



**UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

## **CANDIDATE BRIEF**

**Research Technician, Faculty of Medicine and Health,  
Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James's**



**Salary: Grade 5 (£23,067 – £26,715 p.a. pro rata)**

**Part time: FTE 0.45**

**Reference: MHLMR1019**

**Closing date: 25 August 2020**

**Fixed-term – 01/10/2020 - 31/09/2023**

**We are happy to consider job share applications and are committed to flexible working for all our employees.**

## **Research Technician**

### **School of Medicine, Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James's, Division of Molecular Medicine**

**Can you provide technical support to an ovarian cancer research project? Do you have a strong interest in cancer research?**

Ovarian cancer remains one of the deadliest cancers in women as it is usually detected after the initial cancer has spread and consequently survival rates are low. Many women now have chemotherapy before surgery to reduce the size of the tumour before surgery. Unfortunately, and for reasons we do not yet understand, a large number (30-40%) of these patients produce cancer cells that are not killed by current drugs.

We have identified reduced expression of BRIT1/MCPH1, a DNA damage response gene in a third of ovarian cancer patients. These reductions were associated with increasing tumour grade and poor survival. This project aims to identify new chemotherapeutic approaches to treat ovarian cancer patients with low expression of BRIT1/MCPH1.

With a degree or higher level BTEC or equivalent you will have significant laboratory experience (including cell culture), a keen interest in cancer research and will be a well organised individual. Experience of immunohistochemistry, cytotoxicity assays and Western blotting would be beneficial. You will be encouraged to develop your initiative and independence and will be given opportunities for career development. The post is based in Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James's University Hospital in the Wellcome Trust Brenner building.

## **What does the role entail?**

As Research Technician your main duties will include:

- Manage and prioritise own day to day workload to plan and conduct experiments whilst working with minimal supervision;
- Cell culture of ovarian cancer cell lines and primary samples;
- Validation of screen hits by siRNA knockdown, Real-time PCR, Western blotting;



- Cytotoxicity assays;
- Immunohistochemistry;
- Maintain a proactive approach to the research project, inputting ideas and providing flexible technical support to staff and students based on their needs;
- Liaising effectively and pro-actively maintaining contact with colleagues across the team and ensuring that information is cascaded appropriately;
- Contributing to the safe and well organised functioning of the laboratory;
- Maintain good records and laboratory notebooks of work carried out, including providing clear understandable data to other members of the research group where necessary;
- Willingness to prepare and update standard operating procedures and provide technical support updates to other members of the team;
- Provide feedback to the chief investigator on service usage, stock utilisation and to discuss progress and future plans;
- Willingness to be trained in new techniques and undertake additional training as required.

These duties provide a framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list. Other reasonable duties may be required consistent with the grade of the post.

You will report to Dr Sandra Bell, Lecturer in Cancer Cell Biology.

## **What will you bring to the role?**

As Research Technician you will have:

- Educated to Degree level, BTEC higher level or equivalent;
- Experience of cell culture, siRNA knockdown, Real-time PCR, Western blotting, drug cytotoxicity assays and immunohistochemistry;
- Experience of working in a laboratory environment and familiarity with safety regulations;
- The ability to perform technically demanding tasks with care and precision;
- Computing skills including the experience of word processing and spreadsheet analysis;





- Good written and verbal communications skills with an ability to analyse, record and communicate information clearly;
- Good time management skills and ability to adhere to deadlines;
- A capacity to work independently and as part of a team;
- Ability to show initiative and solve problems.

You may also have:

- Previous experience of having worked as a technician in a scientific research environment ;
- Background in cancer research;
- RSci (Registered Scientist) or RSci Tech (Registered Science Technician) qualification from IST.

## How to apply

You can apply for this role online; more guidance can be found on our [How to Apply](#) information page. Applications should be submitted by **23.59** (UK time) on the advertised closing date.

## Contact information

To explore the post further or for any queries you may have, please contact:

**Dr Sandra Bell, Group Leader, Lecturer in Cancer Cell Biology**

Tel: +44 (0) 113 343 8421

Email: [medsmb@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:medsmb@leeds.ac.uk)

## Additional information

Find out more about the [Faculty of Medicine and Health](#)

Find out more about [Leeds Institute of Medical Research](#). The institute and its facilities are predominantly based on the [St James's University](#)



[Hospitals Campus](#) although some team are also located on the [University of Leeds' main campus](#).

Find out more about Dr Bell's [work](#)

Find out more about [Athena Swan](#) in the Faculty.

### **Working at Leeds**

Find out more about the benefits of working at the University and what it is like to live and work in the Leeds area on our [Working at Leeds](#) information page.

### **Candidates with disabilities**

Information for candidates with disabilities, impairments or health conditions, including requesting alternative formats, can be found on our [Accessibility](#) information page or by getting in touch with us at [disclosure@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:disclosure@leeds.ac.uk).

### **Criminal record information**

A criminal record check is not required for this position. However, all applicants will be required to declare if they have any 'unspent' criminal offences, including those pending.

