



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

About
The
Job.

Department of Neuroscience

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health

Post Doctoral Research Associate

Pursue the extraordinary

Overview

About the Department

The Department of Neuroscience comprises multidisciplinary groups from the units of Neurology, Neuropathology and Psychiatry working in both basic and clinical neuroscience. Clinical and non-clinical researchers combine to investigate the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative disease and major psychoses, with the goal of translating novel insights into new therapeutic approaches.

This post will be based at the state of the art Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN), in the Department of Neuroscience at the University Of Sheffield School Of Medicine, Dentistry and Health. SITraN is a purpose built research institute and houses computational, clinical and basic scientists with a focus on neurodegenerative disorders such as Motor Neurone Disease (MND), Hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP) and Parkinson's disease.

Job Role

Applications are invited for the post of Postdoctoral Research Associate to work with internationally recognised research group based at the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN) at the University of Sheffield.

We are seeking a highly motivated scientist to join an exciting new project at the translational medicine interface in Hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP). You will be a practically skilled, well organized, flexible and committed Postdoctoral Researcher who will join the team led by Prof Mimoun Azzouz.

The aim of your project is to generate and adeno-associated vector (AAV) based gene therapeutic approaches for spastic paraplegia type 47 (SPG47). You will conduct laboratory research on a semi-independent basis under the direction of the principle investigator. You will be expected to: design, execute and evaluate experiments; keep excellent experimental records; prepare reports regularly and feed back to the consortium partners in regular conference calls. You are also expected to contribute to the preparation of scientific manuscripts, attend and deliver seminars and supervise undergraduate students.

You will have a strong in vivo pre-clinical experience. Expertise in molecular, cellular biology and gene therapy will be advantageous. The successful candidate should be strongly motivated, self-driven, able to accept direction and be an excellent team player. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are expected.

This post is fixed-term for 36 months with possibility of extension and is available immediately. Salary will be set at the appropriate point on the post-doctoral research associate scale.

Job Description

- Design, set-up and run experiments in relation to the project after consultation with the Principal Investigator.
- Demonstrate a high level of competence in pre-clinical in vivo work.
- Keep excellent scientific records and analyse and interpret experimental data, prepare reports.
- Prepare papers for journals / presentations either in-house or at national / international conferences or seminars to disseminate research findings.
- Write and document lab procedures, protocols and study design.
- Undertake other tasks related to the project as requested by the line manager.
- Read academic papers, journals and textbooks and attend conferences to keep abreast of relevant scientific developments in the field.
- Teamwork- provide help to other researchers in the same laboratory in related fields of research, co-ordinate activities with other group members.
- Plan for specific aspects of the research programme as discussed with the supervisors of the project.
- Assist in the day-to-day management and delivery of the project.
- For each particular hypothesis, plan for own contribution up to three months ahead, incorporating issues such as the availability of resources, deadlines, project milestones and overall research aims. Design individual experiments weekly.
- Supervise research team/activities including the work of research assistants and graduate students if necessary.
- Continuously monitor and check results. The unpredictability of research means that daily planning needs to accommodate new developments.
- Order all reagents/consumables required for the experimental work.
- Liaise with staff from other Departments or outside agencies.
- Any other duties, commensurate with the grade of the post.

Person Specification

Applicants should provide evidence in their applications that they meet the following criteria. We will use a range of selection methods to measure candidates' abilities in these areas including reviewing your on-line application, seeking references, inviting shortlisted candidates to interview and other forms of assessment action relevant to the post.

