ICR The Institute of Cancer Research

Job description

Postdoctoral Training Fellow: Biology, Centre for Target Validation

Candidate Information

[12/2024]

Department / division:	**Centre for Target Validation / Cancer Therapeutics**
Pay grade / staff group:	Postdoctoral Training Fellow
Hours / duration:	Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday. 3-year fixed term contract.
Reports to:	Dr Joanna Loizou, Group Leader / Deputy Head of Division

About the position

We have an opportunity for a talented and motivated Postdoctoral Training Fellow to join our Centre for Target Validation (CTV) within the Division of Cancer Therapeutics. The CTV team has a role to accelerate the translation of ICR and collaborator research into drug discovery programmes. The Centre will deliver bespoke, hypothesis-driven data packages to support decision-making for launch of drug discovery projects. The Centre's dedicated resources, including biology, functional genomics, assay sciences, chemistry, and bioinformatics teams, will support joint project teams that combine the deep biological and therapeutic knowledge of ICR investigators with the validation and technical expertise of drug discovery scientists. Scientists in the Centre for Target Validation will work closely with colleagues in the ICR's Centre for Protein Degradation to exploit emerging technology and protein degradation tools for robust target validation experiments. The Centre for Target Validation will serve as a hub, connecting researchers to expertise and resources that will validate and streamline robust, targets into drug discovery programmes in the ICR's Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery or into collaborative programmes with external commercial therapy discovery partners.

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The successful candidate will contribute to the development of new drug targets by expanding our understanding of target biology. Working in close collaboration with other groups within the ICR, the candidate will develop our understanding of the therapeutic relevance of specific targets using genetic and pharmacologic approaches.

The successful candidate will be a part of a highly collaborative team within the CTV, that is embedded in the Centre for Cancer Drug Discovery. They will have the opportunity to direct their own research towards target identification and validation. Applicants must have a PhD in cell biology, cancer biology, genetics, or similar. Experience in modern cell and molecular biology techniques is essential. Experience with -omics level profiling and handling of large datasets is desired. Excellent organisational and communication skills are also required.

Our mission is to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.

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Main purpose of the job

The postholder will develop new drug targets by expanding our understanding of target biology with the aim of uncovering new actionable targets in drug discovery.

Further information

You may contact Joanna Loizou for further information by emailing Joanna.loizou@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.

Duties and responsibilities

Key duties

Design, execute, and analyse experiments to characterise novel cancer targets
Use RNA-seq, proteomics, hypothesis-based experiments to understand pathways, molecular mechanisms involved in cellular responses
Use genetic and pharmacologic tools to investigate cellular responses
Contribute to the preparation of reports on the work carried out by the laboratory and produce work suitable for high-quality, high-impact publications
Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of innovations and propose new techniques for implementation where appropriate
Collaborate with colleagues from other areas and disciplines, as necessary
Read scientific literature to keep abreast of new findings appropriate to the work

Workforce Agreement for Postdoctoral Training Fellows

The ICR has a workforce agreement stating that Postdoctoral Training Fellows can only be employed for up to 7 years as PDTF at the ICR, providing total postdoctoral experience (including previous employment at this level elsewhere) does not exceed 10 years.

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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.

Person specification

Education and Knowledge

PhD in cell biology, cancer biology or a closely related field.	Essential
Knowledge and experience in lab-based cell biology research	Essential
Knowledge of cancer biology	Essential

Skills

Ability to work independently and to demonstrate initiative in planning and designing experiments	Essential
Proven ability to organise and prioritise workload to work effectively and meet deadlines	Essential
Willingness and ability to rapidly learn new techniques	Essential
Proficient use of data analysis tools and familiarity with publicly available datasets and analysis sites	Essential
Good communication skills and the ability to interact effectively with other team members	Essential
Good observation skills, attention to detail and ability to keep appropriate records	Essential

Experience

At least three years' experience working in lab-based cell biology (which can include PhD)	Essential
Experience with mammalian cell culture, including transfection, transduction, and measurement of proliferation, viability, cell death	Essential
Experience using genetic tools such as RNAi and CRISPR/Cas9 to modulate gene expression; follow-up by analysis of mRNA, protein levels	Essential
Experience generating resistant cell lines, barcoding cell populations, single cell analysis, examining cell state	Desirable

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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.

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'.

> ***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."*
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> **Professor Kristian Helin**
> **Chief Executive**