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# Scientific Officer – Sarcoma Molecular Pathology

## Candidate Information

April 2026

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### 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 top in the league table of university research quality compiled from the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014).

We have charitable status and rely on support from partner organisations, charities, donors and the general public.

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

#### Sarcoma Molecular Pathology Group

Prof Janet Shipley's Group aims to identify new molecular markers of high-risk soft tissue sarcomas predominant in young patients and increase understanding of the underlying mechanisms that may support new treatments for these high-risk patients. She has an international reputation for her research on rhabdomyosarcoma and an increasing profile in studying desmoplastic small round cell tumours. Current research of both these types of sarcoma includes investigation of associated fusion proteins and the tumour cell heterogeneity that resides within the tumour microenvironment that all play a critical role in tumour development and progression.

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### **About the Scientific Officer position**

We are seeking to recruit a Scientific Officer to join the Group and provide key technical support for current laboratory research projects under the guidance of Janet Shipley as Group Leader and assigned members of the Sarcoma Molecular Pathology Group. This will include screening, testing and optimising new antibodies that recognise aberrant proteins in sarcomas. These and commercially available antibodies will be used in state-of the-art multiplexed immunofluorescent analyses of appropriately prepared sarcoma tissues from patients and experimental models. Involvement will also include organising tissues, tissue culture and lab management as required. The position will provide opportunities to learn and help establish new techniques as well as gain wider knowledge of molecular biology and translation research of sarcoma and cancer more generally.

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Our mission  
is to make the  
discoveries that  
defeat cancer.

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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

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### Job description

**Department / division:** Cancer Biology

**Pay grade / staff group:** Scientific Professional 7

**Hours / duration:** 60% Full time equivalent (21 hours per week), days to be determined. Fixed term contract for 1 year with the possibility to extend dependant on further funding.

**Reports to:** Prof Janet Shipley, Group Leader

**Main purpose of the job:** To provide key technical support for current laboratory research projects that will include screening, testing and optimising new antibodies recognising proteins aberrant in sarcomas. These and commercially available antibodies will be used in state-of-the-art multiplexed immunofluorescent analyses of appropriately prepared sarcoma tissues from patients and experimental models. Involvement, as required, will also include organising tissues, tissue culture and lab management.

### Key Duties and Responsibilities

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| Lead on screening, testing, and optimising antibodies that detect aberrant proteins in sarcomas  |
| Follow and establish robust methods for use these and commercially available antibodies in multiplexed immunofluorescent analyses of patient-derived sarcoma tissues and experimental models                 |
| Organise patient tissues for the above in line with HTA requirements and, as required, perform tissue culture, and general laboratory management tasks essential to the smooth running of the research group |
| Work with other staff members as needed in a flexible and organised manner to meet objectives/deadlines  |
| Be able to manage supporting different projects either sequentially or concurrently  |
| Maintain accurate records of experiments and results in laboratory notebooks and maintain, audit and backup databases of clinical samples in line with HTA requirements and good laboratory practice         |
| Present and discuss results and their interpretation with group members. Take an interest in the general literature including scientific papers relevant to the work of the group                            |
| Initiate purchase of consumable items within budgetary limits  |

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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.

### Occupational Health

Hepatitis B immunisation will be required for the role and can be arranged through the Institute's Occupational Health Department prior to appointment.

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### Person specification

#### Education and Knowledge

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| First degree in a biological science                                     | Essential |
| MSc/MRes/PhD in biological/biochemical sciences or equivalent experience | Essential |
| Knowledge of Cell Biology  | Essential |

#### Skills

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|---|-----------|
| Strong intellectual curiosity and commitment to successfully learn new research methodologies                 | Essential |
| Ability to work within the guidelines of Data Protection, Good Laboratory Practice and Good Clinical Practice | Essential |
| Basic computational biology skills and database use   | Essential |
| Attention to detail and keeping appropriate records   | Essential |
| Ability to meet deadlines whilst multitasking under pressure  | Essential |
| Professional presentation skills with the ability to recognise and highlight key information                  | Essential |
| Ability to work effectively & efficiently, both independently & as part of a team                             | Essential |
| Enthusiasm to work in an interdisciplinary collaborative and supportive environment                           | Essential |
| Track record of completing projects and preparing reports/presentations/scientific papers                     | Desirable |

#### Experience

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| Cell culture   | Desirable |
| Evidence of cell/molecular biology and biochemistry techniques | Essential |
| Working with clinical samples                                  | Desirable |

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### Benefits

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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 this part-time role is 17 days per annum on joining. This will increase by a further half 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 prof Janet Shipley for further information by emailing [janet.shipley@icr.ac.uk](mailto:janet.shipley@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.