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**Job Description**

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| **Job title** | Research Associate |
| **Department/School** | Pharmacy and Pharmacology |
| **Job family** | Education and Research |
| **Grade** | 7 (spine point 30) |
| **Reporting to** | Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Investigator (CI) |
| **Responsible for** | There may be a requirement for:  day to day supervision of other staff e.g. technical staff or, co-supervision of doctoral or undergraduate students |
| **Location** | University of Bath premises |

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| **Background and context** |
| Targeting molecular pathways leading to retinal dysfunction in age-related macular degeneration  This post offers an exciting opportunity for an early career epithelial biologist to get involved in a project characterizing the molecular pathways in retinal pigmented epithelial cells responsible for retinal dysfunction in age-related macular degeneration (AMD).  The Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology is an internationally renowned department with over 90% of our research rated as world leading or internationally excellent in the 2014 REF exercise and has been recently awarded a Silver Athena SWAN award. This is an exciting project involving Dr Amanda MacKenzie and Dr Malcolm Watson. The successful candidate with culture retinal pigment epithelial monolayers to understand the responses to a broad range of stimulants associated with dry AMD. The successful applicant will have a background in protein biochemistry, specifically western blot techniques, and experience of cell culture. There will be the opportunity to gain experience in fluorescent confocal microscopy and hypoxic culture conditions.  Excellent facilities are available in the University Bioimaging Suite that will be available for this project including BBSRC funded state-of-the-art hypoxic facility and fluorescent microscopy. Applicants should have a PhD or submitted a PhD in cell biology, biochemistry, medical sciences, chemical biology or a related research area. In addition, the applicant will have excellent presentation skills (written and oral) and the ability to manage their own workload. The work will be carried out within the highly rated Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of Bath. |

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| **Job purpose** |
| To provide subject-specific research expertise and undertake specific research work to a Principal Investigator (PI)/Co-Investigator (CI) and their research team for a specified grant/project. |

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| **Main duties and responsibilities** | |
| Responsible to the PI/CI for (as appropriate to discipline): | |
| **1** | Conduct individual and/or collaborative research projects. Contribute to the design and execution of the project e.g. timetabling and meeting project milestones; participating in regular discussions with collaborative partners. Generate, collect and analyse existing data related to the project using qualitative and/or quantitative techniques. |
| **2** | Writing up results of research and contributing to the publication of results in high-quality peer-reviewed academic literature. |
| **3** | Disseminating results of research project as appropriate to the discipline through activities such as   * overseas research visits * conference presentations * public engagement activities |
| **4** | Participate in departmental/group meetings and prepare and deliver presentations/seminars to project team, internal and external stakeholders or funders. |
| **5** | Assist with the supervision of postgraduate students and undergraduate project students and the assessment of student knowledge. |
| **6** | Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism to inform research activity. |
| **7** | Identify sources of funding and provide assistance with preparing bids to funding bodies. Develop ability to secure own funding e.g. travel grants. |
| **8** | Contribute to the development of research objectives and proposals for own or joint research projects, with assistance of a mentor, if required. |
| **9** | Disseminate knowledge of research advances to inform departmental teaching. |
| **10** | Work in collaboration with clinicans to collect samples where hours will be worked flexibily in accordance to the project. |
| You will from time to time be required to undertake other duties of a similar nature as reasonably required by your line manager. You are required to follow all University policies and procedures at all times and take account of University guidance. | |

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**Person Specification**

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| **Criteria** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Qualifications** |  |  |
| A PhD degree in epithelial biology, or an equivalent professional qualification (and significant relevant experience where applicable). | √ |  |
| **Experience/Knowledge** |  |  |
| Postdoctoral experience |  | √ |
| Demonstrated experience of protein biochemistry, specifically western blot techniques | √ |  |
| Demonstrated experience of cell culture | √ |  |
| Demonstrated significant depth and breadth of specialist knowledge of subject matter to contribute to research programmes and to the development of departmental research activities | √ |  |
| Demonstrated awareness of latest developments in the field of research and in research design | √ |  |
| Demonstrated potential to publish in high quality, peer reviewed journals | √ |  |
| **Skills** |  |  |
| Ability to prepare research proposals, to conduct individual research work and to disseminate results |  | √ |
| Ability to organise and prioritise own workload to meet required deadlines | √ |  |
| Ability to write research reports and to effectively disseminate outcomes | √ |  |
| Excellent oral, interpersonal and written communication skills | √ |  |
| Proficiency in appropriate techniques (as appropriate to discipline) | √ |  |
| Proficiency in IT skills (as appropriate to discipline) | √ |  |
| **Attributes** |  |  |
| Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct | √ |  |
| Innovation and developing creative solutions | √ |  |
| Commitment to excellence in research | √ |  |
| Enthusiasm and self-motivation | √ |  |
| Tenacity – working to achieve own and team objectives and to overcome obstacles | √ |  |
| Ability to be an effective team worker | √ |  |
| Commitment to safe working practices | √ |  |