

Job Title: British Heart Foundation Leicester Centre of Research Excellence Research Associate in Cardiovascular Genomics

Grade: 7

Salary: £39,906 to £46,049 per annum

Department: Cardiovascular Sciences

Hours/Contract: Full-time, fixed term contract for 24 months

Reference: 12203

Role Purpose

The British Heart Foundation Leicester Centre of Research Excellence is seeking to appoint a research associate who wishes **to develop their own independent research programme aligned with our Discovery Theme**. This opportunity will provide protected research time and funding. Strong supervision and mentorship will be provided by the Centre investigators.

The Discovery theme spans the full discovery pipeline and brings together expertise in cardiovascular genomics, statistical genetics, clinical imaging, plasma biomarkers, molecular biology, multi-omics integration, functional genomics, bioinformatics, and translational research. Core members include Professors Sir Nilesh Samani, Matt Bown, Vervan Codd, Martin Tobin, Louise Wain, Dave Adlam, Toru Suzuki, Dr Christopher Nelson and Dr Tom Webb. The post will be based at the BHF Cardiovascular Research Centre, Glenfield Hospital, Leicester, with access to state-of-the-art research facilities and an interdisciplinary research community across the University.

Our focus is to understand how genetic variants influence cardiovascular risk, identify new therapeutic targets, and develop clinically useful prediction tools. We welcome applicants with expertise in any relevant area and an interest in contributing to these aims. Prospective candidates are strongly encouraged to contact the theme leads, Professor Matt Bown (m.bown@le.ac.uk) and Dr Tom Webb (tw126@le.ac.uk), to discuss how their skills and research interests align with the theme.

The Discovery theme has unique access to genotyped cohorts that will be made available to the fellows for their research. These include large population biobanks such as the GENVASC and EXCEED studies for population genomics, deeply phenotyped cell biobanks for function genomics, and internationally unique disease progression cohorts such as the UK Aneurysm Growth Study and GeneCAST aortic stenosis cohort.

The post-holder will be a member of the Centre of Research Excellence and be expected to fully contribute to that community. The post-holder will also be expected to draw on academic experience to underpin and carry out activities across a range of areas of academic and university life, aligned with [the University's strategic themes](#) of 'World Changing Research' and 'Our Citizens,' together with the University values.

Our approach to the academic career recognises its plurality and encourages a balance between breadth and specialisation. This is underpinned by the academic career map, which articulates the expectations of academic staff at each stage of their academic career, and clearly establishes what you can do in order to progress your academic career at Leicester.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

Research





- To contribute to the overall research programme using innovative research models, novel approaches and techniques.
- To lead in the collection, evaluation and interpretation of the research data in experimental design and performance, and work autonomously to attain project milestones.
- To actively seek opportunities to carry out multi-disciplinary research with other research groups at the University or stakeholders external to the University, with the approval of the Principal Investigator (PI).
- To undertake specific roles in developing research skills and experience in cardiovascular genomics, taking responsibility for some element(s) of the planned research
- To contribute to the development of the choice of techniques, critiques, approaches, models and methods
- In agreement with the line manager, liaise with project collaborators to progress the research
- Develop research and enterprise leadership skills, contributing to promoting and embedding an inclusive and respectful university research culture
- To contribute to research outputs and lead in writing up research findings for dissemination amongst the research team and broader international community, and represent research group by disseminating results/findings at national and international conferences and broader community
- With the support of colleagues, identify opportunities to apply for fellowships and/or further project grants
- To develop and carry out a plan to extend an area of personal research, or contribute as a team member to the development of a broader programme, this may include contributing to the writing of research bids/grants.
- Contribute to high quality PGR/PhD/MD supervision and provide guidance to other staff and students (involved in the research programme).

Professional Development

- Duties and opportunities to engage in work that support your own professional development.

Impact and Knowledge Exchange

- Network and contribute to the maintaining and furthering of the wider research programme and research area
- To contribute to industry collaborations
- To consult effectively on own specialism directly with people external to the University
- To engage positively and pro-actively in research impact

Leadership and Citizenship

- Guidance to other team members; providing mentoring and coaching to Early Career Researchers and research students
- Pro-actively build networks and collaborations.





Internal and External Relationships

- Develop mutually beneficial, effective relationships across the Centre and wider University, and with local partners, that support and deliver the University strategy.
- Represent the University regionally and nationally.
- Build relationships with external bodies to develop the Centre's impact agenda.
- Coordination with central University offices.
- Regular meetings with members of the programme research group
- Meeting members of the department for critical discussion of the research and exchange of new ideas and approaches that might benefit the research

Planning and Organising

You will be required to effectively manage your time to plan your research activity and to deliver on the priorities of the project:

- Along with senior colleagues, shape the strategic direction in the research area, developing clear long-term (many months/years) plans for sustaining and enhancing the research programme.
- Prioritise tasks within agreed work schedules;
- Plan for specific aspects of research incorporating issues such as deadlines, project milestones and overall research aims;
- Adapt daily and weekly plans to accommodate new developments and be flexible to the changing priorities of the research project;

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- PhD or equivalent in appropriate discipline or the equivalent professional qualification and experience *
- Evidence of a contribution to peer-reviewed journal papers or equivalent e.g., technical report/writing a piece of software *
- Evidence of proven analytical problem-solving capability *
- Expertise in relevant approaches/models and analytical techniques and ability to develop new ones where required.

Desirable

- Expertise that complements or enhances existing strengths within the Department/School
- Clear forward plans for sustaining and enhancing the research programme
- Involvement in relevant research and professional networks and organisations on a national level
- Successful completion of CPD

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Willingness and ability to work with internal and external stakeholders
- Evidence of continued development of subject expertise





- Excellent communication skills – written and verbal evidenced by the ability to communicate complex information
- Evidence of working effectively as part of a team and the ability to work independently
- Working towards independence and ability to be involved in collaborative research
- Evidence and commitment to Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for yourself, and encourage commitment to learn and develop in others
- Collegiate member of a research team
- Ability to deliver classes using a comprehensive range of delivery methods, including lectures, seminars and tutoring
- A commitment to the delivery of a high-quality service to students

Desirable

- Budget management skills

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

Reason for Fixed Term Contract

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.

Supporting University Activities

As a University of Leicester citizen, you are expected to support key university activities such as clearing, graduation ceremonies, student registration and recruitment open days. We expect all staff as citizens to work flexibly across the University if required.

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 equity 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 equity, diversity and inclusion.

