



Post Doctoral Training Fellow: Endocrine Control Mechanisms Prof. Cathrin Briskin Candidate Information

August 2025

About the role

We are seeking a highly motivated and ambitious Postdoctoral Training Fellow to combine innovative patient-derived xenograft models and genetic tools to disentangle the role of estrogen and progesterone receptor signaling in breast cancer. The work contributes to gaining more insights into patient-specific hormone dependencies and factors determining them with the aim of personalizing breast cancer therapy and prevention.

The successful candidate will be part of a transdisciplinary team of biologists, clinicians and computational scientists and part of close interactions with groups at the ICR, the RMH and King's College as well Prof. Briskin's research group at EPFL, Switzerland.

This position will be offered on a fixed-term 3 year contract. Starting salary is based on previous Post Doctoral experience, in the range £45,600 - £49,350 p.a. inclusive.

The ICR has a workforce agreement stating that Postdoctoral Training Fellows can only be employed for up to 7 years as a PTDF at the ICR (this includes experience gained at PDTF level prior to joining the ICR).

Prof. Cathrin Brisken

Candidate Information

About the Division of Breast Cancer Research

Our team is embedded within the Division of Breast Cancer Research at the ICR's laboratories in Chelsea, London. We have a highly supportive and interactive research environment, and state of the art facilities for cell biology, molecular biology, next-generation sequencing and structural biology. We also closely interact with other teams and divisions at the ICR, including the Bioinformatics and Proteomics, Chemistry Cancer Therapeutics - Medicinal Chemistry Teams Drug Discovery Team. The great variety of disciplines at the ICR will ensure that the successful candidate will be exposed to fantastic research and seminars from all types of backgrounds.

The Breast Cancer Now Toby Robins Research Centre, within the Division of Breast Cancer Research at The Institute of Cancer Research which 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 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.

<https://www.icr.ac.uk/our-research/research-divisions/division-of-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.

Prof. Cathrin Brisken

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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

Prof. Cathrin Briskin

Candidate Information

Job description

Department / division: Endocrine Control Mechanisms group / the Division of 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 3 years

Reports to: Professor Cathrin Briskin

Main purpose of the job: The design and execution of a broad range of *in vivo* experiments and *ex vivo* assays geared towards disentangling and defining the role of estrogen and progesterone receptor signaling in driving ER+ breast cancer progression in different patient tumors.

Duties and responsibilities:

Key duties

The principal duty of the post will be to conduct research into how hormone receptor signaling differentially contribute to tumor progression in different patients.

To work towards a publication record of the kind that will enhance the lab and Centre's research reputation at national and international level and that will clearly demonstrate originality and scholarship.

To attend and participate in group's and centre's academic activities, e.g. laboratory and journal club meetings, research group meetings and weekly seminars.

To make original contributions to the research programme wherever possible and to contribute freely to the team research environment in a manner conducive to the success of the research project as a whole.

Maintain accurate and detailed records of all experiment procedures in lab notebooks and electronically

Generate solid reproducible data and develop robust methods for analysis and statistical testing of the data

Prof. Cathrin Brisken

Candidate Information

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">• Any other duties that are consistent with the nature and grade of the post that may be required. |
| <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. |

Workforce Agreement for Postdoctoral Training Fellows

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Prof. Cathrin Brisken

Candidate Information

Person specification

Education and Knowledge

PhD in biochemistry, pharmacology, cell or molecular biology	Essential**
Knowledge of cancer biology	Essential
Publications in peer reviewed journals	Desirable
Holder of UK Personal Home Office License (PIL)	Desirable

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

Skills

Ability to work independently and to demonstrate initiative in planning and designing experiments.	Essential
Ability to critically analyse data	Essential
Ability to produce scientific reports and manuscripts	Essential
Ability to write efficient computer code	Desirable
Excellent record keeping in notebooks, files and computers in line with ICR laboratory policy	Essential
Ability to work effectively under pressure whilst maintaining accuracy	Essential
Ability to develop, support and train team members	Essential
Good interpersonal skills with the ability to establish effective working relationships	Essential

Experience

Mouse models of cancer (<i>in vivo</i> work)	Desirable
Multi-colour flow cytometry/FACS analysis of tissue samples	Desirable
Genomic approaches (e.g. scRNAseq, WES/WGS or spatial approaches)	Desirable
Immunohistochemistry/immunofluorescence	Desirable
Image analysis	Desirable
Experience in the drafting, submission and revision of peer reviewed research manuscripts	Essential

General

Flexibility to work, efficiently and effectively, independently or as part of a team	Essential
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Prof. Cathrin Brisken

Candidate Information

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

Download the job pack for more detailed information regarding this role. For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Professor Brisken via email: cathrin.brisken@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.