JOB DESCRIPTION

Vacancy reference:	SRF30476
Post Title:	Postdoctoral Research Associate in Cardiovascular/Cell Biology
Grade:	Grade 6
School/Department:	School of Chemistry, Food and Pharmacy
Reports to:	Dr Sakthivel Vaiyapuri
Responsible for:	N/A

Purpose

As a leading worldwide cause of death, cardiovascular disease is 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 the impact of pro-resolution mediators in the control of thromboinflammatory responses.

Main duties and responsibilities

This project funded by the British Heart Foundation will use a range of techniques to investigate the roles of pro-resolution mediators in the regulation of platelet activation, thrombosis and inflammation. This postdoctoral position will be available from the 1st of November 2019 and for a fixed period of 3 years.

Strong experience in the field of cell biology (preferably in platelet biology) is highly desirable, enabling the successful candidate to rapidly progress to working independently, in a well-organised manner, to produce high quality data for publications in high impact scientific journals. The candidate must be technically competent and an effective, fast learner. It is essential that the candidate work in a professional and safe manner. Familiarity with techniques such as flow cytometry, protein biochemistry (immunoprecipitation, SDS-PAGE, immunoblotting etc.), tissue culture and microscopy (intravital and confocal imagining of live and fixed cells) would be beneficial, as would experience of phlebotomy and working with laboratory animals. Knowledge of assays of platelet function would also be advantageous, although necessary training will be provided.

As well as being an independent enthusiastic scientist, it is important that the candidate be able to work well with the other members of the platelet biology research community at the University of Reading. It is important that the candidate is able to demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills. On production of high quality data, there are likely to be opportunities to attend and present the research data at both UK and international conferences.

Supervision received

The post will be under the supervision of Dr Sakthivel Vaiyapuri who will also provide day-to-day guidance and support.

Supervision given

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

Contact

The post holder will be a member of the Dr Vaiyapuri' laboratory, within the Institute for Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research and the School of Pharmacy, and as such will have close contact with the other five platelet biology groups within the University, as well as colleagues across different disciplines and external collaborators.

Terms and conditions

Full-time, fixed-term up to 3 years.

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. Overtime is not payable.

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: 9 September 2019

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	School/Department
Postdoctoral Research Associate	**School of Chemistry, Food & Pharmacy**

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Skills Required	• Expertise in cell and molecular biology research • Ability to learn new techniques quickly • Technical competence • Ability to produce and analyse 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	• Previous experience of haemostasis or thrombosis research • Expertise in the use of flow cytometry and confocal & fluorescence microscopy • Expertise of subject recruitment and phlebotomy • Expertise with handling laboratory animals and related experiments
Attainment	• A PhD in a relevant area of biology • Published peer reviewed research articles in high impact journals	
Knowledge	• Cell and molecular biology research methodologies • Basic health and safety issues within the laboratory environment • Knowledge of signal transduction • Knowledge on protein-protein/peptide/small molecule interactions • Basic understanding on inflammation and their impact during pathological conditions	• Platelet biology • Cardiovascular biology • Chemical nature of small molecules and their interactions with signalling proteins • Interdisciplinary knowledge to link platelet biology with various disciplines e.g. pharmaceutical/organic /synthetic chemistry
Relevant Experience	• Cell biology expertise • Experience of the study of signal transduction • Independent research • Coordinating research projects • Record keeping	• Previous platelet research experience • Previous experience of thrombus formation • Previous experience of flow cytometry, confocal and intravital microscopy

Disposition	• Well organised • Professional • Independent • Able to work within a team • Attention to detail • A finisher/completer	

Completed by: Dr Sakthivel Vaiyapuri	Date: 9.9.2019