Job description and selection criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Postdoctoral Neurobiologist - Targeting Neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's Disease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Medical Sciences Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Research UK Oxford Drug Discovery Institute (ODDI), Nuffield Department of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Old Road Campus Research Building, Old Road Campus, Roosevelt Drive, Oxford, OX3 7DQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade and salary</td>
<td>Grade 7: £31,604 – £38,833 p.a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Full Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract type</td>
<td>Fixed term until August 31st 2020 with the possibility of extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting to</td>
<td>Senior Neurobiologist/Team Leader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacancy reference</td>
<td>133990</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research topic</th>
<th>Targeting Neuroinflammation in Alzheimer’s Disease</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drug discovery targeting the role of microglia in neurodegenerative diseases</td>
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<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator / supervisor</th>
<th>John Davis</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project team</th>
<th>Alzheimer’s Research UK Oxford Drug Discovery Institute (ODDI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project web site</td>
<td><a href="http://aruk-oddi.medsci.ox.ac.uk/home">http://aruk-oddi.medsci.ox.ac.uk/home</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding partner</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Research UK funds the Oxford Drug Discovery Institute to establish drug discovery projects with the aim of developing new approaches for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative diseases that cause dementia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nuffield Department of Medicine

Introduction

About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford’s researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual’s unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. Income from external research contracts in 2015/16 exceeded £537.4m and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 companies created to date. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information please visit [www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation)

Medical Sciences

The Medical Sciences Division is an internationally recognized centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching. We are the largest academic division in the University of Oxford.

World-leading programmes, housed in state-of-the-art facilities, cover the full range of scientific endeavour from the molecule to the population. With our NHS partners we also foster the highest possible standards in patient care.

For more information please visit: [www.medsci.ox.ac.uk](http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk)
Alzheimer's Research UK Oxford Drug Discovery Institute

The Alzheimer's Research UK Oxford Drug Discovery Institute (Oxford DDI) is part of a new, world-class, network of three drug discovery units sponsored by Alzheimer's Research UK. This initiative is based on juxtaposing high quality drug discovery expertise alongside academic scientists possessing deep understanding of patients, disease mechanisms and model systems. The intent is to translate the cutting edge academic science into drug discovery and prosecute projects from target to lead status, and beyond. The focus will be on novel targets in the dementia therapeutic area.

Located in the Nuffield Department of Medicine Research Building on the Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford, the Oxford DDI is ideally placed. It is co-located within the Target Discovery Institute alongside the Oxford branch of the UK-National Phenotypic Screening Centre and is in close proximity to the Structural Genomics Consortium, other Oxford University research departments and major hospitals. A wide range of collaborative interactions have been initiated, upon which the Oxford DDI's activities will be built and expanded.

http://aruk-oddi.medsci.ox.ac.uk/home

The Oxford DDI is led by the CSO, Dr John Davis and supported by Lead Academic Scientists, Prof. Simon Lovestone and Prof. Chas Bountra. The unit has resources for up to thirty scientists, including both biologists and medicinal chemists, reporting to a Head of Biology and Head of Chemistry, respectively.

Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine (NDM)... fostering your career in science

The Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine (NDM) is one of the largest departments of the University of Oxford and is part of the Medical Sciences Division, with responsibility for a significant part of the teaching of clinical students within the Medical School.

NDM has significant financial turnover and complexity, resulting from its diverse research portfolio, its geographical spread and its close links with NHS funding and strategic teams involved in the development and delivery of increasingly integrated clinical research platforms. For more information please visit: http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/home

The Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine has been presented with a Departmental Athena SWAN Silver award in recognition of the commitment made to promote gender equal through our organisational and cultural practices and our efforts to improve the working environment for both men and women. For more information please see our Departmental Athena SWAN pages: https://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/working-for-ndm/aboutndmatheneswan/
Job description

Overview of the role

This is an exciting laboratory-based opportunity for an experienced neurobiologist with a background identifying or validating drug targets and the role is at the translational interface between academic research and pharmaceutical drug discovery. The successful applicant will become a member of the ARUK Oxford Drug Discovery Institute (ODDI), a team passionate about developing novel therapeutics for dementia, and report to the Senior Neurobiologist/team leader in the Biology team led by Dr Elena Di Daniel. You will employ cutting edge research tools to validate novel targets, design novel cellular assays and discover the starting points for the drugs of the future. The role will include working alongside basic science researchers from Oxford and other UK universities and also in collaborative projects being conducted with pharmaceutical companies.

Responsibilities/duties

- Design and conduct preclinical experimental work (in vitro and ex vivo) to identify or confirm the role of targets in mechanisms hypothesised to play a role in neurodegenerative diseases, in particular neuroinflammation.

