



## Research Assistant in Liver Immunology

### Job Description (RS43)

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| <b><u>Job Title:</u></b>    | <b>Research Assistant, Liver Immunology Group</b>  |
| <b><u>Reporting to:</u></b> | Dr Sandra Phillips, sub-Team Lead  |
| <b><u>Duration:</u></b>     | 1 year initially, extension dependent on funding   |
| <b><u>Salary range:</u></b> | £30,470-£33,769 per annum (including London allowance), depending on experience and skills |
| <b><u>Annual leave</u></b>  | 27 days per annum  |

#### **Foundation for Liver Research & Institute of Hepatology**

The Foundation for Liver Research (FLR) is the leading charity (RCN1134579) in the UK funding research into liver diseases. Based at the Institute of Hepatology, London, it currently supports 45 research scientists and postdoctoral students in a programme of basic and translational research focusing on the main clinical priorities in liver disease: <https://www.liver-research.org.uk/>.

The FLR was established in 1974, initially to support the pioneering research of Professor Roger Williams CBE, who established the world-renowned Institute of Liver Studies at King's College Hospital. In 2016, the FLR funded the construction of a new research Institute on the KCH Denmark Hill campus in south east London. The Institute of Hepatology, now led by the Acting Director Dr Shilpa Chokshi is directly managed by the FLR and is affiliated with KCH and King's College London as part of a three-way collaboration to foster research, academic and clinical links with the aim of maximising opportunities for basic and translational liver research.

Current research activities at the Institute of Hepatology have a focused translational perspective and fall under the common heading of 'Pathways Underlying Liver Injury and Disease Progression'. The current areas of investigation include Viral Hepatitis, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, the Gut-Liver Axis, NAFLD, Alcoholic Liver Disease, Cirrhosis and its complications, and Liver Regeneration and Repair. These projects are focused on understanding the biological basis of liver disease to support the discovery of interventions that lead to clinical benefits for patient.

#### **Summary of role**

We are seeking an enthusiastic, flexible and committed Research Assistant to join the Liver Immunology Group to help develop therapeutics for Chronic Hepatitis B (CHB) infection, a global public health threat that causes considerable liver-related morbidity and mortality.

You will assist Dr Sandra Phillips in laboratory-based studies investigating the immunopathogenesis of chronic liver disease, and in particular the development of novel in-vitro models recapitulating disease development, and identification of novel therapeutic targets for CHB.

This group has a strong track record in basic and translational immunology that has led to the identification of novel molecular targets for Chronic Liver Diseases and is now looking for a motivated and enthusiastic scientist to help deliver this exciting research programme. You will ideally be a team player with a keen eye for detail and have extensive experience with aseptic tissue culture, handling clinical samples and flow cytometry.

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

The main laboratory techniques involved are: isolation of peripheral blood mononuclear cells, immune and adherent cell cultures, production and culture of liver tissue slices, flow cytometry and ELISA-based assays, PCR-based techniques, virus propagation and isolation.

Tasks will include:

- To organise and receive the shipment of human biological samples and maintain sample inventories
- To process, label and cryopreserve human biological samples, including peripheral blood mononuclear cells and liver specimens
- To independently perform cell cultures under aseptic conditions, multicolour flow cytometry (up to 18 colours), ELISA-based assays and basic molecular biology techniques according to standard operating protocols
- To handle infected clinical specimen, propagate Hepatitis B virus and infect cells lines at containment level 3
- To keep detailed, accurate and comprehensible records of experimental plans and work, and to perform data analysis and statistical assessments
- To communicate developments and results to managers/supervisors and colleagues on a regular basis and to contribute to internal or external scientific meetings as required
- To participate in managing laboratory reagents, equipment, consumables, and stocks, including placing orders
- To contribute to the overall activities of the Liver Immunology group, including ad-hoc experiments, analysis and documentation as requested by the Head of the Liver Immunology Group, Dr Shilpa Chokshi
- To undertake specific safety responsibilities relevant for the Liver Immunology group and the Institute as a whole, including the preparation and maintenance of risk assessments and operating procedures

Please note that job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, and you may be asked to undertake additional tasks such as ad-hoc assistance with other experiments within the group, preparation of research documentation, health and safety work, laboratory and equipment maintenance, placing orders etc

**Person Specification:**

***Essential skills:***

- MSc or equivalent in Virology/Immunology or a related biological discipline
- Laboratory-based experience in aseptic techniques, cell culture, and immunological techniques such as flow cytometry

- Excellent attention to detail, critical thinking, and the ability to work independently
- Willingness to quickly acquire new skills/responsibilities
- Good interpersonal skills that show the ability to work well with members of the team, staff, students, and management.
- Excellent communication and organisational skills
- Working-time Flexibility and willingness to work evenings and weekends

***Desirable skills:***

- Experience with handling infectious human samples and viruses
- Experience working at containment level 3
- Good publication record
- Experience in complex data and statistical analysis

The post will be funded for one year initially with a possibility of extension dependent on funding.

**Informal enquiries** should be made to Dr Sandra Phillips, Senior Staff Scientist and Sub-team Leader, Liver Immunology group, Foundation for Liver Research, [s.phillips@researchinliver.org.uk](mailto:s.phillips@researchinliver.org.uk)

**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, one of whom is the current/most recent employer, to:

**Natalie Day, CEO and Head of Administration** [n.day@researchinliver.org.uk](mailto:n.day@researchinliver.org.uk)

Institute of Hepatology, London

111 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NT

**Quote Job Ref: RS43**

In the event that you are invited for interview we will contact you by email confirming the arrangements. Due to current covid-19 regulations interviews will be held online.

**The Foundation has applied for an employment sponsorship license but as at date of advert can only accept applications from UK/Irish nationals and EU nationals and individuals with existing permission to work in the UK.**