



Postdoctoral Training Fellow

Precision Oncology

Prof Andrew Tutt and Prof Chris Lord laboratory

Candidate Information

September 2026

The Institute of Cancer Research

Description of the role

This position is based in the Precision Oncology team (joint PI's. Prof Andrew Tutt and Prof Chris Lord) at the ICR in Chelsea, Central London.

A Post Doctoral Training Fellow position is available to start immediately to drive forward high-level research on DNA damage repair biology and cancer target validation. You will be responsible for the design and implementation of a project aimed at establishing new therapeutic approaches to breast cancer, based on DNA damage response and target validation studies. This project will build on previous findings of the group in characterising and targeting HORMAD1 expression in breast cancer (Watkins *et al.* 2015, Tarantino *et al.* 2022, Walker, Kollarovic *et al.* 2026 and unpublished data). The project will investigate how HORMAD1 rewires cellular processes relevant to tumour fitness and therapeutic response, including DNA damage and replication stress responses, mitotic regulation, chromosomal instability and telomere biology.

You must possess a PhD in biology, genetics or other associated subjects and have a strong track record in biomedical research as demonstrated by high-impact, first author publications. Considerable experience in cell and molecular biology is essential, together with an understanding of DNA repair biology.

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About the Team

Professor Tutt is the Head of the Breast Cancer Research Division at the ICR and has interests in therapy development for BRCA1/2 associated and “triple negative” (TN) forms of breast cancer. His laboratories at ICR and King’s College London (KCL) have contributed highly to the field (For example, Tutt et al. Nature Medicine 2018; Watkins et al. Cancer Discovery 2015). Working in close partnership with Professor Chris Lord in a jointly led Precision Oncology laboratory, a major focus is using information from patients being treated in the clinic to identify determinants of PARPi resistance and sensitivity. The majority of the projects focus on developing novel therapeutic approaches to cancer and identifying biomarkers and relevant targets in breast cancer underlying the biology of the disease.

This position is offered on a fixed term 4 year contract. Starting salary from £48,429 per annum based on previous postdoctoral experience. In addition to annual performance related pay awards, the salary scales are reviewed annually to consider cost of living increases.

Annual leave entitlement is 28 days per annum. There is an additional entitlement to 8 bank/public holidays and 3 ICR-set privilege days.

The ICR has a workforce agreement stating that Postdoctoral Training Fellows can only be employed for a maximum of 7 years, including any previous postdoctoral employment elsewhere.

About the Division of Breast Cancer Research

The Breast Cancer Now Toby Robins Research Centre, within the Division of Breast Cancer Research at the ICR, is the first centre in the UK entirely devoted to breast cancer research. Our goal is to advance research into the causes, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer. It is located in state-of-the-art laboratory space, with excellent core facilities and is funded through a long-term renewable programme grant from Breast Cancer Now. The Centre is directed by Clinician Scientist Professor Andrew Tutt. Professor Chris Lord is Deputy Director of the Centre. Our Breast Cancer Research Centre was awarded the 2022 AACR Team Science award with our breast cancer clinical research partners in the ICR’s CTSU clinical trial unit and Royal Marsden Hospital, and also received recognition in an award to the ICR for the 2023 Queen’s Anniversary Prize for transforming lives through world-leading breast cancer research.

Our mission
is to make the
discoveries that
defeat cancer.

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.

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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.

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

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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.

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Job description

Department / division:	Breast Cancer Research
Pay grade / staff group:	Post Doctoral Training Fellow
Hours / duration:	Full time 35 hours per week, Monday to Friday. Fixed term contract for 4 years
Reports to:	Professor Andrew Tutt
Accountable to:	Professor Andrew Tutt and Professor Chris Lord
Main purpose of the job:	To drive forward high-level research on DNA damage repair biology and cancer target validation. This project will focus on identification of biology and therapeutic vulnerabilities associated with HORMAD1 expression in triple negative breast cancer.

Duties and responsibilities:

Specific duties:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">To design and perform experiments for projects aimed at optimising existing, or establishing new, therapeutic approaches for HORMAD1-expressing breast cancer, telomere biology and target validation studies. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">To liaise where appropriate with Professor Tutt’s laboratory at KCL. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">To work under the supervision of the line manager and to consult where appropriate. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">To take an interest in the relevant scientific literature. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">To produce work suitable for high-quality, high-impact publications. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">To work on occasions at the KCL and ICR Sutton site. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Any other duties, which may be required which, are consistent with the nature and grade of the post. |

General

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">To work in accordance with the ICR’s Values. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">To promote a safe, healthy and fair environment for people to work, where bullying and harassment will not be tolerated. |

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Person specification

Education and Knowledge

Ph.D. in biology, genetics or other associated subjects**	Essential
Knowledge of cancer biology	Essential
Knowledge of cancer genetics	Essential
Knowledge of drug discovery	Desirable
Understanding DNA Damage Repair biology	Essential
Strong track record in biomedical research as demonstrated by high-impact, first author publications	Essential
Knowledge and understanding of telomere biology and telomere maintenance mechanisms	Desirable

*****as a minimum requirement candidates must have submitted their thesis by the start date of their employment and been awarded their PhD within the six month probationary period.***

Experience

Considerable experience in cell and molecular biology and DNA repair	Essential
Considerable experience in tissue culture	Essential
Experience in target identification and validation	Essential
Experience with models of cancer	Essential
Experience in RNAi and CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing methodology	Essential
Experience in confocal microscopy and high content cell based imaging	Desirable
Experience in high-throughput cell based screens	Desirable
Experience with techniques to investigate telomere biology and dysfunction, such as telomere FISH/Q-FISH, telomere length analysis and imaging-based assessment of telomere-associated phenotypes	Desirable
Experience with DNA repair and replication stress assays	Desirable

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Skills

Proven ability to work to deadlines	Essential
Demonstrable ability to design and implement experiments	Essential
Proficient use of IT/ Good computer literacy and able to use basic tools (Office, Excel)	Essential
High degree of technical expertise	Essential
Good organisational skills	Essential
Good interpersonal skills with the ability to interact effectively with collaborators	Essential
Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including the ability to write scientific manuscripts	Essential

General

Flexibility to work independently or as part of a team	Essential
Computer literate	Essential
Demonstrable ability to work independently and with minimum supervision	Essential
To take interest in the relevant scientific literature	Essential
Proven ability to work effectively under pressure whilst maintaining accuracy	Essential

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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 Professor Andrew Tutt (c/o caroline.carey@icr.ac.uk) or Dr Stephen Pettitt (stephen.pettitt@icr.ac.uk) for further information by emailing. Please note, this address is for enquiries only and you should not send your application to this address.

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.