Job description and selection criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Scientific Liaison (New Therapeutic Targets) - UK Knowledge Exchange Spine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Nuffield Department of Medicine (NDM), Structural Genomics Consortium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Medical Sciences Translational Research Office</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Road Campus, Headington, Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade and salary</td>
<td>Grade 8: £39992 - £47722 per annum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Full time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contract type</td>
<td>Fixed-term for three years of HEFCE funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reporting to</td>
<td>Programme Director – UK Knowledge Exchange Spine (New Therapeutics)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(with a dotted line to the Head of Business Development and Partnering, Medical Sciences Division)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vacancy reference</td>
<td>135001</td>
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The role

A major goal of the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy is to establish the UK as a global hub for clinical research and medical innovation, through novel and efficient partnerships between industry, the NHS, academia, charities and research funders. Critical to achieving this ambition is improved Knowledge Exchange (KE), which has to date suffered from limited bi-directional (or even unidirectional) flow of information; intra-sectoral competition; and a lack of clarity on mechanisms for multi-disciplinary approaches and shared rewards. To address this challenge, HEFCE’s Connecting Capability Fund (CCF) is supporting the establishment of a national network of collaborators to consolidate UK capabilities and accelerate impact by pooling the expertise, resources, and infrastructures of 3 HEIs (Universities of Oxford, Birmingham and Dundee) – the UK Knowledge Exchange Spine (UK-KXS).

Within this wider framework, we have chosen an exemplar project for collaboration. One of the biggest healthcare challenges facing the UK and indeed the world is to improve
therapeutics for the elderly and to reduce the impact of many age-related comorbidities. We have initiated a national network of collaborators, linking the core HEI partners with the Medicines Discovery Catapult and The Francis Crick Institute. Together we will create the tools, ideas/ knowledge, and pathways for developing new therapeutics for diseases linked with ageing, help industry exploit them, work with investors to create new companies and associated jobs, and embrace the NHS as co-creators as well as adopters of innovation. This ambitious project will provide core proof of principle and insight aligned to our wider HEFCE CCF framework of KE and open innovation between not only the core partners but the wider UK academic, clinical, charitable and industry landscape.

The ‘Target Scout (New Medicines)’ is embedded within the newly established UK-KXS team and other new therapeutic activities between the hubs. The post-holder will be based in Oxford, within the Medical Sciences translational office and reporting to the Programme Director – UK Knowledge Exchange Spine and working closely with his or her counterpart in Dundee as well as the Clinical Partnership Scout based in Birmingham. As the Target Scout, the post holder will trawl the UK for translational opportunities, and will drive the design, expert review and subsequent execution of preclinical proof-of-concept studies.

**Responsibilities**

- Evaluate new areas of biology to determine the potential for new therapeutics. These will encompass a range of modalities (small molecules, antibodies, gene therapies etc.) in addition to biomarkers for stratification and diagnostics.
- Identify and develop a pipeline of new therapeutic collaboration opportunities, building relationships with academic and industrial collaboration partners from across the UK.
- Build an understanding of pharma company areas of interest and apply this knowledge to the identification of new projects
- Produce project proposals for funding applications and contribute to project planning
- Contribute to building realistic bench side-to-bedside roadmaps and strategies
- Work closely with the Target Scout based in Dundee and the Clinical Partnership Scout based in Birmingham to deliver a well-rounded, comprehensive and expansive approach for the UK-KXS in drug discovery and new therapeutics
- Support the wider UK-KXS team and particularly the Programme Director UK Knowledge Exchange Spine in the day-to-day running of all activities
- To prepare regular reports and presentations to update the UK-KXS Office, collaborators and industry partners of major achievements and challenges
Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- PhD in a biological science related discipline
- Understanding of drug discovery
- Ability to rapidly comprehend and evaluate new areas of biology
- Outstanding interpersonal and communication skills; gravitas to present science and establish new collaborations.
- Good time management and organisational skills
- A willingness to work flexibly to meet project milestones
- Track record of planning and organising a portfolio of projects
- Relationship management experience
- Ability to travel regularly within the UK and occasionally overseas

Desirable selection criteria

- A track record of identifying or initiating drug discovery projects
- Experience in Biotech, CRO or Pharma industry
- Extensive knowledge of UK/ international biomedical research and translational funding mechanisms and sources

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, and in providing all of our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that supports everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is a great strength, and 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 2014/15 exceeded £522.9m and ranked first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 spin-off 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
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

Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine (NDM)

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. The Department also has a substantial research programme which requires high quality administrative management.

