ICR The Institute of Cancer Research

Higher Scientific Officer *In vivo* Mouse Models for Immuno-Oncology Cell Death and Immunity Group

May 2026

The Institute of Cancer Research, London

About the role

Drugs that mobilize the immune system against cancer are dramatically improving care for many people. However, the effectiveness of the current protocols is restricted to a small subset of patients for reasons that are unclear. Therefore, a better understanding of the mechanisms determining anti-tumour immune responses is required in order to develop better protocols inducing effective anti-tumour immunity in the majority or hopefully all patients.

It is now clear that dying cancer cells play an active role in inducing anti-tumour immunity but it remains unclear whether different types of cell death have different immunogenic properties. Therefore, a central aim of our work is to identify and understand the molecular mechanisms that can be manipulated so that cancer therapies stimulate immunogenic cell death.

The successful candidate will help study the effect of specific types of cell death pathways on anti-tumour immunity in cancer, using the mouse as a model system.

Objectives of the post

We are seeking to recruit a Higher Scientific Officer (HSO) animal researcher to work in the Cell Death and Immunity laboratory group led by Professor Pascal Meier, which is part of the Division of Breast Cancer Research, Breast Cancer Now Research Centre at the Institute of Cancer Research.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the design and implementation of *in vivo* research projects using breast cancer and inflammation models to facilitate our understanding of immunogenic cell death.

Applicants should be pro-active and be specialized in in-vivo assays. They must have an appropriate degree and a current UK Home Office License, including modules A-C (modules 1-4). The ICR insists on high standards of animal welfare and meticulous record keeping in compliance with regulatory requirements. Applicants will also have extensive hands-on experience working with genetically engineered murine models.

The successful candidate will be a team player able to confidently interact with members of the research group and to advise on complex experimental design. Rigour in animal procedures, SOPs and protocols are key.

Experience using *in vivo* models is essential and use of breast cancer models, xenografting and transplantation-based techniques and administration of therapeutic agents are highly desirable, as it familiarity with immunity research. Good organizational skills and an ability to prioritize workload to meet project requirements will be essential.

We offer a supportive team environment, and the opportunity to be part of an enthusiastic group engaged in cutting edge drug discovery research. The successful candidate will closely interact with other research groups both within the Division of Breast Cancer Research and across the wider ICR.

This role is offered on a 1 year fixed term contract. Please note that this role is a maternity cover so the contract may finish earlier if the substantive post holder chooses to return to work earlier than expected. Starting salary is in the range £39,805 - £50,862 per annum, depending on skills and experience.

In addition to annual performance related pay awards, the salary scales are reviewed annually to consider cost of living increases. Annual leave entitlement is 28 days per annum. There is an additional entitlement to 8 bank/public holidays and 3 ICR-set privilege days.

About the team

The Cell Death and Immunity team, led by Professor Pascal Meier, uses sophisticated genetic models and patient-derived material to investigate how cell death shapes immune responses. By understanding this relationship, the team aims to develop new strategies to eliminate apoptosis-resistant cancers and re-activate the patient's own anti-tumour immune response.

The Meier team has made key contributions to establishing the close connection between cell death mechanisms and immunity, with publications in *Nature Cell Biology* 2008, *Molecular Cell* 2011, 2017 and 2018, *Nature Communications* 2018, 2021 and 2025, *EMBO Molecular Medicine* 2020, and *Immunity* 2024.

The Cell Death and Immunity team is part of the Breast Cancer Now Toby Robins Research Centre and the Centre for Translational Immunology at the ICR. The successful candidate will join a multidisciplinary environment, working closely with the ICR's Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery to develop novel compounds that drive anti-tumour immune responses.

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.

In vivo Mouse Models for Immuno-Oncology : Higher Scientific Officer

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.

In vivo Mouse Models for Immuno-Oncology : Higher Scientific Officer

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

In vivo Mouse Models for Immuno-Oncology : Higher Scientific Officer

Job description

Department / division:	Breast Cancer Research
Pay grade / staff group:	Higher Scientific Officer
Hours / duration:	Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday. One year fixed term contract, maternity cover and so may finish earlier than scheduled.
Reports to:	Professor Pascal Meier
Main purpose of the job:	I*n vivo* mouse models for Immuno-Oncology

Duties and responsibilities:

Perform research at the highest ethical standard of rodent animal welfare, under the direction of Prof. Pascal Meier.
Develop *in vivo* models based on experience and literature to answer specific project questions.
Interact with team members and have a good understanding for their *in vivo* needs, advising when required.
Take responsibility for executing *in vivo* experiments in an effective and timely manner.
Ability to direct multiple studies, encompassing protocol writing, conducting *in vivo* experiments, data analysis, interpretation of results, and to deliver in a timely manner.
Interact with relevant people and departments within and outside the ICR to facilitate study needs and gain best possible results.
Perform animal procedures according to specific SOPs and protocols, and in full compliance with regulatory requirements.
Be a scientific specialist and subject matter expert for *in vivo* assays.
Plan, design and lead a team to conduct complex *in vivo* studies to generate high quality scientific results.
Involved in training team members in *in vivo* procedures.
Prepare reports and data presentations.
Participate in research projects developing novel therapies for cancer and subsequently treating/dosing cancer models.
Contribute to maintenance of breast cancer models, including breeding and genotyping, and managing cage allocation and colony database.
Provide excellent data management, data storage and record keeping in notebooks, files and computers, in line with ICR laboratory policy.
To maintain accurate records of experiments and reagent descriptions in laboratory notebooks.
Remain up to date with the relevant technical and methodological literature.
Participate in and contribute to regular group meetings.
The post-holder will be expected to familiarise themselves with the ICR's approach towards risk management including its policies and procedures, which require all staff to play an active part in identifying and managing risk.

In vivo Mouse Models for Immuno-Oncology : Higher Scientific Officer

Person specification

Education and Knowledge

Person Specification	
A BSc or equivalent in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology or Cell Biology	Essential

Experience

Proven track record of experimental work in a lab and data analysis (as evidenced in recent publications in relevant journals/poster presentations for conferences)	Essential
Experience of working with in vivo models	Essential
Experience with tumour implantation and administration of therapeutic agents	Desirable
Experience of necropsy and tissue collection for downstream analysis	Desirable
Experience with microsurgical techniques	Desirable

Skills

Must hold a current Home Office License, including modules A-C (modules 1-4)	Essential
Problem-solver with strong ability to implement new ideas and technologies	Essential
Attention to detail	Essential
Proven high degree of technical experience	Essential
Demonstrable ability to perform experimental analyses and data write up	Essential
Ability to organise and prioritise own work including the ability to work towards tight deadlines	Essential
A strong commitment to successfully learn new research methodologies	Essential
Knowledge of the biology, pathology and histopathological appearance of cancer	Essential
Demonstrable experience in histological techniques	Essential
Demonstrable experience in molecular biology techniques	Desirable

General

A general interest in cancer research	Essential
Ability to work effectively and efficiently both independently and as a member of a team	Essential
Strongly committed and motivated	Essential

In vivo Mouse Models for Immuno-Oncology : Higher Scientific Officer

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 Professor Pascal Meier for further information by emailing Pascal.Meier@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.