences

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical microbiology lab experience • Aseptic technique • Ability to plan effective research • Critical analysis & interpretation of data • Good presentation skills (oral and written) • Ability to plan and organise own workload 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills with anaerobic bacteria & operating fermentors • Peer reviewed publications
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher degree (MSc or PhD) in a relevant scientific discipline i.e. microbiology 	
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anaerobic fermentation • Analytical methods for biological specimens & culture supernatants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiar with the gut microbiome & development of probiotics & microbiome therapeutics • Familiar with regulations governing use of human tissue/GMO's etc
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In vitro determinants of gut microbiology (understanding not practical) • Anaerobic fermentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faecal analysis of microbiome • Analytical assessments
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly motivated and flexible approach • Accurate and efficient • timekeeping with ability for commitment and completion • Ability to work in a team in small company environment • Able to work independently in the lab without supervision and take care and attention with biological specimens • Ability to interact within industrial environment and associated university resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervisory experience • Writing grants & publications

Completed by: Glenn Gibson	Date: Oct 2020
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