**Faculty of Medicine and Health**

**School of Medicine**

**Leeds Institute of Cancer and Pathology (LICAP)**

**Section of Pathology and Tumour Biology**

**Wellcome Trust Brenner Building**

**St James’s University Hospital**

**Research Technician – Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer**

**Fixed term for 2 years, available from 2 December 2015**

The post (funded by the Pathological Society of Great Britain & Ireland) is allied to a project that broadly aims to identify mechanisms and predictors of disease progression and therapeutic response in gastro-oesophageal cancer. The potential contribution of intra-tumoural heterogeneity towards disease progression in gastric cancer is of particular interest.

The project will primarily involve nucleic acid extraction from formalin-fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) tissues with subsequent genomic, transcriptomic and functional studies being performed both locally and in conjunction with international collaborators.

The upper gastrointestinal cancer research team, based at the University of Leeds, has an established reputation for high quality tissue-based research. With establishment of links to the University of Maastricht and beyond, the group continues to generate high quality research output under the auspices of truly international collaborative network. As a potential valuable contributor to this group, you will be working alongside molecular biologists, pathologists and other team members.

You will be an active member of the upper gastrointestinal cancer team, dynamically contributing to research group productivity. Educated to BTEC higher level or possessing equivalent experience in life sciences, you will have an active interest in gastrointestinal cancers and have significant relevant laboratory experience. The ability to plan, manage and work under pressure effectively is essential. Excellent interpersonal, communication, and team working skills are also essential.

**The University of Leeds is committed to providing equal opportunities for all and offers a range of family friendly policies (**[**http://hr.leeds.ac.uk/homepage/4/policies**](http://hr.leeds.ac.uk/homepage/4/policies)**). The University is a charter member of Athena SWAN and holds the Bronze award. The School of Medicine gained the Bronze award in 2013. We are committed to being an inclusive medical school that values all staff, and we are happy to consider job share applications and requests for flexible working arrangements from our employees.**

**University Grade 5 (£21,605 to £25,023 p.a.), depending on qualifications and experience.**

**Informal enquiries regarding the post should be directed to Dr Gordon Hutchins, Tel +44(0)113 343 8509; Email:** **g.hutchins@leeds.ac.uk****.**

**If you have any specific enquiries about your online application please contact Colette Cornelly, email:** **c.l.cornelly@leeds.ac.uk** **or Sharon Collins, email:** **s.collins@leeds.ac.uk****.**

***Please note that the shortlisting will be finalised in the New Year.***

**Job Ref: MHCAP1040 Closing Date: 21 December 2015**

**Background to the Post**

The LICAP Section of Pathology & Tumour Biology Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Team represents an international collaborative active within multiple areas of research focusing on better understanding the biology of gastro-oesophageal cancer, with the ultimate aim of improving clinical outcomes for patients with these appalling diseases.

**Main Duties**

* Facilitation of project-specific research work with appropriate supervision from the Principal Investigator. Knowledge of the following techniques is essential:
	+ - DNA and RNA extraction
		- PCR and multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification (MLPA)
		- Preparatory work (e.g. library prep) for next-generation sequencing
		- Immunohistochemistry & immunofluorescence
		- Tissue microarray construction
		- Cutting paraffin tissue sections
		- Haematoxylin & eosin staining
		- Virtual slide scanning
		- Tissue morphometry
		- Tissue catalogue / database maintenance
* Manage and prioritise own day-to-day workload to ensure tasks are completed in a timely manner.
* Maintain a proactive approach to the research project, inputting ideas as appropriate
* Provide regular written progress reports and prepare and collate results for interpretation by other members of the research group using spreadsheets and graphs.
* Be responsible for regular stock-taking, ordering, goods receipting and stock management for the research project.
* Take part in routine departmental rotas (e.g. liquid nitrogen handling).
* Carry out routine maintenance checks and report faults.
* Instruct and provide demonstrations for more junior technical staff in laboratory techniques, operation of particular equipment/apparatus and basic laboratory management as directed.
* Supervise other technical staff/students as appropriate and providing cross-cover for other technicians working on related projects.
* Maintain a tidy and safe working environment in compliance with Health & Safety regulations.
* Maintain health and safety records and develop risk assessments for new and existing protocols.
* Liaise with other members of the research group and wider Institute especially on Health and Safety matters.
* You may be required to work outside normal working hours according to the needs of the projects.
* You may be required to attend international facilities according to the needs of the projects.

**University Values**

All staff are expected to operate in line with the university’s values and standards, which work as an integral part of our strategy and set out the principles of how we work together. More information about the university’s strategy and values is available at <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/comms/strategy/>

### Relationships

The appointment will be made through the Section of Pathology and Tumour Biology, Leeds Institute of Cancer and Pathology (LICAP). The appointee will report on a day-to-day basis to Dr G.G.A. Hutchins and will be responsible to Professor P. Quirke and Professor H. Grabsch (visiting Professor) and them to Professor Tim Bishop, Head of Institute, the Dean of the School of Medicine and Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Health.

