



Scientific Officer – Genomics Specialist

Breast Cancer Now Research Centre

Candidate Information

April 2026

The Institute of Cancer Research

Description of the role

Under the leadership of Professor Michael Hubank, we are seeking a highly motivated and experienced Scientific Officer to work in the genomics of human breast cancer research. The position will focus on the management, processing and analysis of clinical patient and non-clinical samples for high-throughput sequencing. This post will be part of the Breast Cancer Now Research Centre at our Centre in Chelsea but will be linked to complementary work at the Royal Marsden Clinical Genomics laboratory and Genomics Facility, based in ICR site in Sutton. Candidates should have a BSc or equivalent in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology or Cell Biology or relevant disciplines.

About the Division and team

The Breast Cancer Now Toby Robins Research Centre at the ICR 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 and Professor Chris Lord is the Deputy Director. 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.

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The Clinical Genomics Translational Research Laboratory is based at The Centre for Molecular Pathology at The Royal Marsden hospital and The Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton. Our team supports clinical trials and translational research projects, delivering comprehensive genomic profiling of cancer patients. The goal is to develop and apply the most reliable and comprehensive genomic diagnostics to enable accurate clinical decisions that directly benefit patients at the Royal Marsden, in the North Thames region and nationally.

This position is offered on a fixed term for 3 years in the first instance with a salary range of £31,445 to £33,100 per annum, starting salary is based on previous experience. In addition to annual performance related pay awards, the salary scales are reviewed annually to consider cost of living increases. The position is based at the ICR site in Sutton. 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 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. Read more to find out about our history, culture, and achievements, and how our funders, supporters and partnerships help drive our work

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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 mission
is to make the
discoveries that
defeat 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: Division of Breast Cancer Research

Pay grade / staff group: Scientific Officer (SP7)

Hours / duration: Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday. Fixed term for 3 years in the first instance.

Reports to: Professor Michael Hubank

Main purpose of the job: We are seeking a highly motivated and experienced scientific officer to work in the genomics of human breast cancer research, focused on management, processing and analysis of clinical patient and non-clinical samples for high-throughput sequencing. The post will be based in the Centre for Molecular Pathology in Sutton.

Duties and responsibilities:

High throughput RNA sequencing library preparation (eg: 10x, Illumina and CRISPR based screening libraries)

Implementation of next generation sequencing approaches for clinical samples such as tumour and blood based derived material, patient derived models, *in vivo* and cell line models, including single cell methodologies and TCR sequencing.

To extract and quantify DNA and RNA from fresh and FFPE tissue samples

To perform centrifugation and separation and freezing down cells from blood, as well as extraction of DNA and RNA

To support the delivery of translational laboratory research projects, focussing on breast cancer, together with other teams within the Breast Cancer Now Research Centre and the Royal Marsden Hospital

Processing of clinical samples, including tumour biopsies for molecular profiling

To manage samples, including receipt of samples and accurate maintenance of databases and safe sample storage according to local guidelines

To assist other team members in the general running of the laboratory including maintenance and regulatory requirements, including strict adherence to ISO15189 in Clinical Genomics laboratory

Abide by and contribute to the Quality Standards within the laboratory (including audits, document review, validation and verification), HTA guidance for handling human samples in clinical trials.

Be a point of contact for other teams in the Division to aid efficient co-ordination of sequencing experiments

To accurately record, analyse and interpret data, in collaboration with other members of the team

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To have a good understanding of the relevant literature
To give presentations at laboratory and institute meetings as required
To work in a flexible but organised manner and meet objectives within pre-determined timescales
To be familiar with The Institute’s approach towards risk management including its policies and procedures, which require all staff to play an active part in identifying and managing risk

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

A BSc or equivalent in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology or related disciplines	Essential
MSc in genomics or related discipline	Desirable
Experience in a relevant laboratory	Essential
Knowledge of molecular and cancer biology	Desirable
Demonstrate an interest in the relevant scientific literature	Essential

Skills

Demonstrable laboratory techniques, trouble-shooting skills etc.	Essential
Knowledge of next generation sequencing approaches and their application to basic and translational research	Desirable
Proven organisational skills and record keeping	Essential
Good computer literacy and ability to use basic tools	Essential
Strong analytical skills and attention to detail	Essential
Good communication skills, written (including scientific writing) and oral	Essential
Ability to work as part of a team	Essential
Commitment to work in close collaboration with other group members	Essential
A strong commitment to successfully learn new research methodologies	Essential
Willingness to learn new skills	Essential

Experience

Proven experience in laboratory work and molecular biology techniques	Essential
Experience in RNA/DNA extraction from tissue/cells	Desirable
Experience in NGS DNA and RNA library preparation	Desirable
Experience in human sample collection, processing and analysis	Desirable

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General

Flexibility to work as an individual or as a member of a team	Essential
To contribute to the preparation of reports on the work carried out in the laboratory	Desirable
To work under supervision and consult when appropriate	Essential
To take interest in the relevant scientific literature	Essential
To work well under pressure whilst maintaining accuracy	Essential

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

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Benefits

You may contact Professor Michael Hubank for further information by emailing mike.hubank@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.