



Post-doctoral Scientist

Job Description

Post title:	<i>Post-doctoral Scientist</i>
Salary range:	£31,905 - £38,594 (including London allowance)
Contract:	Full time
Location:	Institute of Hepatology, London WC1E 6HX
Responsible to:	Dr Wing-Kin Syn, Head of Regeneration and Repair (Fibrosis) Group
Duration:	Fixed-term for three years

Foundation for Liver Research

The Foundation for Liver Research was established in 1974 to develop and extend research into diseases of the human liver. For over 30 years the Foundation has supported groundbreaking research programmes into liver disease including much of the early pioneering work at King's College Hospital into liver transplantation and acute liver failure under the direction of Professor Roger Williams, CBE. Since 1997 research has taken place within the purpose-built Institute of Hepatology which provides laboratory space for up to 35 research staff. Major areas of research during the past 5yrs have included viral hepatitis, hepatocellular carcinoma, complications of cirrhosis, liver support devices, and the mechanisms underlying susceptibility to infection. The Foundation is involved in a number of international research programmes and is developing a programme of scientific meetings. Further information on the Foundation can be obtained at: <http://www.liver-research.org.uk>

Institute of Hepatology

In 1997 the Foundation established the Institute of Hepatology in a purpose-designed three storey building of just under 7,000 square feet. In 2000 the Foundation purchased premises immediately behind the Institute which have been refurbished to provide office and common room facilities for the research staff and rental accommodation for key workers and students. In 2004 an additional floor of laboratory and office space was added to the Institute.

The Institute provides state-of-art equipment including class II and class III containment laboratories, ultra and medium rate centrifuges, FACS analyser, cellular imaging and counting systems and an assortment of basic laboratory equipment.

Description of the role

The Foundation for Liver Research is seeking a highly ambitious, flexible and committed post-doctoral scientist to investigate the roles of Matricellular Proteins (splice variants and altered translational proteins) in liver inflammation, fibrosis and cancer. He/she will require an array of molecular and cellular biology techniques (including RTPCR and Real-time RTPCR, ELISA, immunoprecipitations (including ChiP), protein expression and purification, western blotting, cloning / transfections, lentivirus infections). He/she will be expected to isolate primary liver cells (hepatocytes, hepatic stellate cells, Kupffer cells) from humans and mice for downstream experiments. He/she should have basic working knowledge of Immunohistochemistry and FACS analysis. In addition, he/she will be expected to submit publications to refereed journals and to attract external research funding.

Key Accountabilities/Primary Responsibilities and Duties

Applicants must have a PhD in immunology/cell/molecular biology, or a closely related discipline, with an interest in liver disease (inflammation/fibrosis/cancer). They must also have experience in aseptic primary cell isolation and tissue culture techniques.

The appointee will also be expected:-

- To design, set-up and run experiments in relation to the project after consultation with the Principal Investigator and to effectively record, analyse, acquire and write-up results.
- To perform laboratory-based assays on samples from patients with liver diseases
- To demonstrate a high level of ability in carrying out most molecular and cellular biology techniques, including cellular transfections, and lentivirus infection, co-immunoprecipitations, chromatin immunoprecipitation, protein purification, western blotting, FACS analysis, IHC, ELISA, and aseptic cell culture.
- To isolate primary liver cells (human and / or mice) and maintain them in culture for downstream experiments

- To contribute to internal meetings and external national and international hepatology meetings
- To contribute to preparation and drafting of research bids and proposals.
- To provide training, support and advice to visitors, undergraduates, post-doctoral scientists and research technicians
- To participate in collaborative research projects with colleagues in the Institute of Hepatology and in other collaborative efforts (overseas and UK-based).
- To publish research findings in peer-reviewed international journals
- To contribute to overall activities of the Institute
- Any other duties commensurate with the grading of the post as required by the Director

Person Specification

The person specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience and or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Candidates will be assessed on the basis of their application, interview performance and a presentation.

		Essential	Desirable
1	PhD or equivalent in a relevant field of Hepatology/molecular biology	√	
2	Publication record in leading peer-reviewed journals	√	
3	Previous success in gaining research grants		√
4	Experience of supervising research staff		√
5	Experience of cross-discipline collaboration		√
6	Laboratory-based research experience in relevant field including immunology, molecular / cell biology	√	
7	Proven ability to work with colleagues and initiate multi-disciplinary projects		√
8	Ability to present research findings at, national and international meetings	√	
9	Good interpersonal skills that demonstrate the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with students, staff, peers and management	√	
10	Commitment to Health and Safety	√	
11	Ability to adapt to new approaches and changes in the work environment and meet new challenges	√	
13	Ability to perform statistical analyses on complex datasets		√

Application process:

Informal enquiries should be made to Dr Wing-Kin Syn, Head of Liver Regeneration and Repair (Fibrosis) Group, Foundation for Liver Research. Email: wsyn@doctors.org.uk

Due to current UK immigration restrictions the Foundation can only accept applications from EU nationals and individuals with existing permission to work in the UK.

To apply for this post please send a detailed CV describing your research experience to date and including names and addresses of two referees to:

Natalie Day, Head of Administration
Institute of Hepatology
69 – 75 Chenies Mews, London WC1E 6HX
Email: n.day@researchinliver.org.uk

Please quote Job Ref: RS11

Closing date for applications: 5pm Friday 25th 2011

In the event that you are invited for interview we will contact you by email confirming the arrangements. At interview candidates will be expected to give a short presentation summarising their research achievements to date and outlining possible research directions.