Job title: Postdoctoral Immunologist – T-cell Assay Specialist

Division: Medical Sciences

Department: Nuffield Department of Medicine, Jenner Institute

Location: Old Road Campus Research Building, Headington, Oxford, OX3 7DQ

Grade and salary: Grade 7: £32,817 - £40,322 per annum

Hours: Full time

Contract type: Fixed-term (12 months in the first instance with a possibility of further extension)

Reporting to: Professor Teresa Lambe

Vacancy reference: 145959

Additional information: Position Funded by Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences

Research topic: Development of standardised and validated T-cell assays for use in clinical trials of novel vaccines against SARS-CoV-2

Project team: Emerging Pathogens Clinical Team

Project web site: http://www.jenner.ac.uk/

The role

Key Objective:
This postdoctoral scientist position will play a key role in the Emerging Pathogens Vaccine Group’s on-going programme of work on COVID-19 vaccine development. The primary focus will be to develop and optimise T-cell assays for exploratory immunity in the populous and also to be used as the primary readout in clinical trials of vaccines against SARS-CoV-2.

Background:
The Jenner Institute has produced vaccines against malaria, HIV, tuberculosis and influenza, all of which are in clinical development. In recent years there has been a strong interest in the development of vaccines against emerging and outbreak pathogens. The Jenner Institute has received funding to develop a replication-deficient simian adenoviral vectored vaccine against SARS-CoV-2.

We have a strong record of attracting external grant funding, a robust publication record, and...
the programme(s) for vaccine development toward emerging pathogens has expanded significantly in recent years. Working closely with the clinical team, there is a major translational emphasis, with full integration of the clinical and laboratory teams.

Together, we aim to foster scientific excellence within a welcoming and progressive environment.

The post holder will be a member of the clinical team and part of the Emerging Pathogens Vaccine program, reporting to Professor Teresa Lambe.

The postdoctoral scientist position will support the on-going programme of vaccine development against SARS-CoV-2. You will be responsible for the development of T-cell assays, which will be suitable for use in Phase I, II & III clinical trials. The assays should be standardised before use in Phase I trials and validated before use in Phase II trials. You will be a highly organised, motivated individual with proven experience in immunology assessment. The work is expected to include collaboration with external partners, and assessment of preclinical as well as clinical samples.

**Responsibilities**

- To develop assays for the assessment of T-cell response from COVID-19 vaccines and control samples and when relevant other emerging pathogens
- To standardise and validate assays for use in clinical trials
- To perform assays on peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMC) samples from clinical trials
- To develop, progress and establish methodologies that may be used for quantification of T-cell responses toward SARS-CoV-2 and when relevant other emerging pathogens
- To participate in research programmes of preclinical vaccine development
- To assist with laboratory supervision and training of new students or junior research assistants in the group
- To collaborate with external partners in vaccine development
- To analyse data relating to the work undertaken and
- To perform any other comparable duties as may be required to ensure the efficient running of the laboratory
- To be responsible with others for the biological safety of the laboratory

**Communication**

- To participate in, and contribute directly to, scientific discussions with other members of the research group and collaborators on the project
- To maintain confidentiality regarding research data when interacting with non-collaborating researchers
- Communicating results to Prof Lambe, Prof Gilbert, and other members of the emerging pathogens group, including at lab meetings

**Education and Training**

- To attend appropriate scientific seminars, training opportunities and meetings in the Institute and University
- To participate in the education and training of other staff as necessary and appropriate
- Once trained, the post holder's performance will be continue to be monitored to ensure that the required standard of accuracy and efficiency is maintained
Further Responsibilities

- To act at all times in the interests of the Institute to ensure good laboratory practice
- To ensure that work in the laboratory is conducted safely and, in particular, that work is undertaken using appropriate safety procedures and in the dedicated areas
- To accord due regard to the University Equal Opportunities and Data Protection policies
- To participate in and support the public engagement and widening access activities of the Department and the University. This is anticipated to be not more than 2 days per year

Informal enquiries about this post can be addressed to: wendy.crocker@ndm.ox.ac.uk

Pre-employment screening

All offers of employment are made subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post.

