Post Doctoral Position - Department of Neuroscience,
University of Sheffield School of Medicine

Overview

We are seeking a highly motivated, well organized and goal driven scientist to join an exciting new project funded by the Joint Programme between Alzheimer's Research UK (ARUK), Charles River Laboratories, five Pharma partners (Eisai, J&J, Lilly, MSD and Takeda) and the University of Sheffield (Dr. Tennore Ramesh, PI and Dr. Guillaume Hautbergue, Co-I) in translational medicine for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis/FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA (ALS/FTD). The overall aim of the project, which involves two post-doctoral research associates is to identify small molecule compounds that modulate the interaction between SRSF1 and pathological C9ORF72 hexanucleotide repeat RNA expansions expressed in vitro patient derived neurons and in vivo zebrafish and mouse models of C9ORF72-ALS/FTD.

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) also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson’s disease and Dementia.

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.

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<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<td><strong>Qualifications and experience</strong></td>
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<td>1. A PhD (or equivalent experience) in molecular or cellular biology, or neuroscience.</td>
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<td>2. Theoretical understanding of cellular and molecular biology</td>
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<td>3. Experience in neurodegeneration field or models of ALS/FTD</td>
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<td>4. Experience in molecular and cellular laboratory work including:</td>
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<td>. RNA extraction</td>
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<td>. qRT-PCR</td>
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<td>. Nuclear/cytosolic fractionation</td>
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<td>5. Experience of using zebrafish/mouse models in phenotypic analysis and/or drug discovery</td>
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<td>6. Experience in neuronal isolation techniques</td>
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<td>7. Experience of ELISA development and analysis.</td>
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<td>Methods using sensitive approaches such as the MSD platform</td>
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<td>8. Generic IT skills, including… in addition to Microsoft Office suite</td>
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<td>9. Experience of designing experiments, collecting and analyzing data and experience in statistical methods and analysis</td>
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<td>10. Knowledge of and compliance with good laboratory practice</td>
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<td>11. Awareness of laboratory safety and general laboratory competence</td>
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<td><strong>Communication skills</strong></td>
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<td>12.</td>
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<td>13.</td>
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<td><strong>Team working</strong></td>
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<td>14.</td>
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<td><strong>Problem solving and decision making</strong></td>
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<td>15. Ability to develop creative approaches to problem solving.</td>
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<td><strong>Personal effectiveness</strong></td>
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<td>16. Attention to detail and a proven ability to keep accurate and reliable records.</td>
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<td>17. Good organizational and time management skills.</td>
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About the Team

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 therapeautic 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) also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson’s disease and Dementia.

ARUK/Pharma consortium project is led by Dr. Tennore Ramesh and Dr. Guillaume Hautbergue in the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN).

Job Description

Applications are invited for the post of Postdoctoral Research Associate funded by the Joint Programme between Alzheimer’s Research UK (ARUK), Charles River Laboratories, five Pharma partners (Eisai, J&J, Lilly, MSD and Takeda) and the University of Sheffield (Dr. Tennore Ramesh, PI and Dr. Guillaume Hautbergue, Co-I). The project is aggressive, ambitious and milestone driven. Success in this project has the potential for advancement into further long-term discovery and clinical development driven projects. This will be ideal for post-docs that would like to explore the range of drug discovery process starting from early discovery phase with constant input and collaboration with top pharmaceutical companies in the world.

We are seeking a highly motivated, well organized and goal driven scientist to join an exciting new project in translational medicine for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis/Fronto-temporal dementia (ALS/FTD). You will be a practically skilled, well organised, flexible and committed Postdoctoral Researcher who will join the ARUK/Pharma consortium as part of the teams led by Dr. Tennore Ramesh and Dr. Guillaume Hautbergue in the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN).