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.

...fostering your career in science

For more information please visit: www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/home

The University of Oxford is a member of the Athena SWAN Charter and holds an institutional Bronze Athena SWAN award. The Nuffield Department of Medicine holds a Silver Athena SWAN award to recognise advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

For more information please visit: www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/athena-swan

Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC)

The Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC), a not-for-profit, public-private partnership funds pre-competitive research that contributes to new hypotheses in understanding and treating human disease, and the subsequent identification of new targets for drug discovery. The SGC supports pioneering research at the University of Oxford (UK), University of Toronto (Canada), University of Campinas (Brazil), and University of North Carolina (USA). The reagents and knowledge related to human proteins that the SGC supports are made openly accessible to researchers around the world to accelerate the discovery of new medicines in order to bring potentially life-saving drugs to market faster and at a lower cost.

SGC Oxford, a part of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, receives funding from public, charitable and private sector organisations such as the European Commission, UK Research Councils, Wellcome Trust, and pharmaceutical companies. Research in SGC Oxford is focused on the production and characterisation of the 3-dimensional structures of soluble and of integral membrane proteins, the discovery of selective chemical probes that
can modulate protein function, and the development of target enabling packages that transform genetic hits into starting points for drug discovery. SGC Oxford shares its research outputs through collaborations with researchers worldwide.

For more information please visit: http://www.thesgc.org/scientists/groups/oxford/

**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 www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/supportandtechnical/.

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 should explain how you meet 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_the_university/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 for all academic and academic-related posts (grade 6 and above), for which the retirement date is the 30 September immediately preceding the 68th birthday. The justification for this is explained at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/revisedejra/revaim/.

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/

There is no normal or fixed age at which support staff in posts at grades 1–5 have to retire. Support staff may retire once they reach the minimum pension age stipulated in the Rules of the pension scheme to which they belong.

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.
Benefits of working at the University

Training and Development
A range of training and development opportunities are available at the University. Further details can be found at www.ox.ac.uk/staff/working_at_oxford/training_development/index.html.

For research staff only: Support for Research Staff
There is a particularly wide range of support for career development for research staff. Please visit: www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers to find out more.

Pensions
The University offers generous occupational pension schemes for eligible staff members. Further details can be found at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/finance/epp/pensions/pensionspolicy/.

Information for international staff (or those relocating from another part of the UK)
A wealth of information is available on the University's International Staff website for staff who are relocating to Oxford from abroad, at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/international/.

The University of Oxford Newcomers’ Club
The Newcomers’ Club is aimed at helping partners of newly-arrived visiting scholars, graduate students and academic members of the University to settle in and to meet people in Oxford.

Transport schemes
The University offers a range of travel schemes and public transport travel discounts to staff. Full details are available at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/estates/ourservices/travel/.

University Club and University Sports Facilities
The University Club provides social, sporting and hospitality facilities. It incorporates a Club bar, a cafe and sporting facilities, including a gym. See www.club.ox.ac.uk for all further details.

University staff can use the University Sports Centre at discounted rates, and have the chance to join sports clubs. Please visit www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities.

Childcare and Childcare Vouchers
The University offers quality childcare provision services at affordable prices to its employees. For full details about the services offered, please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare/. NB: Due to the high demand for the University's nursery places there is a long waiting list.

The University also offers nursery fee payment schemes to eligible staff as an opportunity to save tax and national insurance on childcare costs. Please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare.

Disabled staff
The University is committed to supporting members of staff with a disability or long-term health condition and has a dedicated Staff Disability Advisor. Please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff for further details.

BUPA - Eduhealth
Bupa Eduhealth Essentials private medical insurance offers special rates for University of Oxford staff and their families www.eduhealth.co.uk/mini-site/.

All other benefits
For other benefits, such as free entry to colleges, the Botanic Gardens and staff discounts offered by third party companies, please see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/.