### Person Specification

**Essential**

* Educated to BTEC higher level or equivalent or equivalent experience in a life science field
* Relevant laboratory experience
* Understanding and practical knowledge of basic molecular biology techniques such as DNA/RNA isolation, PCR, reverse transcription, DNA analysis using restriction enzymes, agarose gel electrophoreses and Western blotting.
* Knowledge and some experience in next generation sequencing
* Knowledge of cutting paraffin tissue sections and undertaking Haematoxylin & Eosin staining, immunohistochemistry
* Evidence of the ability to plan own work schedule and manage time effectively
* Evidence of the ability to deal with varied technical tasks under pressure in a range of environments
* Proven ability to work independently as well as part of a multidisciplinary team
* Excellent communication and interpersonal skills including experience of report writing
* Working knowledge and experience of health and safety requirements in the laboratory
* Setting and compliance with the Human Tissue Act
* Working knowledge of basic Microsoft office suite software and statistics packages (e.g. STATA / SPSS)

**Desirable**

* Educated to Degree level
* Experience of analysing results/data
* Willingness to take advantage of training opportunities and develop professional competence
* Previous working experience of immunoassays, histological techniques and/or related molecular biological techniques

**Faculty Information**

**The Leeds Institute of Cancer and Pathology (LICAP)**

**Director: Professor Tim Bishop**

[**http://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/info/900/leeds\_institute\_of\_cancer\_and\_pathology**](http://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/info/900/leeds_institute_of_cancer_and_pathology)

The Leeds Institute of Cancer and Pathology addresses both laboratory based and clinical research into cancer with a major focus on translational science. LICAP is one of the largest cancer Institute’s in the country and has major financial support from the cancer charities. The laboratories and clinical research are all based on the St James’s site with laboratory activities being located in the Wellcome Trust Brenner Building and adjacent buildings while the clinical work is based within Bexley Wing. The Institute consists of seven Sections: Epidemiology & Biostatistics; Experimental Haematology; Experimental Oncology; Oncology & Clinical Research (Clinical); Oncology & Clinical Research (Laboratory); Pre-cancer Genomics; and Pathology & Tumour Biology.

**Cancer Research UK Leeds Centre**

[**http://www.cancerresearchukcentre.leeds.ac.uk**](http://www.cancerresearchukcentre.leeds.ac.uk)

The Leeds Cancer Research UK Centre is a partnership between the University of Leeds, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Cancer Research UK, which aims to harness the scientific power of Leeds-based cancer researchers to deliver improvements in cancer care at local, national and international level. It fosters excellence in basic and translational research and offers services to all cancer researchers in Leeds, irrespective of their funding source. Beyond research, the Centre is also keen to build stronger relationships with the local community, with patients undergoing cancer treatment, their carers, cancer survivors and the wider public.

**Section of Pathology and Tumour Biology – Professor Phil Quirke**

The section of pathology and tumour biology performs translational research relating to gastrointestinal (Quirke), breast (Hanby, Speirs), head/neck and lymphoreticular malignancies (MacLennan) as well as gynaecological cancer research (Burns, Orsi). The section is also a global authority digital pathology application and implementation studies (Treanor).

Importantly, the section actively contributes to undergraduate teaching both within the core MBChB course as well as intercalated BSc and Masters in Research programmes (Lee).  Our principal focus is translational research, promoting the transition of basic scientific advances into patient care.

We are part of the CRUK Cancer Centre, the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre and the Wellmec Centre.  We have programme grant funding from Yorkshire Cancer Research and a wide range of other funders such as the MRC, NIHR, Special trustee's etc...

We are involved in over 30 UK breast, colon and gastro-oesophageal cancer trials and our digital science output can be reviewed at [www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk/). We publish an average of 30 papers per annum within high quality research Journals.

We thank our supporters especially Yorkshire Cancer Research for investing in our laboratories and for their ongoing support.

**Faculty of Medicine and Health Information**

With more than 6,000 students, 1,600 staff and annual research income of £60m, the Faculty of Medicine and Health at Leeds is bigger than some universities. Leeds has one of the largest medical and bioscience research bases in the UK, and is an acknowledged world leader in cancer, cardiovascular, psychiatric, genetic, musculo-skeletal and health services research. Treatments developed in Leeds are transforming the lives of people around the world living with conditions such as HIV, TB, diabetes and malaria.

**The School of Medicine**

The School of Medicine at the University of Leeds is a major international centre for research and education. Our ambition is to improve health and reduce health inequalities, locally and globally, through excellent scientific research and the translation of that research into healthcare practice, and through the education of future scientific and clinical leaders who will advocate and practise an evidence-based approach. Our major strategic aims are to:

* Deliver outstanding research including basic discovery science through to applied health research that makes a significant difference to health.
* Produce exceptional graduates, clinicians, educators, doctoral and post-doctoral fellows whose learning has been informed and inspired by our research excellence and who will form the next generation of academic and clinical leaders.
* Develop and support knowledge transfer activities that flow from our academic activities.
* Create and maintain an efficient and sustainable environment for research and teaching within an organisational culture and management style that enacts and supports the university’s core values of community, inclusiveness, integrity and professionalism.

The School of Medicine is organised into seven Institutes. All are committed to high quality research-led teaching, through their training of postgraduate research students, delivery of postgraduate taught courses, and its leadership in undergraduate teaching. The School works closely with the local NHS, having a number of jointly funded clinical posts to ensure this relationship is effective and strong for both research and student education.

**Additional Information**

**Terms and Conditions**

Details of the terms and conditions of employment for all staff at the university, including information on pensions and benefits, are available on the Human Resources web pages accessible via the links on the right hand side, or at <http://hr.leeds.ac.uk/policies>

**Disclosure and Barring Service Checks**

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check is not required for this position. However, applicants who have unspent convictions must indicate this in the ‘other personal details’ section of the application form and send details to the Recruitment Officer

**Disabled Applicants**

The post is located in the Wellcome Trust Brenner Building, St James’s University Hospital Beckett Street, Leeds LS9 7TF. Disabled applicants wishing to review access to the building are invited to contact the department direct. Additional information may be sought from the Recruitment Officer, email disclosure@leeds.ac.uk or tel + 44 (0)113 343 1723.

Disabled applicants are not obliged to inform employers of their disability but will still be covered by the Equality Act once their disability becomes known.

**Further information for applicants with disabilities, impairments or health conditions is available in the applicant guidance.**