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
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Qualifications and experience			
1.	A PhD (or equivalent experience) in molecular or cellular biology, or neuroscience.	X	
2.	Theoretical understanding of cellular and molecular biology	X	
3.	Experience of genetic, molecular and cellular laboratory work		X
4.	Experience of <i>in vivo work</i>	X	
5.	Previous experience in gene therapy using viral vectors		X
6.	Home office Personal Licence		X
7.	Generic IT skills, including... in addition to Microsoft Office suite	X	
8.	Experience of designing experiments, collecting and analysing data and experience in statistical methods and analysis	X	
9.	Knowledge of and compliance with good laboratory practice	X	
10.	Awareness of laboratory safety and general laboratory competence	X	
Communication skills			
11.	Effective communication skills, both written and verbal,	X	
12.	Report writing skills, experience of delivering presentations		X
Team working			
13.	Ability to work independently as well as part of a multidisciplinary team to meet deadlines.		X
Problem solving and decision making			
14.	Ability to develop creative approaches to problem solving.	X	
Personal effectiveness			
15.	Attention to detail and a proven ability to keep accurate and reliable records.	X	
16.	Good organizational and time management skills.	X	

Further Information

This post is fixed-term: 36 months with a start date of 1st November 2021.

This post is full-time:

This role has been identified as a full-time post, but we are committed to exploring flexible working opportunities with our staff which benefit both the individual and the University (See www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/flexible/arrangements). Therefore, we would consider flexible delivery of the role subject to meeting the business needs of the post. If you wish to explore flexible working opportunities in relation to this post, we encourage you to call or email the departmental contact listed below.

Reward and Recognition – The Deal

Terms and conditions of employment: Will be those for Grade 7 staff.

Salary for this grade: £29,847 - £37,768 per annum. Potential to progress to £41,255 per annum through sustained exceptional contribution.



The Deal is the pay, rewards and many benefits you earn for being a valued member of our University and by being ambitious and performing at your best.

If you join the University you will have access to The Deal and your own personalised pay, reward and benefits portal where you can access a comprehensive selection of benefits and offers to suit your changing lifestyle needs, for example childcare vouchers, Cycle to Work initiative, shopping discounts along with access to extensive development and training options – over a third of staff work in Investors in People (IiP)

To find out more visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/thedeal/benefits

Through The Deal we are committed to making the University a remarkable place to work and we support this through a number of sector leading initiatives such as Juice and Sheffield Leader.



*the***SheffieldLEADER**

Our innovative Health and Wellbeing programme, Juice, promotes happiness and wellbeing through a broad range of inclusive activities (www.shef.ac.uk/juice)

Our leadership development has been designed to ensure that our leaders have the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed by the University (www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/sld/sheffieldleader).

We are also proud of our award-winning equality and diversity action which enhances working life for all. 91% of staff tell us they are treated with fairness and respect (staff survey 2014) www.shef.ac.uk/hr/equality

In our staff survey (2014) 94% of staff said they were proud to work for the University and 87 % of our staff would recommend Sheffield University as an excellent place to work. To find out more about what it's like to work here have a look at our webpages, www.sheffield.ac.uk/staff/survey and www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/staffbenefits.

Closing date: TWO WEEKS

Informal enquiries:

For informal enquiries about this job and the recruiting department, contact: Prof Mimoun Azzouz on

m.azzouz@sheffield.ac.uk or 0114 222 2238.

For administration queries and details on the application process, contact the lead recruiter: Rebecca Brown on rebecca.brown@sheffield.ac.uk or on 0114 222 2261.

For all online application system queries and support, visit: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/applying>

Appointment to the post will be subject to a security check, which will be carried out for the preferred candidate.

Health assessment:

Please note that due to the duties of this post, the final appointment will be subject to the completion of a satisfactory health assessment from the University Staff Occupational Health Service.

Selection-Next Step

Following the closing date, we will contact you by email to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted to participate in the next stage of the selection process. Please note that due to the large number of applications that we receive, it may take up to two working weeks following the closing date before the recruiting department will be able to contact you.

The University of Sheffield is committed to achieving excellence through inclusion.

The University of Sheffield is proud to be a Two Ticks employer
www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/equality/support/twoticks



The University has achieved the Athena SWAN award for Women in Science, Engineering and Medicine .

The Department has achieved the Athena SWAN Bronze/award for Women in Science, Engineering and Medicine

