

Postdoctoral Research Scientist JOB DESCRIPTION

Job title: Postdoctoral Research Scientist

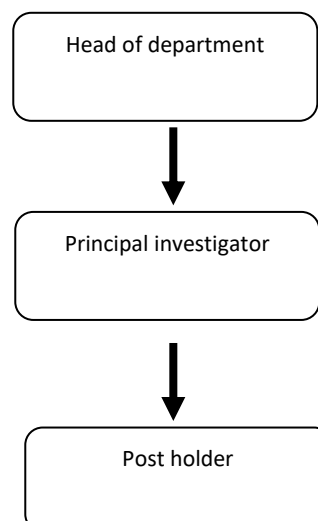
Pay Band

6

Department:

Vaccines & Diagnostics

Reporting
Structure:



Staff
reporting to
postholder:

None

Main
purpose of
job:

Conduct research to support the development and evaluation of a candidate vaccine for squirrelpox virus, working independently and collaboratively within the wider research team.

Main duties of postholder:

Develop, optimise, validate and apply laboratory assays to assess immune responses to squirrelpox virus and candidate vaccines. This will include immunological, virological and molecular techniques such as virus neutralisation assays, ELISA, western blotting, virus propagation and titration, PCR, quantitative PCR, DNA purification and transfection.

Accurately record, collate, analyse and interpret experimental data using appropriate software, including Microsoft Excel and relevant bioinformatics tools.

Plan and prioritise laboratory activities in line with the agreed programme of work, project milestones, available resources and sponsor requirements.

Contribute data and scientific content to peer-reviewed publications, reports, presentations and knowledge-exchange activities. Present complex scientific information clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Build and maintain effective working relationships with external academic collaborators, conservation organisations, voluntary groups, wildlife bodies, policy stakeholders and funders involved in squirrel conservation and squirrelpox research.

Contribute to funding applications, project proposals and supporting scientific cases to enable the continuation and further development of research in squirrelpox vaccinology and related areas.

Work flexibly and collaboratively as part of a diverse research group, contributing to departmental activities and undertaking other duties appropriate to the role and grade.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	Essential	Desirable
Attainments:	A PhD in a relevant area of Biological Science or equivalent experience	PhD in virology Peer-reviewed publication record
Experience:	Research/laboratory background	Familiarity with the 'Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986' Training as (ASPA) personal or project license holder
	Mammalian cell culture	Virus propagation and titration

Skills:

Immunological assays (e.g. virus neutralisation, ELISA, western blotting).	Analysis of immune response to vaccines
Molecular biology skills (e.g. PCR assays, DNA purification, transfection).	Bioinformatic analyses
IT – Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint and Word.	
Producing and maintaining Standard Operating Procedures, risk assessments and other quality assurance and health and safety documents.	
Able to work independently within a diverse research group	
Communication - excellent interpersonal and communication skills when dealing with a wide range of managers and staff	Ability to supervise and train others. Able to provide data for publication and for external projects. Ability to present complex material to both academic and lay audiences
Managing relationships – ability to deal with a wide range of people with tact and diplomacy Able to build and maintain effective working relationships with a range of people.	Evidence of working with a range of bodies, such as academic collaborators, voluntary groups, conservation bodies, policy makers
Team working - ability to work flexibly and effectively as part of the team.	Evidence of working in collaborative groupings
Resilience - strong ability to work with ambiguity and constantly changing set of circumstances and issues.	
Planning and organisation - able to prioritise and plan activities taking into account deadlines and resources. Able to accurately maintain records on a database.	Ability to take responsibility for the use and maintenance of high value equipment and the purchase of supplies.

Other skills
(please specify)

Other requirements
(please specify)

Decision making – able to take independent action where necessary in line with policies and procedures Ability to think logically to resolve problems, by looking into processes when experiments or assays produce unexpected results or run into difficulty.	Ability to quickly assimilate complex information and take effective decisions when required Able to identify solutions based on data collation and comparison with previous data.
Flexibility – ability to adapt and work effectively with a variety of situations, individuals or groups. Able to understand and appreciate different and opposing perspectives on an issue and to adapt an approach as the situation changes	