



Scientific Officer

Target Validation & DNA Damage team – Professor Andrew Tutt

Candidate Information

April 2025

About the role

We are looking to recruit a Scientific Officer to provide technical support for projects running in the laboratory. The majority of these projects focus on identifying and validating biomarkers and relevant therapy targets in breast cancer and studying the underlying biology of the disease. There is a particular focus on triple-negative breast cancer and breast cancers with defects in DNA repair and genome instability. The laboratory has access to patient material, including a unique collection of breast cancer organoid models.

The successful candidate will assist with a variety of molecular biology, cell culture and DNA repair assays, as well as assisting with the smooth running of the laboratory in general. Cell culture skills, especially with organoid models, would be an advantage. This would be an ideal opportunity for someone beginning their research career to learn cutting edge cell culture and drug target validation techniques. The successful candidate would be part of a supportive team conducting exciting translational research into improving treatments for breast cancer.

About the team

The Target Validation and DNA Damage Response Group, led by Professor Andrew Tutt, and the Gene Function Group, led by Professor Chris Lord work together to better characterise BRCA1/BRCA2-associated cancers and ER/HER2-negative breast cancers, with a focus on identifying tumour-specific dependencies, such as synthetic lethal effects, to develop new cancer treatments and biomarkers. Their work has led to major advances in the understanding of PARP (Farmer et al. 2005), ATR, Pol theta (Zatreanu et al. 2021), and ROS1 inhibitors (Bajrami et al. 2018), among others, including major clinical trials (Tutt et al. NEJM 2017). With a strong emphasis on tackling clinical challenges, including therapeutic resistance (Harvey-Jones et al. 2024) and the development of targeted therapies, the teams aim to generate preclinical insights that inform clinical trials, identify new drug targets, and drive innovative drug discovery programs.

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This position is offered on a fixed term contract for 1 year from the start date. Salary range for the SO role is £31,445 - £36,410 per annum inclusive. Starting salary is dependent on experience. Future progression is based on annual performance review.

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.

About the division

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. Our Breast Cancer Research Centre was awarded the 2022 AACR Team Science award with our breast cancer clinical research partners at 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.

About our organisation

The Institute of Cancer Research, London, is one of the world's most influential cancer research institutions with an outstanding track record of achievement dating back more than 100 years. Our mission is to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.

As well as being one of the UK's leading higher education institutions in research quality and impact, the ICR is consistently ranked as one of the world's most successful for industry collaboration. As a member institution of the University of London, we also provide postgraduate higher education of international distinction.

We are also a charity and rely on the support of partner organisations, funders, donors and the general public. [Read more](#) to find out about our history, culture, and achievements, and how our funders, supporters and partnerships help drive our work.

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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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Job description

Department / division: Breast Cancer Research

Pay grade / staff group: Scientific Officer

Hours / duration: Full time 35 hours per week, Monday to Friday. Fixed term contract for 2½ years

Reports to: Dr Valeria Amodeo

Accountable to: Professor Andrew Tutt

Main purpose of the job: The post-holder will provide high-level technical support for projects running in the laboratory. The majority of these projects focus on identifying and validating biomarkers and relevant therapy targets in breast cancer and studying the underlying biology of the disease. There is a particular focus on triple-negative breast cancer and breast cancers with defects in DNA repair and genome instability.

Responsibilities/duties:

To support projects in the Tutt laboratory (Tutt Validation and DNA Damage Response), by performing molecular and cell biology techniques such as:

- Cell culture, including high-throughput genetic and drug screening approaches
- Growth and genetic manipulation of patient derived organoid cultures
- RNAi and CRISPR/Cas9 genetic manipulation of cancer models
- Analysis of drug responses using dose-response curves and synergy assays
- Molecular biology assays to profile DNA, RNA and protein cell line and patient samples
- Confocal microscopy and high content cell-based imaging
- DNA repair assays such as RAD51 foci analysis, DNA fibre assays and R-loop assays

Take an organised approach to managing stocks of reagents and tracking samples

To work under the supervision of the line manager and to consult where appropriate

To take an interest in the relevant scientific literature

To produce work suitable for high-quality, high-impact publications

To work on occasions at the ICR Sutton site and at the Tutt laboratory based at King's College London, London Bridge/Guy's Hospital campus

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General

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

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.

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

BSc in molecular or cellular biology (or equivalent qualification)	Essential
Higher degree or several years' relevant laboratory experience	Desirable
Knowledge of cancer biology	Desirable
Knowledge of drug discovery	Desirable

Experience

Experience in cell and molecular biology	Desirable
Experience in tissue culture	Essential
Experience using sample management/LIMS systems	Desirable
Experience in RNAi and CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing methodology	Desirable
Experience in high-throughput cell based drug and/or genetic screens	Desirable
Experience with DNA repair and replication stress assays	Desirable
Experience in 3D cell culture, including patient derived cultures	Desirable

Skills

Proven ability to work to deadlines	Essential
Demonstrable ability to independently carry out experiments	Desirable
High degree of technical expertise	Desirable
Good organisational skills	Essential
Ability to write reports and scientific manuscripts	Desirable
Good interpersonal skills with the ability to interact effectively with collaborators	Essential

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General

Flexibility to work independently or as part of a team	Essential
Computer literate	Essential
Proven ability to work with limited supervision	Desirable
Demonstrate 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 Dr Valeria Amodeo for further information by emailing valera.amodeo@icr.ac.uk 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.