The overall aim of your project is to screen and identify small molecule compounds that modulates the interaction between SRSF1 and pathological C9ORF72 hexanucleotide repeat RNA expansions, nuclear export of pathological C9ORF72 repeat transcripts and repeat-associated non-AUG translation of dipeptide-repeat proteins in vivo zebrafish and mouse models of C9ORF72-ALS/FTD. You will conduct laboratory research on a semi-independent basis under the direction of the principle investigators. 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 reports and 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 background in molecular and cellular biology with experience using zebrafish/mouse models, neuronal isolation and ELISA techniques (MSD methods desirable).

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Design, set-up and run experiments in relation to the project after consultation with the Principal Investigators.
- Demonstrate a high level of competence in molecular and cellular biology techniques, zebrafish/rodent biology, neuronal isolation and ELISA techniques (MSD methods desirable).
- Keep excellent scientific records and analyse and interpret experimental data, prepare reports and participate in conference calls with the members of the ARUK Consortium.
- 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.

Reward Package
Terms and conditions of employment:

This post is fixed term for 14 months with a flexible start date around September 2020 with potential for further extension based on the success of the initial aims.

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.

Salary for this grade: Grade 7.1 up to 7.7

£31,866 up to £38,017 per annum.

If you join the University you will have access to a Total Reward Package that includes a competitive salary, a generous Pension Scheme and annual leave entitlement, as well as access to a range of learning and development courses to support your personal and professional development. You will have access to your own personalised portal where you can also access a comprehensive selection of benefits and offers to suit your changing lifestyle needs, for example financial wellbeing, travel options, shopping and cinema discounts.

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

The University is committed to tackling the global climate emergency. Our sustainability strategy forms an integral part of all we do. We strive to embed this in all areas of university life, from our students’ education, the globally impacting international research we contribute, to campus life.

We aim to empower staff to work sustainably by giving them the knowledge to make ethical decisions at work and home. Staff have the opportunity to be involved in impactful sustainability projects through the nationally recognised Green Impact scheme.

Staff have access to excellent green benefits including the cycle to work scheme with discounts and free secure bike storage, as well as many greener choices across campus.

If you have an interest in this area, the university will strive to passionately support you in these commitments. Check out www.sheffield.ac.uk/sustainability for more information.

We are committed to making the University a remarkable place to work and we support this through a number of sector leading services such as Juice.

Our innovative Health and Wellbeing service, Juice, encourages and supports staff to maintain their own positive health and wellbeing through a broad range of inclusive services and activities.

To find out more visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/juice

Our leadership development has been designed to ensure that our leaders have the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed by the University.

To find out more visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/sld/impact

Inclusion at Sheffield is everyone’s responsibility. Our vision is to build a University community that actively attracts, engages and develops talented individuals from many different backgrounds.

We are proud of our award-winning equality, diversity and inclusion action, and 90% of staff tell us they are treated with fairness and respect (staff survey 2018). We continue working to create a fully inclusive environment where everyone can flourish.

To find out more visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/inclusion

We are the only university to feature in the Sunday Times 100 Best Not-for-Profit organisations to work for 2018. In our staff survey (2018) 92% of staff said they were proud to work for the University and 83% of our staff would recommend the University as an excellent place to work. To find out more about what it’s like to work here visit remarkable.group.shef.ac.uk

Selection – Next Steps
Closing date: For details of the closing date please view this post on our web pages at www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs

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.

It is anticipated that interviews and other selection action will be held on XXX. Full details will be provided to invited candidates.

For more information on our application and recruitment processes visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/info

Informal enquiries

For informal enquiries about this job and the recruiting department, contact: Dr. Tennore Ramesh on t.ramesh@sheffield.ac.uk or on 07949200318.

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

Criminal records check

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

Creating a remarkable place to work

We build teams of people from different heritages and lifestyles from across the world, whose talent and contributions complement each other to greatest effect. We believe diversity in all its forms delivers greater impact through research, teaching and student experience.

We are consistently ranked in the top 100 of the world’s universities, but there’s so much more to us than that. By joining the University, you will be joining award-winning teams and departments who are all working together to make the University of Sheffield a remarkable place to work.

Learn more here.