# RESOURCING/

# JOB DESCRIPTION:

# Research Technician (Molecular Genetics)

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| **Ref Number:** | **STM-101-19** |
| **Salary Scale:** | **£23,067-£25,941 per annum** |
| **Contract:** | **For a fixed term period of 1 year full-time** |
| **School/Department:** | **School of Biosciences** |
| **Location:** | **University of Kent, Canterbury Campus** |
| **Responsible to:** | **Head of School or nominee** |
| **Responsible for:** | **N/A** |
| **Expected start date:** | **01 March 2020** |

## The Role

This is a collaborative project with industry support aimed at developing novel methods of measuring oxidative damage in sperm cells via flow cytometry and/or direct DNA sequencing, and comparing these to an established technique (SCSA) that measures DNA fragmentation. These in turn will be used to provide diagnostic services to monitor male fertility in both humans and livestock, for the IVF and artificial insemination industries. The project is based at the University of Kent Canterbury campus, in collaboration with LogiXx Pharma and Andrology Solutions, our industry and clinical partners.

## Key Accountabilities / Primary Responsibilities

You will carry out experimental work, data analysis and publication of the findings emerging from this project. You will report directly to Dr Peter Ellis at the University of Kent, and will be responsible for (i) the day-to-day running of the project and (ii) liaison with collaborating groups both within and outside Kent. You will also provide technical and practical support to postgraduate and undergraduate students working on related projects within the Ellis lab.

## Key Duties

- To maintain excellent lab notebooks to document all aspects of the work performed.
- To report on progress at lab meetings on a regular basis.
- To contribute to the day-to-day running of the lab.
- To attend national/international conferences relevant to the research and present research findings orally or as a poster.
- To prepare manuscripts for publication and/or patent applications based on the outputs of the project.

Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by the Head of Department or their nominee.

## Health, Safety & Wellbeing Considerations

This role involves undertaking duties which include the Health, Safety and wellbeing issues outlined below. Please be aware of these, when considering your suitability for the role.

- Working with chemicals (inc. fixatives and solvents, requirement to wear protective gloves (latex or nitrile) and work with CO2 or N2 gasses)
- Working with biological agents (Human and animal semen samples, antibodies, enzymes.)

## Internal & External Relationships

**Internal:** University of Kent based reproductive biology, genetics and DNA damage labs, particularly Professor Darren Griffin; more generally a range of researchers based in Biosciences including academic staff and postgraduate students.

**External:** Collaborators, including Dr Sheryl Homa (Andrology Solutions), Michael Close (LogiXx Pharma), Dr Ben Skinner (Essex) and members of their research groups.

## Person Specification

The Person Specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Please be aware that your application will be measured against the criteria published below.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in your application, or in your cover letter where applicable, which back-up any assertions you make in relation to each criterion.

| Qualifications / Training | Essential | Desirable | Assessed via* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2:1 or higher undergraduate degree in Biomedical Science, Biochemistry or a related discipline | ✓ | | A |
| Masters' level qualification in an appropriate area | | ✓ | A / I |

| Experience / Knowledge | Essential | Desirable | Assessed via* |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| General laboratory experience including aseptic technique, handling of DNA and protein samples | ✓ | | A / I / T |
| DNA and RNA manipulation techniques such as PCR, restriction digests, etc. | ✓ | | A / I / T |
| Experience in carrying through and writing up a laboratory-based project | ✓ | | A / I / T |
| Experience with mammalian cell culture and/or flow cytometry | | ✓ | A / I / T |
| Experience in securing ethical approval for laboratory projects | | ✓ | A / I / T |
| Good understanding of reproductive biology | | ✓ | A / I / T |
| At least one publication in a peer-reviewed journal | | ✓ | A / I |

| **Skills / Abilities** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Assessed via*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Good interpersonal skills and ability to communicate technical information | ✓ | | T |
| Good technical lab skills | ✓ | | I |
| Good general organisational skills | ✓ | | I |
| Ability to take direction, follow protocols and pick up techniques quickly | ✓ | | I |
| Ability to set up experiments with due care and attention | ✓ | | I |
| Good IT skills and competency with numerical data and data processing | ✓ | | I |
| Able to work to deadlines | ✓ | | I |

| **Additional Attributes** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Assessed via*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Enthusiastic, motivated, efficient, creative, punctual | ✓ | | I |
| Flexible working hours when required | ✓ | | I |

***Criterion to be assessed via:**
**A = application form or CV/cover letter**
**I = interview questions**
**T = test or presentation at interview**