



Scientific Officer Laboratory Support

Candidate Information

May 2026

The Institute of Cancer Research

Description of the role

The Division of Breast Cancer Research at the Breast Now Research Centre runs a wide-ranging portfolio of projects including basic cancer biology and drug development programmes. As part of these projects, the Centre interacts with a diverse range of collaborators, contract research organisations, pharmaceutical companies and funding charities.

We are seeking to recruit laboratory support to provide high-level technical support for a number of projects running within the Centre. The majority of these projects focus on developing novel therapeutic approaches to cancer, understanding drug resistance mechanisms and understanding the underlying biology of the disease.

In addition to providing technical support to the scientists within the Centre, the successful candidate will also provide support to the Divisional Laboratory Manager.

The starting salary is within the range of £31,445 - £33,100 per annum inclusive based on relevance of skills and experience. Contract duration: 1 year fixed term. *Please note that this role is a maternity cover so the contract may finish earlier than scheduled if the substantive post holder chooses to return to work earlier than expected.*

In addition to annual performance related pay awards, the salary scales are reviewed annually to consider cost of living increases. The position is based at the ICR site in Chelsea.

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

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About the Division of Breast Cancer Research

The Breast Cancer Now Toby Robins Research Centre, within the ICR's Division of Breast Cancer Research, is the first centre in the UK dedicated entirely to breast cancer research. Its mission is to advance understanding of the causes, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

The Centre is housed in state-of-the-art laboratory space with excellent core facilities and is supported by a long-term renewable programme grant from Breast Cancer Now. It is directed by Clinician Scientist Professor Andrew Tutt, with Professor Chris Lord as Deputy Director.

The Centre has received major international recognition, including the 2022 AACR Team Science Award, shared with its breast cancer clinical research partners in the ICR's Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit and The Royal Marsden Hospital. Its work also contributed to the ICR receiving 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

Our mission
is to make the
discoveries that
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Job description

Department / division: Division of Breast Cancer Research, Laboratory Support

Pay grade / staff group: Scientific Officer SP7

Hours / duration: Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday.
The post-holder may be required to work outside of standard hours including being available for occasional evenings and weekends

Reports to: Acting Laboratory Manager

Main purpose of the job: To provide technical support to a range of research projects within the Division of Breast Cancer Research

Duties and responsibilities:

- Filling of liquid nitrogen tanks (3x per week)
- Monitoring and ordering of lab consumables for shared areas
- Obtaining quotes and ordering of shared stock for the Research Centre
- Maintenance of common stock reagents
- Ordering for and managing shared Tissue Culture facilities within the Division
- Host contractors
- Liaise with ICR Site Management, Facilities and Buildings and Maintenance teams as required
- Mycoplasma testing of cell lines
- Provide support to the Acting Breast Cancer Research Laboratory Manager
- To work under the supervision of the line manager and to consult where appropriate

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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

BSc or equivalent in Molecular Biology or Cell Biology	Essential
Knowledge of cell culture, molecular biology	Desirable
Knowledge of high throughput cell culture screening	Desirable
Knowledge of cancer	Desirable

Skills

Ability to work to deadlines	Essential
Ability to design and implement experiments	Desirable
High degree of technical expertise	Desirable
Good organisational skills and ability to prioritise workload	Essential

Experience

Strong background in cell and molecular biology	Desirable
Experience in target identification and validation	Desirable

General

Flexibility to work as an individual or as part of a team	Essential
Computer literate	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 Rebecca Orha for further information by emailing rebecca.orha@icr.ac.uk This job description reflects the current position and is subject to review and alteration in detail and emphasis in the light of future changes or development.