

# RESOURCING/

## JOB DESCRIPTION:

### Postdoctoral Research Associate



<b>Ref Number:</b>	<b>STM-174-20</b>
<b>Salary Scale:</b>	<b>Grade 7: £34,804 - £39,152 per annum pro rata (appointment is likely to be made at £34,804 due to funding restrictions)</b>
<b>Contract:</b>	<b>For a fixed term period of 24 months and full-time</b>
<b>School/Department:</b>	<b>Medway School of Pharmacy</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<b>University of Kent, Medway Campus</b>
<b>Responsible to<sup>1</sup>:</b>	<b>Dr Nigel Temperton</b>
<b>Expected start date:</b>	<b>As soon as possible</b>

#### The Role

A two-year postdoctoral research associate position at the Viral Pseudotype Unit (VPU) where you will be part of an international consortium to comprehensively study the immuno-pathogenesis of SARS-CoV-2 to inform the development of new therapeutics and vaccines. With funding from the Wellcome Trust, this project involves working within a dynamic international multi-disciplinary team to develop, refine and perform cell-based assays such as ADE, ELISPOT, ELISA, pseudotype virus neutralisation/fusion amongst others, as part of a platform of technologies to study immuno-pathogenesis.

The project is based at the Medway School of Pharmacy, University of Kent, where you will be supervised by Dr Nigel Temperton (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7978-3815>). You will also integrate closely with the laboratory of Prof. Xiao-Ning Xu at Imperial College London, and with other co-investigators at the University of Oxford and the University of Hong Kong.

#### Key Accountabilities / Primary Responsibilities

- To carry out experimental procedures and assays to the highest level
- Continually update knowledge and understanding in field
- To develop an independent approach to the research project in both the design and execution of the necessary experiments as required by the funding
- Communicate complex information, orally, in writing and electronically.

<sup>1</sup> Line Manager may be subject to change and will be confirmed in the employment contract issued to the successful candidate.



## Key Duties

- To maintain accurate laboratory notebooks to document all aspects of the work performed.
- Translate knowledge of advances in the subject area into research activity
- Conduct individual and collaborative research projects.
- To report on research progress at lab meetings on a regular basis (Kent and Imperial College London).
- To attend national/international meetings relevant to the research and present research findings orally or as a poster.
- To help prepare protocols and manuscripts for publication.

## 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.

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment
- Working with chemicals (inc. requirement to wear protective glasses/latex gloves and inc. work with CO<sub>2</sub> or N<sub>2</sub> gasses)
- Biological Agents/Scientific Hazards (recombinant bacteria, retroviral vectors/UV)

## Internal & External Relationships

**Internal:** PhD students and other staff/PDRA members of the Viral Pseudotype Unit

**External:** Members of Imperial College London laboratory of Prof. Xiao-Ning Xu

## 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*
PhD (or equivalent) in virology or immunology, or submitted/near completion	✓		A

Experience / Knowledge	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
A background in RNA viruses	✓		A, I
Knowledge of retroviral vectors & pseudotyping		✓	I

Experience with cell-based immunological assays	✓		A, I
Experience with bioinformatics		✓	A, I
Experience with molecular cloning	✓		A, I
An understanding of immunology (innate and adaptive B and T cell responses)	✓		I

Skills / Abilities	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Good IT skills, particularly Microsoft Office packages	✓		I
Experience of using graphing and statistics software (GraphPad, R)	✓		A, I
Excellent level of oral and written communication skills	✓		A, I, T
Excellent organisational and administrative skills	✓		I
Resourcefulness and a proactive approach to problem solving	✓		I

Additional Attributes	Essential	Desirable	Assessed via*
Team player	✓		I

**\*Criterion to be assessed via:**

**A** = application form or CV/cover letter  
**I** = interview questions  
**T** = test or presentation at interview