Division of Cancer Biology and Cancer Therapeutics Unit

Genome Stability Team

Postdoctoral Training Fellow

Chelsea, London

The Institute of Cancer Research, London, is one of the world's most influential cancer research institutes, with an outstanding record of achievement dating back more than 100 years. We provided the first convincing evidence that DNA damage is the basic cause of cancer, laying the foundation for the now universally accepted idea that cancer is a genetic disease. Today, The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) leads the world at isolating cancer-related genes and discovering new targeted drugs for personalised cancer treatment.

Under the leadership of our Chief Executive, Professor Paul Workman FMedSci, the ICR is ranked as the UK's leading academic research centre. Together with our partner The Royal Marsden, we are rated in the top four cancer centres globally.

The ICR is committed to attracting, developing and retaining the best minds in the world to join us in our mission – **to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.**

The Cancer Research UK Cancer Therapeutics Unit (CTU) within Division of Cancer Therapeutics is ranked among the world's best academic cancer drug discovery and development groups. Led by Professor Raj Chopra, CTU is a multidisciplinary 'bench to bedside' centre, comprising around 170 staff dedicated to the discovery and development of novel therapeutics for the treatment of cancer. Its 12 research teams cover every aspect of new drug discovery and development, from cell and molecular biology through to chemical synthesis of new agents and their evaluation in clinical trials.

The Genome Stability Team, led by Professor Jessica Downs is investigating the interplay between epigenetics and genome stability. The goal of this research is to understand how the packaging and organisation of DNA in cells helps to maintain its integrity and prevent tumourigenesis.

A Postdoctoral Training Fellow position to work jointly between the CTU and the Genome Stability Team is available to investigate the genetic relationships between chromatin modifying enzymes. You will be responsible for generating mammalian cell lines with modifications to the coding sequence of chromatin modifiers and will use a combination of approaches, including cell and molecular biology-based assays, to investigate the genetic relationships between chromatin modifying enzymes and their impact on cellular fitness.

You will have the opportunity to interact within a multidisciplinary environment of molecular biologists, clinicians, chemists, computer scientists and mathematicians. You will have opportunities to learn about the latest approaches in genetic engineering and

will explore new research areas in medicine. Furthermore, this position offers a unique opportunity to gain exposure to cancer drug discovery.

You should possess a PhD in a biological science such as cell biology or biochemistry. Experience with genetic engineering of mammalian cells is essential. Experience in chromatin biology and/or genome instability is desirable.

Appointment will be on a Fixed Term Contract for 2 years.

Informal enquires can be made to Professor Jessica Downs at Jessica.Downs@icr.ac.uk or Professor Raj Chopra at Raj.Chopra@icr,ac.uk. Please do not send your application to Professors Downs or Chopra, formal applications must be submitted online.

The Institute of Cancer Research
(University of London)

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE	Postdoctoral Training Fellow
DIVISION	Cancer Biology and Cancer Therapeutics Unit
TEAM	Genome Stability Team /Translational Cancer Discovery Team
GRADE	PDTF
RESPONSIBLE TO	Professors Raj Chopra and Jessica Downs, Team Leaders

OBJECTIVE OF THE POST

The objective of this Postdoctoral Training Fellow position is to investigate the genetic relationships between chromatin modifying enzymes in mammalian cells.

RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES

1. To design and undertake experiments appropriate for the project, working in a semi-independent fashion.

2. To maintain accurate records of experiments and data.

3. To generate mammalian cell lines with modifications to the coding sequence of chromatin modifying enzymes.

4. To use a combination of approaches, including cell and molecular biology-based assays, to investigate the genetic relationships between chromatin modifying complexes and their impact on cellular fitness.

5. Coordination with other members of the Teams and the Divisions and a strong ability to contribute to a multidisciplinary collaboration through providing scientific input into a developing research project

6. To contribute to the academic life of the laboratory, and by extension of the ICR.

7. To develop a knowledge of the literature in the subject area.

8. Presentation of seminars and journal clubs.

9. Writing drafts of publications arising from this work.

10. Any general laboratory duties that will be shared with other members of the Team.

11. Be familiar with ICR's approach towards risk management including its policies and procedures, which require all staff to play an active part in identifying and managing risk

12. Any other duties that may be required consistent with the nature and grade of the post.

All staff must ensure that they familiarise themselves with and adhere to any ICR policies that are relevant to their work and that all personal and sensitive personal data is treated with the utmost confidentiality and in line with the General Data Protection Regulations.

ICR has a workforce agreement stating that the maximum length of employment for Post-doctoral Training Fellows should be no more than 7 years within ICR and no more than 10 years total postdoctoral employment (at ICR and elsewhere). Consequently, you should be aware that the length of contract offered will be limited by this agreement as well as the availability of funding.

This job description is a reflection of the present position and is subject to review and alteration in detail and emphasis in the light of future changes or development.

APPOINTMENT DETAILS

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In addition to annual performance related pay awards, the salary scales are reviewed annually to consider any cost of living increases.

Annual leave entitlement is 30 days per annum. There is an additional entitlement to 8 bank/public holidays and 3 ICR-set privilege days.

Person Specification	Essential or Desirable?
Education & Knowledge	
PhD** in cell biology, biochemistry or other relevant discipline	E
Strong publication record in cell and molecular biology as demonstrated by first author publications	E
Experience	
Experience with genetic engineering of mammalian cells (e.g. CRISP-R technology)	E
Experience with fluorescence microscopy	D
Experience in the field of chromatin biology	E
Skills	
Basic cell and molecular biology skills and techniques	E
Computer literate	E
Competent at laboratory techniques, including protocol development and optimisation, trouble-shooting	E
Proven ability to design and implement experiments	E
Proven ability to integrate different experimental techniques	E
Excellent oral and written communication skills, including presentation skills	E
Proven ability to write scientific manuscripts	D
General	
Proven ability to plan, organise & prioritise a busy workload to meet milestones within specific timelines	E
Ability to work effectively & efficiently, both independently & as part of a team	E
Proven ability to work with limited supervision	E
Proven ability to work well under pressure whilst maintaining accuracy	E

***as a minimum requirement candidates must have submitted their thesis by the start date of their employment and been awarded their PhD within the six month probationary period.*