



Job Description

<u>Job title:</u>	Research Technician in Advanced Chronic Liver Disease Group, to work on project: “Role of cell-free DNA in patients with acute-on-chronic liver failure”
<u>Salary range:</u>	£27,220-£28,236 per annum (inclusive of London Allowance)
<u>Location:</u>	The Institute of Hepatology, Foundation for Liver Research, 111 Coldharbour Lane, London, SE5 9NT
<u>Reporting to:</u>	Dr Vishal Patel, Principal Investigator
<u>Duration:</u>	1 year initially with possibility of extension
<u>Closing date:</u>	5pm Wednesday 11 th March 2020

Acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF) is a condition where patients with established liver cirrhosis develop multi-organ failure and critical illness, with extremely high short-term mortality rates. ACLF is associated with a highly activated and pathological systemic immune response that is unable to defend against bacterial infections, with parallel disturbances in haemostatic pathways with a fragile and rebalanced status. The aim of the research programme of this group is to assess how cell-free DNA (host and microbial) behaves as an activator of pro-inflammatory and pro-thrombotic pathways in patients with ACLF, and in turn the effects this has on coagulation dysfunction. We plan to investigate the interaction between host DNA signals and coagulation disturbances, in collaboration with investigators in the Netherlands, building on work previously published by the group. The ultimate aim is to identify new therapeutic targets to improve outcomes in patients with ACLF.

The Foundation for Liver Research is seeking an enthusiastic, flexible and committed scientist to explore the role of cell-free DNA in coagulation disturbance in patient samples. This will involve collection, processing and analysis of human clinical samples using molecular biological techniques (DNA extraction, digital droplet PCR). Applications are invited from scientists with a scientific interest in this area. The post-holder will be required to design and run experiments; record results and contribute to analysis and preparation for publication of data in high impact peer reviewed journals, as well as participate in educational programmes within the Institute. The postholder will be responsible for maintaining accurate inventory of laboratory supplies and equipment, provide assistance

with other experiments within the group, complete research documentation, and uphold health and safety standards and equipment maintenance.

The following skills and attributes are required for this 12-month Research Technician position:

Essential skills and qualifications:-

- BSc in biological science or a related subject
- Experience with handling and processing human clinical samples
- Hands on experience of working in a laboratory environment, preparing regents and performing basic and molecular laboratory techniques.
- Laboratory-based research experience in DNA, RNA and protein assays including extraction and quantification by PCR
- Experience of general laboratory maintenance
- Evidence of ability to prioritise and manage multiple tasks
- Good interpersonal skills that demonstrate the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with students, staff, peers and management
- Familiarity with health and safety documentation
- Proficient IT skills including spreadsheet, presentation and word processing software
- Organised and methodological approach to upkeep of records
- Enthusiasm to work as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
- Motivated and strong desire for excellence.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English

Desirable skills and qualifications:-

- MSc
- Experience in human disease research, particularly liver disease
- Experience with handling, processing & cataloguing human clinical samples at GCLP level
- Digital droplet (dd)PCR
- Cell culture
- Seahorse bioscience platform use
- ELISA
- Multi-plex cytokine assays
- Knowledge of statistics and use of statistical software
- Ability to prepare data for publication

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 commensurate with level of experience
- Participate in collaborative research projects
- Undertake GCLP and HTA training to facilitate appropriate interaction with hospital staff and patient participants from who research samples are derived
- Contribute to publication of research findings in peer-reviewed international journals
- Contribute to overall activities of the Institute

The post is offered for a period of 12 months, with the possibility of extension.

Informal enquiries should be made to:

Dr Vishal Patel vishal.patel@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, Head of Administration
Institute of Hepatology, London
111 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NT

n.day@researchinliver.org.uk

Please quote Job Ref: RS38

In the event that you are invited for interview we will contact you by email confirming the arrangements.

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.

Feb 2020