

JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	KT19002
Post Title:	Human Microbiome Research Associate – KTP Associate
Grade:	Ad hoc Up to £26,000 pa plus allowance depending on qualifications and experience
School/Department:	School of Chemistry, Food & Pharmacy. Food & Nutritional Sciences
Reports to:	Dr Anisha Wijeyesekera (UoR) and Daniela Heeg (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 the Department of Food & Nutritional Sciences.

We have an exciting opportunity for a KTP Associate to incorporate specialist anaerobic gut modelling expertise into CHAIN Biotechnology's technology platform, which delivers therapeutics directly to the gut, reducing time to market for a range of novel live biotherapeutics. The test here will be a *Clostridium* strain.

The role is for 18 months and based in 2 main locations; the majority of the time will be at CHAIN Biotechnology's office in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and towards the end of the project it is anticipated time will be spent in CHAIN Biotechnology's laboratory in Nottingham. The budget has an allocation to cover the cost of travel/accommodation for the Nottingham element. There will also be a requirement to spend time in the labs at the University of Reading at the start of the project for training on analytical techniques.

The main aim of the partnership is to identify how the *Clostridium* survives in, and affects, the human gut microbiota. There will also be a focus on the inflammatory disorder Ulcerative Colitis.

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

Main duties and responsibilities

The Associate will undertake in vitro studies that use live biotherapeutics. This will involve and use continuous culture gut models to assess effects upon the microbiota of healthy persons and Ulcerative Colitis patients. Assessment of microbiota changes will be made through analysis of microbial composition and function. The Associate will be responsible for transferring the gut model technology to CHAIN and 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 supervisor at CHAIN Biotechnology Ltd. This is supplemented with regular visits and input from the academic team; Professor Glenn Gibson and Dr Anisha Wijeyesekera.

Supervision given

None.

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 the Department of 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 Associate 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: 27 March 2019

PERSON SPECIFICATION

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

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical lab experience • statistical analysis of biological data • motivated by publications ability to plan effective and independent research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • microbiology knowledge • anaerobic processes • gut health issues
Attainment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD • Ability to publish results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gut microbiology expertise • Health and disease issues
Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • human nutrition • gut microbiology • analysis of biological specimens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • familiar with human tissue act • sterile procedures • anaerobic fermentation
Relevant Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in vitro determinants of gut fermentation (understanding not practical) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • faecal analysis of microbiome • analytical assessments
Disposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • high motivation • critical analysis of data • good presentation skills (oral and written) • interpretation of science outputs • accurate and efficient timekeeping • flexibility • knowledge of experimental control • ability to work in a team • care and attention with biological specimens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some supervisory experience • data collection and appropriate analyses (statistics) • writing publications

Completed by: Glenn Gibson & Anisha Wijeyesekera	Date: 28 March 2019
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