



Research Assistant in gene and epigenome interactions in NAFLD patients (Ref: RS33b)

Job Description

Post title:	Research Assistant
Salary range:	£31,883 - £34,525 (including London allowance)
Location:	The Institute of Hepatology, Foundation for Liver Research, 111 Coldharbour Lane, London, SE5 9NT
Responsible to:	Dr Neil Youngson, Principal Investigator Epigenetic mechanisms of Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease and Professor Luca Valenti, Honorary Senior Research Fellow Translational Medicine, University of Milan, Fondazione Policlinico Hospital
Duration:	18 months in the first instance

Background:

Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) has become the most common chronic liver disease in industrialised countries, with 20-30% of all adults affected. NAFLD can progress to advanced liver fibrosis resulting in cirrhosis, liver failure and the need for liver transplantation as well as increased risk for liver cancer. The pathobiology of NAFLD progression to advanced liver disease is not fully understood. We aim to investigate the interaction between genetics, epigenetics and environmental triggers in determining which patients progress from NAFLD to more severe forms of liver disease, and which do not. The ultimate aim is to identify new dietary, lifestyle and pharmacological approaches to combat NAFLD, and novel biomarkers to guide clinical management.

The Foundation for Liver Research is seeking an enthusiastic, flexible and committed scientist to explore the role of epigenetics in NAFLD in patient samples. Applications are invited from scientists with a scientific interest in this area. The post holder will be required to design and run experiments; record, analyse and publish in high impact peer reviewed journals, and participate in educational programmes within the Institute.

The following skills and attributes are required:

Essential skills:-

- Hands on experience with molecular biology techniques
- Laboratory-based research experience in DNA, RNA and protein assays
- Excellent organisation skills and the ability to work independently
- The ability to prepare data for publication including statistical analysis
- Proven ability to work with colleagues and initiate multi-disciplinary projects
- Good interpersonal skills that demonstrate the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with students, staff, peers and management
- Commitment to Health and Safety
- Excellent communication skills in English

Desirable skills:-

- Experience in human disease research, particularly liver disease
- Experience in epigenetic analyses
- Experience of working with next-generation sequence data

The appointee will be expected:-

- To set-up and run experiments in relation to the project after consultation with the Principal Investigator to effectively record, analyse, acquire and write-up results
- To perform laboratory-based assays on patient samples
- Provide training, support and advice to peers
- Participate in collaborative research projects
- Undertake GCP and HTA training to facilitate appropriate interaction with hospital staff and patient participants from who research samples are derived
- Publish research findings in peer-reviewed international journals
- Contribute to overall activities of the Institute
- Any other duties commensurate with the grading of the post as required by the Principle Investigator, Chief Scientific Officer and Director

The post is offered 18 months in the first instance.

Informal enquiries should be made to:

Dr Neil Youngson: n.youngson@researchinliver.org.uk

Application process:

To apply for this post please send a 1-page covering letter explaining your background and suitability for our team, together with a detailed CV describing your research experience to date and including names and contact details of two referees to:

Natalie Day, Chief Administrative Officer
Institute of Hepatology, London,
111 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NT

n.day@researchinliver.org.uk

Please quote Job Ref: 33b

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.