

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF34217
Post Title:	Research Assistant
Grade:	6
School/Department:	School of Biological Sciences
Reports to:	Professor Jon Gibbins
Responsible for:	None

Purpose

As leading worldwide causes of death, cardiovascular diseases are the focus of much current research. With poor or inappropriate platelet regulation being one of the primary causes of arterial thrombosis, platelet biology is an exciting and dynamic field within cardiovascular biology. The purpose of this post is to investigate differences in the regulation of platelet function in patients with established cardiovascular and metabolic dysfunction using new technical approaches. Through sophisticated data analysis we aim to use this approach to develop personalised (precision medicine) approaches to anti-thrombotic therapy, to more effectively prevent and treat thrombotic disease. The project will incorporate study of patients, detailed analysis of their platelet function, exploration of the underlying mechanisms that cause variation in thrombosis risk in the population, and establishment of the impact of these variabilities on the process of thrombosis.

Main duties and responsibilities

The project, funded by a British Heart Foundation Programme Grant, is a collaborative project between the Platelet Biology Group at the University of Reading and Cardiologists at the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The main duties and responsibilities are

- To undertake work within the field of platelet biology.
- To perform detailed platelet function analysis on blood samples provided by cardiology patients
- To work with mouse models of thrombosis (this project will involve working with mice)
- To undertake a variety of protein biochemistry (immunoprecipitation, SDS-PAGE, Western blotting etc.), microscopy (fluorescence: intravital, confocal) and tissue culture.
- To progress rapidly to working independently, in an organised manner, to produce data of a publishable quality.
- To work in a professional, safe manner.
- To work well within the team as well as being an independent enthusiastic scientist.
- To be technically competent and an effective, fast learner.
- To use effective written and oral communication to further the research work.
- On production of high quality data, where opportunities arise, to attend and present at both UK and international conferences.

Training and support will be provided to the post holder as required.

Supervision received

The post will be under the overall supervision of Prof. Jonathan Gibbins. Experienced technicians and post-doctoral researchers will also provide initial day-to-day guidance. The successful applicant will work as a member of the team of 6 researchers who will work specifically on this project.

Supervision given

The post will be expected to provide supervision and guidance to undergraduate students, members of the laboratory and visitors, who are less experienced with technical approaches to be used in the laboratory.

Contact

The post holder will be a member of the Platelet Biology Group at the University of Reading, within the Institute for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research and the School of Biological Sciences, and will be based in our new Health and Life Sciences Building. They will have contact with many members of this school, other schools within the University and external collaborators.

Terms and conditions

Full-time, fixed-term for 4 years and 6 months.

There are no specified hours of work, but you will be required to work such hours as are necessary to carry out the duties associated with the post.

Date assessed: 25th November, 2020.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Research Assistant	Biological Sciences

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise in cell and molecular biology research • Expertise in fluorescence microscopy • Previous experience of working with animal models of disease • Ability to learn new techniques quickly • Technical competence • Ability to produce high quality experimental data • Ability to communicate effectively (written and oral), both within a team and to others • Ability to work effectively as a team member within a large group • Ability to work safely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience of haemostasis or thrombosis research • Expertise in intravital microscopy
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A degree in a relevant area of biology • Published peer reviewed research in high impact journals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PhD in a relevant area of biology • Previously held licence to conduct research involving animals
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell and molecular biology research methodologies • Knowledge of signal transduction • Basic health and safety issues within the laboratory environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platelet biology • Cardiovascular biology
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell and molecular biology experience • Experience of the study of signal transduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous platelet research experience

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience of working with laboratory animals • Previous experience of advanced fluorescence imaging techniques • Independent research • Coordinating research projects • Record keeping 	
<p>Disposition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well organised • Professional • Enthusiastic • Independent • Able to work within a team • Good attention to detail • Able to follow through tasks to completion 	

Completed by: Prof Jon Gibbins	Date:25/11/20
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