



**Post-doctoral Scientist – Efficacy of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines
in patients with liver disease
(Ref: RS47)**

Job Description

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| Post title: | Post-doctoral Scientist |
| Salary range: | £36,016 - £38,480 |
| Location: | The Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology, Foundation for Liver Research, 111 Coldharbour Lane, London, SE5 9NT |
| Responsible to: | Dr Shilpa Chokshi, Acting Director and CSO Dr Antonio Riva, Sub-Team Lead for Alcohol studies |
| Duration: | The post will be funded for 1 year in the first instance. |

Closing date: 5th Friday 20th August 2021

Background:

The post holder will join an existing research group within The Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology (IoH) which is owned and core funded by the Foundation for Liver Research (FLR) (RCN1134579).

Patients with chronic liver disease have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 with increased morbidity and mortality rates. These patients are also known to mount sub-optimal immune responses to vaccines. Additionally, vaccine immunogenicity is decreased in the post-transplant setting, due to maintenance immunosuppression. The relative efficacy of anti-SARS-CoV-2 vaccines in patients with cirrhosis and after liver transplantation is not well understood and is an urgent unmet clinical need. In collaboration with the 'COvid-19 vaccination and Biomarkers in cirrhosis And post- Liver Transplantation (COBALT)' consortium, we are aiming to understand whether post-liver transplant patients and those with chronic liver disease mount effective humoral immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 vaccinations.

The Foundation for Liver Research is seeking an enthusiastic, flexible and committed post-doctoral scientist to investigate the longitudinal evolution of anti-SARS-CoV-2 humoral immune responses in a large well-characterised pan-European cohort of patients. Applications are invited from postdoctoral scientists with a proven scientific interest and publication track record in immunology and relevant immunological techniques. The post holder will be required to coordinate sample collection with recruiting centres; conduct experimental assays following the study protocols; record and analyse data; prepare and present regular study reports and participate in the preparation of high impact publications and conference presentations in collaboration with the study team.

The following skills and attributes are required for the post-doctoral position:

Essential skills:

- PhD in Viral Immunology or in related disciplines, with a measurable academic track record
- Hands-on experience with methods for the measurement of humoral immune responses
- Hands-on experience with Luminex-based and other assays for the simultaneous measurement of multiple analytes from a variety of biological fluids
- Laboratory-based experience with immune cell cultures and stimulation protocols
- Skills in T-cell and B-cell immunology and functional assays
- Experience with handling infectious human material
- Experience with working in a Containment Level 3 laboratory
- Excellent organisational skills and the ability to maintain complex experimental records and databases
- Excellent attention to details and methodical approach to experimental work
- A self-starter and ability to work both independently and in a team
- Good publication record in leading peer-reviewed journals
- The ability to prepare data for publication including statistical analysis
- Experience of cross-discipline collaboration
- Proven ability to work with colleagues and initiate multi-disciplinary projects
- Ability to present research findings at internal, national and international meetings
- Good interpersonal skills that demonstrate the ability to establish and maintain an effective, respectful, honest and open working relationships with students, staff, peers and management
- Commitment to Health and Safety
- Excellent communication skills in spoken and written English

Desirable skills:

- Ability to perform viral titration and viral/pseudoviral neutralisation assays
- Experience with multiparametric flow cytometry
- Experience with DNA/RNA/protein-based molecular biology techniques

The appointee will be expected:

- To design, 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 human infectious samples
- Contribute to internal meetings and external national and international hepatology meetings
- Provide training, support and advice to graduates, research technicians and other post-doctoral scientists
- Participate in collaborative research projects
- Undertake GCLP, HTA and GDPR training to facilitate appropriate interaction handling and management of human/patient-derived samples
- 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 Principal Investigator, Chief Scientific Officer and Director

The post is offered for a period of 1 year in the first instance. As part of the appointment with the Foundation for Liver Research the appointee will be put forward for an honorary appointment with King's College London.

For informal discussions regarding the post contact Dr Shilpa Chokshi, Acting Director and Chief Scientific Officer (E: s.chokshi@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, one of whom is the current/most recent employer, to:

Natalie Day, Chief Executive
The Roger Williams Institute of Hepatology
111 Coldharbour Lane, London, SE5 9NT

n.day@researchinliver.org.uk

Please quote Job Ref: RS47

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.