



UK Health
Security
Agency

Job description

Job title	Research Scientist
Directorate	Science Group
Pay band	HEO
Responsible to	Project Team Leader
Base/location	Porton Down, SP4 0JG
Hours/sessions per week	37.5
Job type	Fixed Term to 31 March 2023

We pride ourselves as being an employer of choice, where Everyone Matters promoting equality of opportunity to actively encourage applications from everyone, including groups currently underrepresented in our workforce.

UKHSA ethos is to be an inclusive organisation for all our staff and stakeholders. To create, nurture and sustain an inclusive culture, where differences drive innovative solutions to meet the needs of our workforce and wider communities. We do this through celebrating and protecting differences by removing barriers and promoting equity and equality of opportunity for all.

Short Summary

Research & Evaluation department, based at UKHSA Porton, is the UK's largest capability for the handling of dangerous human pathogens and animal modelling of infectious diseases. The capability is used to understand pathogenesis and undertake pre-clinical development and assessment of new vaccines and therapeutics. The capability is also used to undertake studies in microbiological aerobiology, decontamination and detection, and to develop diagnostic assays for clinical use. Studies are focussed on high priority activities including: SARS-CoV-2, Ebola, Zika, Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever, Q Fever, Anthrax, Melioidosis, *Clostridium difficile*-Associated Disease, Tuberculosis, Monkeypox, Influenza, Pertussis, Meningococcal disease, Group B Streptococcal disease, Legionnaires Disease, Healthcare Acquired Infections, Anti-Microbial Resistance, etc.

The Diagnostic Support Team reviews, evaluates, develops and implements diagnostic assays for use in the Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory (RIPL) and other projects.

Job description

To work as a Research Scientist in the Diagnostic Support Team to provide provide serological/molecular /antigen expertise to support projects for RIPL. Ensure delivery of new/improved/refined diagnostic assays as well as training and surge capacity in the event of an outbreak.

Key Responsibilities

1. Implement and utilise a range of antigenic methods in support of diagnostic evaluation activities for ACDP HG 2/3/4 pathogens within the project to ensure targets are met.
2. Take responsibility for the provision of reagents and consumables required for the project and documented storage of materials generated.
3. Lead the project team or project area to identify, evaluate and adapt new diagnostic technologies where appropriate and to ensure that the project operates to a high scientific standard using current methods.
4. Take responsibility for the supervision and training of junior staff allocated to the project and RIPL in specific areas of expertise.
5. Provide reports through collation of data using software and databases as necessary, to meet project targets.
6. To perform any other duties required by the Line manager commensurate with grade.
7. To ensure that the project team undertakes work in accordance with UKHSA's Code of Safety Practice and to work within any Quality Systems that are applicable to the site.
8. To maintain health and safety competence to the national occupational standard 'Make sure your actions reduce risks to health and safety' (NOS HSS1).
9. To fulfil the requirements of UKHSA Values and Behaviours : 'Health, Safety and Wellbeing' commensurate with grade.
10. To comply with all UKHSA policies and procedures to fulfil the requirements of the UKHSA Health and Safety Risk Management Protocol.

Other

The above is only an outline of the tasks, responsibilities and outcomes required of the role. You will carry out any other duties as may reasonably be required by the directorate.

The job description and person specification may be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the changing needs of the organisation.

Professional development

You should pursue a programme of continuous professional development in accordance with any relevant professional registration or statutory requirements, while maintaining appropriate awareness of service provider requirements.

Person specification

Description	Essential	Desirable	Assessment
Qualification			
Relevant higher degree ie Msc/PhD in Microbiology/Virology/Molecular Biology/Immunology or equivalent experience		X	A/I/C
Degree in relevant subject eg Biomedical Science Microbiology/Virology/Molecular Biology/Immunology or equivalent experience	X	X HCPC approved	A/I/C
Knowledge and experience Experience as defined by type/level (not length)			
Substantive experience of microbiological diagnostic test development, evaluation and validation for the diagnosis of bacteria and viruses. Eg real time PCR, ELISA, LFD	X		A/I
Experience in working at ACDP CL2 and/or CL3 with a range of microbial pathogens including culture, nucleic acid extraction, antigen preparation	X (CL2)	X (CL3)	A/I
Experience of working with clinical samples and diagnostic testing	X		A/I
Track record of publications and submitting proposals to promote and develop research areas		X	A/I
Experience of LIMS systems for patient sample management including data analysis and queries on samples, sample types and tests		X	A/I
Skills and capabilities			
Substantive experience in training junior staff and working within and across teams	X		A/I
Demonstrates experience of having work experience within a regulated environment (e.g. ISO 9001;GLP, UKAS).	X		A/I
Willing to undergo security clearance, vaccinations where required and partake in surge response team for RIPL	X		A/I
Participate in RIPL on-call team		x	A/I
Work in collaborating centres abroad/with visiting scientists as required		X	A/I
Equality and diversity			

An understanding of and commitment to equality of opportunity and good working relationships, both in terms of day-to-day working practices, but also in relation to management systems	√		I
<p>*Assessment will take place with reference to the following information</p> <p>A = Application form I = Interview C = Certificate T = Test</p>			

In addition to the job specific requirements above this role will require adherence to the following:

Vacancy Success Profile

Behaviours	
Seeing the Big Picture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changing and Improving	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Making Effective Decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communicating and Influencing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Working Together	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Developing Self and Others	<input type="checkbox"/>
Managing a Quality Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivering at Pace	<input type="checkbox"/>

Technical
<p>This will be assessed by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Application 2. Interview questions

Experience	
As per advert:	CV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Statement of suitability <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Technical	
Qualifications required:	<i>As Person Specification:</i> Degree in relevant subject eg Biomedical Science Microbiology/Virology/Molecular Biology/Immunology or equivalent experience
Licence(s)	<i>Not required for this post</i>
Memberships(s)	<i>Not required for this post</i>
Other	<i>Not required for this post</i>

Job description agreed with the post holder:

Employee signature: Date:.....

Print name:.....

Manager's signature:..... Date:.....

Print name:.....