

Job Details		
Job Title:	Research Assistant	
School/Dept/Institute & Centre:	Barts Cancer Institute, Centre for Cancer and Inflammation	
Reports to:	Principal Investigator	
Grade:	4 Research Training Zone (points 24-26)	Full Time
Career Family:	Academic & Education - Research	
Appointment period:	2 years in the first instance	
Current Location:	Charterhouse Square	

Job Context

The Barts Cancer Institute (BCI) is a Cancer Research UK Centre of Excellence whose work aims to transform the lives of those with and at risk of cancer through innovative research in the laboratory, in patients and in populations. BCI is internationally renowned in many areas of cancer research and it combines ground-breaking basic research with the expertise of clinicians and clinician scientists from the Centre for Experimental Cancer Medicine and the Barts NHS Trust to achieve improvements in cancer patient care. BCI is also committed in supporting and developing future cancer researchers through its extensive postgraduate training. It is one of six institutes within The School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD).

Job Purpose

- To assist and provide scientific and technical support for research projects within the Centre as directed by the grant holder/Principal Investigator.
- To contribute to the overall scientific endeavour of the Centre, and possibly to take responsibility for areas of other projects, as demand requires.
- To work as part of the Institute's research team, being mutually supportive and covering duties as necessary during colleagues' absences and at times of additional pressure, as directed.

Main Duties & Responsibilities

Research Duties:

- To provide technical support for research projects at the Sanz-Moreno group in the Centre for Cancer and Inflammation with particular responsibilities for *in vitro* and *in vivo* work related to the main research programmes focused on the role of the Cytoskeleton in tumour cells and tumour microenvironment
- To attend and participate in the Centre's academic activities, eg laboratory and journal club meetings, other research group meetings and weekly seminars.
- To execute experiments and be responsible for the provision of regular progress reports.
- Collect data and undertake any appropriate analysis of data as requested.
- To undertake literature searches to explore potential research projects, and to be able to interpret and present the findings of the literature searches and advise the research teams appropriately regarding potential projects.
- Assist in the supervision of trainees as required.
- To maintain appropriate databases, keeping accurate written and computerised records and to ensure that these records are stored in a secure place, and to maintain confidentiality of all electronically stored personal data in line with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

- To maintain key techniques for the research teams plus develop and troubleshoot new techniques.
- To participate in discussions of the work of the laboratory, including data presentation, both orally and in writing and participate in the Centre's academic activities, eg laboratory and journal club meetings.
- To show a professional attitude to matters of laboratory hygiene, organisation and safety, and to observe and to take an active role in fulfilling all statutory health and safety regulations.
- Maintain appropriate databases, keeping accurate written and computerised records and to ensure that these records are stored in a secure place, and to maintain confidentiality of all electronically stored personal data in line with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.
- Contribute to maintaining laboratory safety and ensure all team members are fully aware of and comply with College and Trust policies and procedures in relation to confidentiality, health and safety at work, COSHH regulations and infection control.
- To aid with recommending future equipment requirements and evaluating new equipment for purchase.
- Undertake such other duties as may be reasonably expected by the head of the Research Group or the Centre Lead.

Other:

- To ensure that they are fully aware of and comply with the College's/Trusts' policies and procedures in relation to confidentiality, health and safety at work, COSHH regulations, infection control, safe handling of drugs, and all local safety rules regarding fire, chemical, radioisotope and gene manipulation hazards, and to ensure that these are implemented and followed at all times.
- These duties will be subject to review in line with the changing requirements of the Centre, Institute, School or College, and with the development needs of the post-holders as identified through regular review/appraisal processes.

The above list of responsibilities is not exhaustive and the jobholder may be required to undertake other duties commensurate with the level of the role, as reasonable requested by their line manager.

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or level of the responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot in themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

This table lists the essential and desirable requirements needed in order to perform the job effectively. Candidates will be shortlisted based on the extent to which they meet these requirements.

	Requirements	Essential / Desirable
Qualifications	BSc degree (minimum 2i) in a relevant biological discipline	E
	MSc or equivalent in a relevant discipline	D
Knowledge, Skills and Experience	Research laboratory experience in basic molecular biology techniques, eg PCR, Westerns	E
	Record of participation in relevant publications	D
	Experience of in vivo mouse experimentation, especially cancer models	D
	An in-depth understanding of in vivo cancer biology	E
	Extensive experience in advanced molecular biology techniques	D
	Demonstrated expertise in cell sorting and confocal microscopy	D
	Ability to maintain accurate and up to date records	E
	Understanding of the research process	E
	Understanding of Good Laboratory Practice and how it relates to laboratory analysis	E
	Ability to organise and prioritise own work and organise research within the project timetable	E
	Computer literacy	E
	Effective team working	E
	Good communication skills	E
	Statistical analysis of biological data	D
Attitude and	Ability to interpret the scientific literature and incorporate into research projects	E
	Willingness to learn new techniques	E
Other	Willingness to work flexibly in order to achieve project demands	E

E – Essential: Requirements without which the job could not be done.

D – Desirable: Requirements that would enable the candidate to perform the job well.