If you are offered the post, you will be asked to provide proof of your right-to-work, your identity, and we will contact the referees you have nominated. You will also be asked to complete a health declaration (so that you can tell us about any health conditions or disabilities so that we can discuss appropriate adjustments with you), and a declaration of any unspent criminal convictions.

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/.

Hazard-specific / Safety-critical duties

This job includes hazards or safety-critical activities. If you are offered the post, you will be asked to complete a health questionnaire which will be assessed by our Occupational Health Service (OHS), and the offer of employment will be subject a successful outcome of this assessment.

The hazards or safety-critical duties involved are as follows:

- Lone Working
- Working with infectious pathogens (hazard group 2/3) - Hazard Group 3 pathogens
- Working with blood, human products and human tissues
- Work with any substance which has any of the following pictograms on their MSDS:

![Pictograms]

- Travel outside of Europe or North America on University Business

This post requires flexibility in the hours worked, as some out of hours work is required (especially during time-critical studies).
Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

- A PhD (or close to completion) in a relevant biological sciences subject
- A keen interest in immunology of infectious diseases
- Practical experience with T cell assay development, including ELISpot and ICS
- Self-motivated, technically competent and capable of working independently in a laboratory
- Ability to interpret scientific data, analyse and research complex issues and write factual reports
- A methodical and careful approach to working in the laboratory
- Excellent organisational and interpersonal skills including the ability to work closely with others as part of a team, while taking personal responsibility for assigned tasks, and manage multiple projects simultaneously
- Excellent communication skills, including the ability to present data and represent research objectives at meetings

Desirable selection criteria

- Prior experience working to GLP, GCP or equivalent
- Experience in human immunology/vaccine evaluation
- Experience in delineation of detailed immunological profiling of cellular immune responses including complex phenotypic profiling, antigenic mapping and clonal analysis
- Experience in Standardisation and validation of T cell assays
- Experience in international collaborative studies

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 2016/17 exceeded £564m and we rank first in the UK for university spinouts, 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.
**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)

**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](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 equality 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: [www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/working-for-ndm/aboutndmatheneswan/](http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/working-for-ndm/aboutndmatheneswan/)

**The Jenner Institute**

The Jenner Institute was founded in November 2005 to develop innovative vaccines against major global diseases. Uniquely it focuses both on diseases of humans and livestock and tests new vaccine approaches in parallel in different species. A major theme is translational research involving the rapid early-stage development and assessment of new vaccines in clinical trials.

For more information please visit: department website [http://www.jenner.ac.uk/](http://www.jenner.ac.uk/)

**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

[http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/research/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/research/)

[http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/professionalandmanagement/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/professionalandmanagement/)

[http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/supportandtechnical/](http://www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/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. 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 department(s).

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 receive an automated email from our e-recruitment system to confirm receipt of your application. Please check your spam/junk mail if you do not receive this email.

Important information for candidates

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to the University as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the University’s Privacy Notice for Job Applicants at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/privacynotices/job/. The University’s Policy on Data Protection is available at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/universitypolicyondataprotection/.

The University’s policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. 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/acrelretire8+/

For existing employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/

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.
Benefits of working at the University

Employee benefits

University employees enjoy 38 days’ paid holiday, generous pension schemes, travel discounts, and a variety of professional development opportunities. Our range of other employee benefits and discounts also includes free entry to the Botanic Gardens and University colleges, and discounts at University museums. See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits.

University Club and sports facilities

Membership of the University Club is free for all University staff. The University Club offers social, sporting, and hospitality facilities. 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 staff new to Oxford

If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas or elsewhere in the UK, the University’s Welcome Service website includes practical information about settling in the area, including advice on relocation, accommodation, and local schools. See www.welcome.ox.ac.uk. There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependents. See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/permits/reimburse&loanscheme/.

Family-friendly benefits

With one of the most generous family leave schemes in the Higher Education sector, and a range of flexible working options, Oxford aims to be a family-friendly employer. We also subscribe to My Family Care, a service that provides practical advice and support for employees who have caring responsibilities. The service offers a free telephone advice line, and the ability to book emergency back-up care for children, adult dependents and elderly relatives. See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/.

Childcare

The University has excellent childcare services, including 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/.

Disabled staff

We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. For further details, including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University’s Staff Disability Advisor, see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff.

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/.

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 settle into Oxford, and provides them with an opportunity to meet people and make connections in the local area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk.