ICR The Institute of Cancer Research

Scientific Officer - Myeloma Molecular Therapy Group

Candidate Information

May 2026

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.

Haemato-Oncology Research Unit, Myeloma Molecular Therapy Group, Division of Genetics & Epidemiology

The Haemato-Oncology Research Unit is involved in a number of ground-breaking phase I, II and III clinical trials in myeloma and leukemia, as well as being the central laboratory for scientific studies linked to a number of national clinical studies (including MRC, CRUK, and Myeloma UK funded studies).

Anti-cancer drug development has changed significantly in adult oncology, with the introduction of targeted agents. Treatment of adults with cancer has moved away from the concept of a 'one size fits all' to a

more tailored and personalised approach. This approach ensures that the molecular profile of the patient's tumour is determined so that the most appropriate drugs are used.

The Division of Genetics and Epidemiology is led by Prof Richard Houlston, FRS, with whose team the Myeloma Molecular Therapy/Kaiser team is closely integrated. The Division is internationally renowned for its pioneering work in understanding the underlying genetic causes of cancer risk. High-quality laboratory, epidemiological and clinical research within the division is driven by energetic, innovative leadership and complemented by participation in national and international research consortiums, clinical collaborations and technological partnerships.

Objectives of the Post

The post holder will work in a team with other scientific officers in our laboratory. Responsibilities of the post will be responsible for processing, purification and bio- banking of clinical samples both from national trials as well as from the Royal Marsden Hospital. The post holder will apply molecular biology techniques that are established in our laboratory for the detection of genetic aberrations in patient samples.

Purification of highly purified tumour cells as well as stromal cell compartments and their bio- banking is gaining increasing importance in cancer medicine and the post holders will gain experience in these important processes in line with GLP/GCP as well as in quality monitoring of sample and database integrity.

The development of novel molecular diagnostic tools to identify important biologic subgroups of patients is essential for precision medicine approaches. The post holder will apply high throughput molecular and flow cytometric tools for the detection of genetic lesions that are established in our laboratory. There might be an opportunity to perform cell cultures for drug testing on primary patient material. Work will involve liaising with the research groups within the Haemato-Oncology Research Unit and the Molecular Diagnostic groups to use clinical samples and develop techniques to identify clinically relevant genetic mutations.

You will be primarily based at the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, and will work together with the Centre for Molecular Pathology, which provides molecular diagnostic testing for patients, so that research can quickly be converted into improved diagnosis and treatments. You will work in a team with other scientific officers and will contribute to expand our highest standard bio-banking activities for National trials and to develop novel molecular diagnostic tests and help transfer these into clinically applicable diagnostic tools.

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You will hold a BSc in biological subject and ideally have experience of working to good laboratory practice & standard safety rules. Basic knowledge of computers that includes databases and word-processing is essential as well as experience with molecular biology techniques. Experience with massively parallel sequencing, flow cytometry or primary cell culture would be an advantage. Knowledge of a diagnostic laboratory would also be advantageous.

This position will be offered on a fixed-term contract of 2 years. The salary range for the grade is £31,445 - £33,100 per annum. Appointments are normally made at the start of the range which represents the market rate for the role but consideration will be given to experience and skills.Future progression is based on annual performance review.

Our mission is to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.

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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:	Genetics & Epidemiology
Team:	Haemato-Oncology Research Unit/Myeloma Molecular Therapy
Pay grade / staff group:	Scientific Officer
Hours / duration:	Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday. Fixed term contract for 2 years
Reports to:	Dr Martin Kaiser, Team Leader, Myeloma Molecular Therapy Group

Duties and responsibilities:

Technical duties

- Process, store and track clinical samples in line with GLP/GCP.
- Carry out routine laboratory tasks as required such as the preparation of solutions, storage of reagents, according to the ICR's H&S policies.
- DNA/RNA extraction from fresh or frozen material.
- Perform PCR, RQ-PCR, NGS sequencing, flow cytometry, primary cell culture and other experiments for biomarker analysis under strict GLP guidelines.
- Validate, optimise, maintain and keep records of equipment used.

Management of data

- Log and monitor the experiments performed on a daily basis.
- Perform data checking and cleaning.
- Analyse complex molecular biomarker data and keep an exhaustive audit trail of clinical and biological data.
- Produce summary reports and present work at meetings as required.
- Audit and maintain databases on a regular basis, including software updates and back-up of data, ensuring local and national security policies are followed.

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Administrative work

• Set up and/or maintain record management systems for all trial material.
• Assist in the preparation of reports for meetings, abstracts and manuscripts.

Other

• To communicate effectively with other members of the team, collaborations and other stakeholders of the study.
• To work in a flexible and organised manner meeting objectives and deadlines.
• To undertake any other duties that may be required which are consistent with the nature and grade of the post.

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 with an upper second class or first class honours in a relevant subject e.g. Biological Sciences	Essential

Skills

Ability to follow instructions, protocols and guidance.	Essential
Proven ability to keep excellent and accurate records of work.	Essential
Ability to work independently on a day-to-day basis.	Essential
Proven communication skills.	Essential
Proven ability to work in a diverse team.	Essential
Demonstrable experience in carrying out routine laboratory duties.	Essential
Excellent interpersonal skills to facilitate liaison with colleagues and trial collaborators.	Essential
Proven excellent organisational skills.	Essential
Demonstrable ability to work accurately, with a strong attention to detail.	Essential
PC literacy and a competent working knowledge of Word and Excel, and databases.	Essential
The ability to grasp scientific/medical concepts effectively and efficiently.	Essential
Database handling.	Essential
Ability to work within the guidelines of the Data Protection Act.	Essential

Experience

Demonstrable experience with diverse molecular biology techniques including DNA/RNA extraction, real-time PCR, PCR.	Essential
Demonstrable experience of working to good laboratory practice and standard safety regulations.	Essential
Demonstrable experience in immunomagnetic tumour cell separation.	Desirable
Experience with mutation detection technologies (Sanger sequencing, CE-SSCA).	Desirable
Knowledge of massively parallel sequencing techniques such as Illumina sequencers and targeted capture techniques.	Desirable
Experience in flow cytometry and/or cell culture of primary cells.	Desirable
Knowledge of molecular diagnostic laboratory.	Desirable
Good understanding of cancer and its treatment modalities.	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.

Location

The post holder will work within the Haemato-Oncology Research Unit situated in The Institute of Cancer Research, 15 Cotswold Road, Brookes Lawley Building, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5NG.

Occupational Health

Hepatitis B immunisation will be required for the role and can be arranged through the Institute's Occupational Health Department prior to appointment.

Further information

You may contact Dr Martin Kaiser for further information by emailing martin.kaiser@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. **Please DO NOT send your application to Dr Kaiser; CV and an application form with the supporting statement must be submitted online.**