



Scientific Officer Candidate Information

9 December 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 second in the league table of university research quality compiled from the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021). We have charitable status and rely on support from partner organisations, charities, donors and the general public.

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We have more than 1000 staff and postgraduate students across three sites – in Chelsea and Sutton.

Epigenetics and Genome Stability Team, Division of Cancer Biology

The Epigenetics and Genome Stability Team (thedownslab.org) studies the role of chromatin and epigenetic regulation in maintaining genome stability. The goal of this research is to understand how the packaging and organisation of DNA helps to maintain its integrity and prevent tumourigenesis. We are also exploring how these insights can help identify new therapeutic approaches

Our mission
is to make the
discoveries that
defeat cancer.

Scientific Officer

We are looking for a scientific officer to help us achieve these goals by supporting the research in our lab.

Scientific Officer

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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

Scientific Officer

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Job description

Department / division:	Cancer Biology
Pay grade / staff group:	Scientific Officer / Scientific professional roles
Hours / duration:	Full time (40 hours per week), Monday to Friday. Fixed term contract for 3 years
Reports to:	Professor Jessica Downs
Main purpose of the job:	The main objective of this post is to support the ongoing research in the Downs lab.

Duties and responsibilities:

General lab management and support

Contribute to the day-to-day running of the lab, including management of laboratory stocks
Manage and maintain general lab equipment and organisation
Ensure that work conforms to Institute health and safety standards
Contribute to the management of laboratory budgets
Maintain excellent laboratory records and regularly report results at lab meetings and to senior colleagues

Laboratory duties

Perform experiments and contribute to ongoing research projects using basic cell and molecular biology approaches, including tissue culture, microscopy, and viability assays
Ensure that experimental projects are carried out to a high standard and in a timely manner as agreed with senior colleagues
Strive for continuous improvement, for example, by undertaking regular training courses and learning to use new equipment

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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 degree in Biomedical Science or related subject	Essential
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The ability to work collaboratively and enthusiastically as part of a large, fast-paced team	Essential
Ability to take responsibility and initiative	Essential
Ability to work precisely with excellent attention to detail and produce reproducible results	Essential
Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal	Essential
Computer literacy, with strong knowledge of Excel or similar	Essential
Experience with mammalian cell tissue culture	Desirable
Experience with microscopy, genetic engineering, viability assays, PCR, cloning, or protein purification	Desirable
Coding skills	Desirable
Understanding of epigenetics and/or genome stability	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. All staff receive an additional three days at Christmas.

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 Professor Downs for further information by emailing Jessica.Downs@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.