- Develop and conduct cell based assays, using recombinant lines, primary cultures and more complex iPSC-derived cultures, to demonstrate the efficacy of novel drug-like molecules.

- Develop methods for determining target engagement by lead molecules in cell-based assays and ex-vivo.

- Collaborate with other university and industry laboratories to exchange know-how and progress early drug discovery projects.

- Represent the ODDI in collaborative interactions, at conferences and at outreach programmes.

- Act as a source of information and advice to other members of the group.
Nuffield Department of Medicine

Hazard-specific duties:
This job includes the following hazards or safety-critical activities which will require successful pre-employment health screening through our Occupational Health Service before the successful candidate will be allowed to start work:

- Lone Working
- Working with blood, human products and human tissues
- Regular manual handling
- Work with allergens, Eg. laboratory animals, pollen, dust, fish or insects etc.
- Work with any substance which has any of the following pictograms on their MSDS:

Selection criteria

Essential

- PhD/DPhil in neuroscience, cell/molecular biology or equivalent.

- Aspiration to be part of a successful team with the ultimate goal of helping patients.

- Up to date knowledge of current research in neurodegeneration, in particular neuroinflammation.

- Postdoctoral experience with a track record of delivery in CNS preclinical research, as measured by publication record or success within a pharmaceutical setting.

- Experience of establishing innovative cellular assays using neuronal and glial cell cultures, preferably primary culture and/or human iPSCs.

- Ability to identify key experiments for project progression or invalidation and timely delivery of conclusive data.

- Evidence of practical ingenuity, an ability to troubleshoot, and a willingness to develop new laboratory capability.

- Excellent communication and teamwork skills
Desirable

- Expertise in the cellular pathology of Alzheimer’s disease.
- Knowledge of in vivo neurodegeneration models.
- Expertise in knockdown methods (viral delivery, CRISPR, etc.).
- Past experience of compound screening.
- Experience in training/supervising junior scientists.

How to apply

Before submitting an application, you may find it helpful to read the ‘Tips on applying for a job at the University of Oxford’ document, at https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/research/

If you would like to apply, click on the Apply Now button on the ‘Job Details’ page and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a new user or log-in if you have applied previously. Please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will also be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

Please upload all documents as PDF files with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by midday on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.
Information for priority candidates

A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing departments.

If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments)

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk. Further help and support is available from www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/support/. To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic emails from our e-recruitment system. Please check your spam/junk mail regularly to ensure that you receive all emails.

Important information for candidates

Pre-employment screening

Please note that the appointment of the successful candidate will be subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post. This will include right-to-work, proof of identity and references. We advise all applicants to read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures, found at: www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. From 1 October 2017, the University has adopted an EJRA of 30 September before the 69th birthday for all academic and academic-related staff in posts at grade 8 and above. The justification for this is explained at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisedejra/revaim/.
Nuffield Department of Medicine

For **existing** employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisedejra/revproc/](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisedejra/revproc/)

Form 1 October 2017, there is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at **grades 1–7** have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

**Equality of Opportunity**

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.
Nuffield Department of Medicine

Benefits of working at the University

University Club and sports facilities

The University Club provides social, sporting and hospitality facilities. It incorporates a bar, café and sporting facilities, including a gym. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool.
See: www.club.ox.ac.uk and www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities.

Information for international staff (or those relocating from another part of the UK)

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas, or elsewhere in the UK, the University's International Staff website includes practical information related to moving to and settling in Oxford such as advice on immigration, relocation, accommodation, or registering with a doctor.
See: www.internationalstaffwelcome.admin.ox.ac.uk/

The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club

The University of Oxford Newcomers’ Club is an organisation run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff to settle into Oxford and to provide them with an opportunity to meet people in the area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk/

Childcare

The University has excellent childcare services with five University nurseries, as well as University-supported places at many other private nurseries.
For full details including how to apply and the costs, see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare.

Family-friendly benefits

The University subscribes to My Family Care (www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/) and staff are eligible to register for emergency back-up childcare and adultcare services, a 'speak to an expert' phone line and a wide range of guides and webinars through a website called the Work + Family space.

Disabled staff

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. Please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff for further details including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University’s Staff Disability Advisor.
Staff networks
The University has a number of staff networks including the Oxford Research Staff Society, BME staff network, LGBT+ staff network and a disabled staff network. You can find more information at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/networks/

Other benefits
Staff can enjoy a range of other benefits such as free visitor access to the University’s colleges and the Botanic Gardens as well as a range of discounts. See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits