

THE INSTITUTE OF HEPATOLOGY, LONDON

**AFFILIATED TO KING'S COLLEGE LONDON
and KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

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JOB DESCRIPTION

Consultant Academic Hepatologist at the Institute of Hepatology, London and King's College Hospital with an interest in Acute-on-Chronic Liver failure

The Foundation for Liver Research is inviting applications for a Consultant Academic Hepatologist at the Institute of Hepatology, London with NHS clinical sessions at King's College Hospital Foundation NHS Trust to lead an independent research group focusing on acute-on-chronic liver failure.

This new post, along with the other recently appointed academic Hepatologist post, will be key in bridging the laboratory research of the Institute of Hepatology in its new location at Denmark Hill, and the clinical liver service of KCH NHS Foundation Trust. The appointment will be on the basis of 75:25 split between research and the clinical service and is funded accordingly by the Foundation for Liver Research and KCH NHS Foundation Trust.

The Institute currently has a portfolio of research within the overarching theme of *Liver Cell Injury and Repair* which includes programmes in the immunopathogenesis of chronic viral hepatitis B and C, inflammation and liver fibrosis in development of cirrhosis, molecular mechanisms of fatty liver disease, immunological disturbances and mitochondrial morphology in alcohol induced liver disease.

Academic Role

The appointee would be expected to develop a new research group which will be located in a dedicated Clinical Translational Research Centre. The desired area of study would be within the syndrome of acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF), an increasingly recognised condition presenting in the form of an acute deterioration of liver function in patients with cirrhosis and a common cause of morbidity and mortality in the hospital setting. Systemic

inflammation driving immunological mechanisms is thought to be a major factor in disease progression and the studies would be developed in conjunction with the ongoing clinical trials and laboratory projects of the CLIF Consortium and European Foundation for the Study of Chronic Liver Failure, headed by Professor Vicente Arroyo in Barcelona. The Institute currently has considerable strengths in certain relevant areas including the immune paresis of alcoholic liver disease involving check-point inhibitors and MAIT cells, as well as mitochondrial dysfunction and the precision cut liver slice technique. There are likely to be synergies with the newly established group in pluripotent stem cells research, with the likely evidence for progenitor cell activation in ACLF and the effects of GSCF and other growth factors in promoting regeneration. The appointee would be expected to work closely with the King's Clinical Trials Unit on the testing of potentially effective new agents based on targeting of specific molecular pathways.

Clinical sessions

This 10 session appointment includes 3 clinical sessions in the hospital service which will support access to cases of acute liver failure and their treatment within the critical care medicine unit. It is anticipated that one session would be for general liver outpatient work, one for the special clinical interest of the appointee and one for endoscopy. Inpatient involvement within the three sessions would be dependent on the appointee's desire and the practicality of it within the overall clinical service. It is expected that the appointee will collaborate closely with the other joint academic hepatology consultant in relation to the clinical service component.

Appointment details

This position will be supported by a generous package that includes a competitive personal salary as well as funding to recruit a postdoc scientist and an annual research consumable budget for 3 years. The contract of employment would be for an initial period of five years (renewable) and the projected time of starting would be by agreement.

Background to the Foundation for Liver Research and the Institute of Hepatology, London

The Foundation and Institute of Hepatology relocated In June 2016 to a purpose-built new Institute on the King's College London, Denmark Hill campus. High-quality laboratory space will be underpinned by state-of-the-art core services and close collaboration established with the world-renowned clinical service at King's College Hospital.

The Foundation for Liver Research, established in 1974, initially provided support for core scientific staff in the Liver Unit at King's College Hospital and from 1996 for scientists working in the new Institute built at University College London, which became an independent research unit in June 2010. In January 2014 a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Foundation, King's College London and King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to build a new Institute of Hepatology on a site on the Denmark Hill campus of KCH to facilitate close collaboration with other academic

institutions as well as the clinical service in the Hospital. The new building opened in June 2016.

The new building has 455m² of laboratory space and associated facilities including a containment level 3 laboratory and the dedicated Clinical Translational Research Centre already referred to.

How to apply

For enquiries about the position please contact Professor Roger Williams, CBE on r.williams@researchinliver.org.uk or 020 7255 9832.

To apply please send a CV and a brief outline of possible research plans, along with the names of two referees to Professor Roger Williams c/o n.day@researchinliver.org.uk, Institute of Hepatology, London, Foundation for Liver Research, 111 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NT Tel: 020 7255 9830 **Quote job ref RS18**

Closing date for applications: 4pm, Friday 5th August 2016

Further information on the new Institute of Hepatology, Denmark Hill, its facilities and location on the Denmark Hill campus is available on the Foundation for Liver Research website: www.liver-research.org.uk. Please note that this website is currently under re-development.