

Job Title: Research Technician

Grade: 5

Salary: £27,241 to £31,861 per annum (pro rata)

Department: School of Medical Sciences, Division of Respiratory Sciences

Hours/Contract: 18.75 (50% FTE), Fixed Term until 31st October 2028

Job Family: Teaching and Experimental

Reference: 13739

Role Purpose

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a technician to join the University of Leicester for two years to support the delivery of a biomarker discovery project in severe asthma.

We are seeking a highly motivated research technician with experience in cytometry and immunology, who is keen to advance our understanding of immunological phenotypes in severe asthma and help us identify novel therapeutic biomarkers.

You will contribute to and support an established translational research consortium (3TR-Asthma Biologics Consortium (ABC)) investigating the mechanisms of treatment response and non-response in severe asthma. The postholder will support the immunophenotyping analysis group (led by Dr Adam Wright) to organize and undertake spectral cytometric data collection and analysis of blood-derived mononuclear cells from severe asthma patients in collaboration with study partners. The successful candidate will demonstrate organization and communication skills in-order to coordinate clinical sample shipment and storage from 3TR-ABC sites. They will also ensure robust handling, processing of samples as well as maintenance of associated clinical and research records in accordance with best practice standards. The role includes responsibility for adherence to all relevant research governance frameworks, regulatory requirements, and ethical approvals governing human tissue research.

The postholder will work both independently and collaboratively to deliver defined project milestones and generate high-quality data, within a multidisciplinary team. This will include active dissemination of findings internally and preparation of data for external 3TR-ABC consortium meetings and conferences. The successful candidate will be based at University of Leicester (Glenfield Hospital Site) and will be required to travel to study partners in the region and may be required to travel internationally in accordance with the project when/if required. Working hours can be flexible/considered to suit the work pattern and personal circumstances of the post-holder.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Project Specific Duties

- To support the research team in the acquisition, evaluation and /or interpretation of cytometry data and other information relating to the projects aims and objectives.
- To independently maintain records and documentation (including those relating to research governance) relating to the project's aims and objectives.
- To summarise findings, record, and disseminate where appropriate to members of the research group
- To contribute to the development and refinement of methods (including data analysis) to fulfil the project aims and objectives.



- To assist in co-ordination of sample shipment to Leicester
- Under guidance from the line manager, liaise with internal and external collaborators, including clinical, academic or industry partners within 3TR-ABC, to support delivery of research objectives.
- To contribute to research outputs such as co-authored journal articles/technical papers/book chapters/presentations or posters relating to the work
- To assist in supporting research students in the use of cytometry-based methods or approaches under the direction of the line manager.
- Contribute to the supervision and guidance of placement students, under -/ post-graduate and junior researchers within the group.
- To proactively engage in organisation & cleanliness of the laboratory, ordering and maintenance of equipment where relevant to the project aims and objectives.

Professional Development:

- Engage in continuous professional development aligned with project aims and objectives.
- Explore and engage in opportunities for career enhancement through either post-graduate taught programmes (MSc), teaching or further research study (e.g. PhD)

Internal and External Relationships

- This post will report to the research group lead (academic lecturer and line manager)
- Participate in regular research group and departmental meetings and contribute to scientific discussion and strategy in line with experience in cytometry.
- Attend 3TR-ABC Analyst group meetings and meetings with study partners
- Communicate with Technical Managers and core technical support staff when needed to discuss ongoing lab issues, health and safety matters, and future plans for the laboratory areas.

Planning and Organising

With guidance and support from the line manager:

- The post-holder will be required to effectively manage their time to deliver the aims and objectives of the research programme with the support of their line manager.
- Attend suitable training courses or equivalent and be proactive in terms of continued professional development.
- Plan tasks according to agreed milestones, deadlines, and evolving research priorities.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Evidence of an Honours degree in biological sciences, immunology or related field*
- Experience of performing cytometry*
- Interest in human immunology *

Desirable

- Masters level qualification in Immunology, respiratory sciences or related discipline
- Knowledge of spectral or conventional cytometry
- Understanding of requirements for good lab practice including requirements for handling human tissue in accordance with the Human Tissue Act.
- Experience of problem-solving skills with experience in cytometry experimental design and data interpretation



Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Experience of handling human clinical samples in the field of cellular immunology or related discipline*.
- Evidence of practical experience in cytometry*
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills related to academic literacy in the field of cytometry *
- Demonstrable analytical, problem-solving skills with experience in cytometry data interpretation *
- Ability to demonstrate interest & enthusiasm for human immunology and/or asthma *
- Excellent attention to detail and analytical and/or problem-solving skills *
- Excellent communication skills*
- Ability to prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules and flexible working*
- Willingness to travel to regional collaborators in order to fulfil project aims and objectives*
- Knowledge and demonstrable compliance of health and safety*

Desirable

- Knowledge of spectral cytometry
- Commitment to continuous professional development (CPD) and professional development of others
- Willingness to participate in workshops and conferences to support the dissemination of results and findings
- Experience in using specialist analytical software to generate data in line with the project (training can be provided)
- A well-developed understanding of Health and Safety and good lab practice
- A full driving licence and access to a vehicle

**Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview*

Reason for Fixed Term Contract (DELETE IF NOT REQUIRED)

The reason for the fixed term contract is stated in section 1.9 in the summary of contractual terms in your contract of employment.

Criminal Declaration

If you become an employee, you must inform your manager immediately, in writing, if you are the subject of any current or future police investigations/legal proceedings, which could result in a criminal offence, conviction, caution, bind-over or charges, or warnings.

NHS Research Governance

Where it is determined that the duties of this post for the purposes of research involve work with the NHS, it is necessary to ensure that the performance of the duties attached to the post are covered by NHS research governance arrangements and the appointee must comply with all such arrangements, which may include occupational health clearance and DBS clearance.

Supporting University Activities





As a University of Leicester citizen, you are encouraged to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We encourage all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required. If supporting these activities is likely to affect your workload, please speak to your line manager in the first instance

University Values

Inclusive - We are diverse in our makeup and united in ambition. Our diversity is our strength and makes our community stronger.

Inspiring - We are passionate about inspiring individuals to succeed and realise their ambitions. We challenge our community to think differently, to get involved, and to constantly embrace new ideas.

Impactful - As Citizens of Change we will generate new ideas which deliver impact and empower our community

Freedom of Speech

The University is committed to upholding freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law throughout our recruitment processes. We ensure that all candidates are considered based on merit and suitability for the role, without regard to their lawful viewpoints or the expression of challenging or controversial ideas. Our recruitment policies and practices are designed to protect applicants from discrimination or adverse treatment on the basis of their opinions, and to foster an environment where open debate and diverse perspectives are valued as essential to our academic mission.

Equity and Diversity

We believe that equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to a successful modern workplace. By developing and implementing policies and systems that challenge stereotypes across all aspects of our work, we have a culture that recognises and values the diverse contributions of our staff which benefits everyone. Our strong values of inclusivity and equality support our efforts to attract a diverse range of high quality staff and students, and identify our University as a progressive and innovative workplace that mainstreams equality, diversity and inclusion.

