Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences  
School of Chemistry  

Research Fellow in Synthetic Organic Chemistry  

Fixed term until 28 April 2017, available immediately  

Research Project: Development of innovative three-dimensional scaffolds for drug discovery  

The position will involve development of novel three-dimensional scaffolds of relevance to drug discovery. The position is part of the European Lead Factory, a €196M project funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative that involves collaboration with scientists from academia and industry. You will be supervised by Professor Adam Nelson, Professor Steve Marsden and Dr Richard Foster (School of Chemistry, University of Leeds). You will have, or will have submitted prior to taking up the position, a PhD in synthetic organic Chemistry (methodology development or complex molecule synthesis). You will also have excellent communication skills. Experience in the development and execution of multi-step synthetic routes is essential.

Further information about the supervisors’ research may be found at www.asn.leeds.ac.uk 
www.chem.leeds.ac.uk/People/Marsden.html and http://www.chem.leeds.ac.uk/People/Foster.html 

Additional information on the project is available at the foot of the job description document.

The University of Leeds’ commitment to women in science has been recognised with a national accolade. The University has received the Athena SWAN Bronze Award and the Faculty of Mathematics and Physical Sciences holds the Athena SWAN Silver Award in recognition of our success in recruiting, retaining and developing/promoting women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET). We are proud of our commitment to equality and inclusiveness.

The University offers generous terms and conditions of employment, a wide range of benefits, services, facilities and family friendly policies. Full details are available on the Human Resources web pages accessible at www.leeds.ac.uk/hr/index.htm 

Women are under-represented in the School in posts in this area. We would therefore particularly welcome applicants from members of such groups, any appointment will however be made entirely on merit.

University Grade 6 (£25,769 - £30,738 p.a.)  

Informal enquiries may be directed to Professor Adam Nelson, tel +44 (0)113 343 6502, email a.s.nelson@leeds.ac.uk or Professor Steve Marsden, tel +44 (0)113 343 6425, email s.p.marsden@leeds.ac.uk

Closing Date: 8 June 2016

Ref: MAPCH1039

Click here for further information about working at the University of Leeds

www.leeds.ac.uk/info/20025/university_jobs
Job Description
Responsible to: Head of the School of Chemistry
Reports to: Professor Adam Nelson/Professor Steve Marsden

Main Responsibilities of the Post

- To assist in developing syntheses of novel three-dimensional molecular scaffolds
- To demonstrate that the novel small molecule scaffolds may be diversified using methods appropriate for the production of large compound libraries
- To facilitate the transfer of the developed methods for exploitation in library production by partners within the consortium
- To work under the direction of the project supervisors and under your own initiative to deliver methods against agreed timeframes
- To interact effectively with members of the research team including industrial collaborators
- To undertake short (up to one week) secondments at other European organisations within the consortium as required by the project
- To communicate or present research results within the research team at Leeds and at meetings involving international partners
- To prepare concise written reports on the progress of the research, and to participate in regular meetings with the project supervisors and industrial collaborators at which the direction of the research will be reviewed and planned
- To maintain and curate laboratory records and compound characterisation data professionally to underpin publications and to aid exploitation of the developed methods within the consortium
- To assist in the preparation of publications
- To assist in providing advice and training to other members of the project supervisors’ research groups
- To contribute to, and to encourage, a safe working environment
- To contribute to routine laboratory housekeeping duties
- To undertake any other duties in relation to the research activities of the School, as directed by the Principal Investigator of the research project, commensurate with the grade

Career Expectations

The University of Leeds is committed to developing its staff. All staff participate in the Staff Review and Development scheme and we continue to work with individuals, supporting them to maximise their potential.

Progression to a higher grade is dependent on an individual taking on an increased level of responsibility. Vacancies that arise within the area or across the wider University are advertised on the HR website - http://jobs.leeds.ac.uk - to allow staff to apply for wider career development opportunities.

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/.
Person Specification

Essential

- PhD in synthetic organic chemistry (methodology or complex molecule synthesis), or will have submitted your thesis prior to taking up the position
- Evidence of considerable high quality publishable research in synthetic methodology development or complex molecule synthesis (e.g. recent published papers in refereed journals)
- Sustained and demonstrable record of development and execution of multi-step synthetic routes
- Experience in the use of modern spectroscopic methods to characterise synthetic intermediates and products
- Ability to summarise research outputs/plans clearly and concisely in written reports (supported in full by experimental data in publishable format)
- Demonstrable ability to show insight and judgement in independent planning of medium-term objectives and effective methods for delivering those objectives in a timely manner
- Ability to work in a highly organised and effective way as part of a collaborative research project
- Good background knowledge of contemporary research in synthetic organic chemistry
- Good interpersonal skills to enable effective communication with industrial collaborators with complementary expertise
- Commitment to and enthusiasm for research at the industry/academia interface

Desirable

- Prior experience of reaction development and optimisation
- Demonstrable evidence of contributing to the preparation of publishable manuscripts
- Experience in the design of chemical libraries
- Excellent IT skills, and the demonstrable ability to exploit these skills in the design of small molecule libraries
Additional Information

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The Partnership

The Partnership has been developed by students and staff and describes the mutual expectations of us all as members of the University of Leeds community. More information about the Partnership is available at http://partnership.leeds.ac.uk

Disclosure and Barring Service checks

A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check is not required for this position. However, applicants who have unspent convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings, including any pending criminal proceedings must indicate this in the ‘other personal details’ section of the application form and send details to the Recruitment Officer at disclosure@leeds.ac.uk.

Disabled Applicants

The post is located in the School of Chemistry. 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.
Further Information on the Project

The post arises from a major collaborative project, the European Lead Factory, a €196M pan-European collaboration bringing together university researchers and pharmaceutical companies to develop the next generation of drugs. The project is funded from the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking under grant agreement n°115489, resources of which are composed of financial contribution from the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) and EFPIA companies in kind contribution. The collaboration spans academic institutions throughout Europe and also involves a number of major pharmaceutical companies and SMEs (small and medium enterprises). The aim of this post is to develop synthetic routes for preparing and decorating novel three-dimensional scaffolds of relevance in drug discovery programmes. The programme will build on Professor Adam Nelson and Professor Steve Marsden’s strong track record in the development of methods for the synthesis of diverse small molecule scaffolds.\(^1\)\(^-\)\(^8\) The transfer of the methodology to contract synthesis organisations will form part of the role to allow the production of large numbers of screening compounds. The screening compounds will be added to a large and expanding screening collection that will be exploited by pharmaceutical companies, universities and other organisations across Europe. The project is available for an immediate start.

piperazine, 1,4-diazepane and 1,5-diazocane scaffolds”, Org. Biomol. Chem. 2014, 12, 2584-2591.


