



Higher Scientific Officer Cell Biology / Targeted Protein Degradation Candidate Information

August 2022

The Institute of Cancer Research

About our organisation

We are one of the world's most influential cancer research institutes with an outstanding record of achievement dating back more than 100 years. We are world leaders in identifying cancer genes, discovering cancer drugs and developing precision radiotherapy. Together with our hospital partner The Royal Marsden, we are rated in the top four centres for cancer research and treatment worldwide.

As well as being a world-class institute, we are a college of the University of London. We came top in the league table of university research quality compiled from the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014).

We have charitable status and rely on support from partner organisations, charities, donors and the general public.

We have more than 1000 staff and postgraduate students across three sites – in Chelsea and Sutton.

Centre for Protein Degradation, Division of Cancer Therapeutics

The ICR is establishing a new Centre that will accelerate research into drug discovery using targeted protein degradation. Based within the ICR Division of Cancer Therapeutics, the Centre's scientists will apply a wide range of protein degradation technologies to benefit fundamental discovery science and translational research across the ICR. This research will provide a nucleus for other teams to collaborate with, bringing their specialist biological and clinical knowledge to enable the exploration of therapeutic protein degradation in the widest possible range of cancers.

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Scientists in the Division of Cancer Therapeutics implement innovative drug discovery technologies, discover novel mechanism-based drugs, and develop these as rapidly as possible from the laboratory through to hypothesis-testing early clinical trials. We publish our work extensively and have a large network of collaborations with academia, biotechnology companies, and the pharmaceutical industry. Our drug discovery Biology teams are dedicated to translational and drug discovery research, applying molecular pharmacology and cancer biology approaches to explore the therapeutic potential of new targets, and implementing functional and mechanistic assays to support progression of new small molecule therapeutics.

About the Higher Scientific Officer position

Working in the Target Evaluation and Molecular Therapeutics Team and within the Division of Cancer Therapeutics (Director and Team Lead: Dr Olivia Rossanese), the postholder will use state of the art chemical biology techniques and phenotypic screening to explore the mechanism of action of small molecule degraders (PROTACs and molecular glues). In the process, the postholder will also be responsible for developing novel reagents, cellular assays, and chemo-proteomic methods.

The position is a collaborative position in a highly interdisciplinary group with colleagues in chemistry, structural biology, DMPK and computational chemistry to design and test novel TPD cancer therapeutics.

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Our values

The ICR has a highly skilled and committed workforce, with a wide variety of roles, each requiring different skills. But whether you work as a researcher, or work as part of our corporate team, your work and behaviour is underpinned by these six values. They are what bring us together as one team - as 'One ICR'.



Pursuing excellence

We aspire to excellence in everything we do, and aim to be leaders in our field.



Acting with Integrity

We promote an open and honest environment that gives credit and acknowledges mistakes, so that our actions stand up to scrutiny.



Valuing all our people

We value the contribution of all our people, help them reach their full potential, and treat everyone with kindness and respect.



Working together

We collaborate with colleagues and partners to bring together different skills, resources and perspectives.



Leading innovation

We do things differently in ways that no one else has done before, and share the expertise and learning we gain.



Making a difference

We all play our part, doing a little bit more, a little bit better, to help improve the lives of people with cancer.



Our values set out how each of us at the ICR, works together to meet our mission – to make the discoveries that defeat cancer. They summarise our desired behaviours, attitudes and culture – how we value one another and how we take pride in the work we do, to deliver impact for people with cancer and their loved ones.

Professor Kristian Helin
Chief Executive

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Candidate Information

Job description

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Department / division: | Division of Cancer Therapeutics, Cancer Research UK, Cancer Therapeutics Unit (CTU) |
| Pay grade / staff group: | Higher Scientific Officer/ Scientific Professional 5 |
| Hours / duration: | Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday. |
| Reports to: | Dr Olivia Rossanese (Head of Unit) |
| Main purpose of the job: | Develop and characterise novel small molecule degraders (molecular glues and PROTACs) |

Duties and responsibilities:

Key Roles and Responsibilities

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|---|
| Test and validate the activity of degrader molecules using a range of cellular and molecular biology methods |
| Establish and run phenotypic cellular screens |
| Prepare samples for proteomic, analyse and interpret data (in collaboration with data science and proteomics group) |
| Set up TPD enabling tools and technologies |
| Work effectively as part of multi-disciplinary team including other biologists, medicinal and synthetic chemists, structural biologists, analytical and DMPK scientists |

Other Roles and Responsibilities

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|--|
| Maintain accurate electronic experimental records |
| Work and communicate effectively with other members of the Project Team, Unit and external collaborators |
| Keep up to date with the relevant scientific literature |
| Prepare and present results at internal or external meetings |
| Prepare data for patent applications and publications |

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General

All staff must ensure that they familiarise themselves with and adhere to any ICR policies that are relevant to their work and that all personal and sensitive personal data is treated with the utmost confidentiality and in line with the General Data Protection Regulations

Any other duties that are consistent with the nature and grade of the post that may be required.

To work in accordance with the ICR's Values.

To promote a safe, healthy and fair environment for people to work, where bullying and harassment will not be tolerated.

This job description is a reflection of the present position and is subject to review and alteration in detail and emphasis in the light of future changes or development.

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Person specification

Education and Knowledge

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|---|-----------|
| PhD in biological/biochemical sciences or equivalent experience | Essential |
| First degree in a biological or physical science | Essential |
| Knowledge of Cell Biology | Essential |
| Knowledge of Chemical biology | Desirable |
| Knowledge of Chemo-proteomics | Desirable |

Skills

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|---|-----------|
| Strong intellectual curiosity and commitment to successfully learn new research methodologies | Essential |
| Ability to stay up to date with relevant scientific literature and research | Essential |
| Ability to plan, organise & prioritise a busy workload | Essential |
| Effective oral and written communication skills with ability to recognise and highlight key information | Essential |
| Effective collaboration skills and ability to work productively with others | Essential |
| Computer literate (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, ideally also illustrator) | Essential |
| Attention to details and a strong desire to achieve scientific excellence | Essential |

Experience

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|---|-----------|
| Experience in cellular/molecular biology techniques | Essential |
| Experience in biochemical techniques | Essential |
| Experience in drug screening | Desirable |
| Experience in chemo-proteomic methods | Desirable |

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Benefits

We offer a fantastic working environment, great opportunities for career development and the chance to make a real difference to defeat cancer. We aim to recruit and develop the best – the most outstanding scientists and clinicians, and the most talented professional and administrative staff.

The annual leave entitlement for full time employees is 28 days per annum on joining. This will increase by a further day after 2 years' and 5 years' service.

Staff membership to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) is available. The USS is a defined benefit scheme and provides a highly competitive pension scheme with robust benefits. The rate of contributions is determined by USS and details of the costs and benefits of this scheme can be found on their website. If staff are transferring from the NHS, they can opt to remain members of the NHS Pension Scheme.

We offer a range of family friendly benefits such as flexible working, a parents' group, and a maternity mentoring scheme. Other great benefits include interest free loans for discounted season tickets for travel and bicycle purchases, access to the NHS discounts website, a free and confidential Employee Assistance Programme which offers a range of well-being, financial and legal advice services, two staff restaurants, and access to a gym and sporting facilities at our Sutton site.

Further information

You may contact Dr Habib Bouguenina for further information by emailing habib.bouguenina@icr.ac.uk. This job description is a reflection of the current position and is subject to review and alteration in detail and emphasis in the light of future changes or development.