ICR The Institute of Cancer Research

Maternity cover – Glioma Team

Candidate Information

August 2024

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.

Glioma Team, Division of Molecular Pathology

The Glioma Team at the ICR is focussed on understanding the biology of paediatric high grade glioma, such that we may improve the clinical outcome of children with these currently untreatable tumours.

We have a short term position (12 months) available for an in vitro scientist to provide maternity cover for an ongoing project exploring the use of novel transcription factor-targeting peptides to disrupt tumorigenic phenotypes. We are looking for someone with experience in cancer cell culture and a range of molecular biology techniques. At a minimum you will be expected to run assays with these peptides to assess cell permeability, effects on cell viability and invasion/migration, and the impact on downstream signalling pathways. For a more experienced candidate, there are a number of other areas of work involving co-culture cell-cell interactions, epigenetic profiling, and drug screening that you could also be involved in. The role will require regular updates to be provided to our commercial partner, but also affords the opportunity to generate highly publishable data within a short time-frame. We will consider postdocs but also experienced scientists without a PhD.

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:	Glioma Team, Division of Molecular Pathology
Pay grade / staff group:	Post-Doctoral Training Fellow, Senior / Higher Scientific Officer
Hours / duration:	Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday. Maternity cover for up to 12 months
Reports to:	Professor Chris Jones, Group Leader
Main purpose of the job:	To carry out in vitro screening of novel transcription factor-targeting peptides in paediatric high grade glioma models.

Duties and responsibilities:

Establishment and maintenance of in vitro models of paediatric high grade glioma
Assessment of cell permeability of peptides by immunofluorescence
Determination of peptide potency using cell viability assays
Evaluation of effects of peptides on cell invasion / migration
Exploration of downstream signalling pathways by western blot, RNAseq etc.
Preparation of data reports for publication and presentation
Work diligently, tirelessly and with enthusiasm to meet deadlines

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

Honours degree (1st or 2i) in a relevant subject	Essential
PhD in molecular cell biology or similar	Desirable
Knowledge of childhood brain tumour biology	Desirable

Skills

Experience in cancer cell culture	Essential
Cell viability, invasion / migration assays	Essential
Molecular cell biology techniques, Western blot etc	Essential
Use of liquid handling robotics	Desirable
Ability to work effectively & efficiently, both independently & as part of a team	Essential
Interest in the field of childhood brain tumour biology	Desirable

Experience

In vitro experiment management	Essential
Report drafting and presenting	Essential
Use of analytical software for drug assays	Desirable
Patient-derived cancer models	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 Chris Jones for further information by emailing Chris.jones@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.