
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

Job title	Clinical Research Fellow – Malaria Vaccine Programme
Division	Medical Sciences
Department	Department of Biochemistry
Location	Centre for Clinical Vaccinology and Tropical Medicine, Churchill Hospital, Headington Oxford
Grade and salary	Grade E63: £29,384 - £58,398 per annum
Hours	Full time (37.5 hours per week)
Contract type	Fixed Term Contract for up to 2 years in the first instance
Reporting to	Prof Simon Draper and Dr Angela Minassian
Vacancy reference	167756
Additional information	<p>You are required to submit a CV and a supporting statement with your application, outlining how you meet each of the selection criteria for the role (see below for details). Your application will not be processed if you do not include both documents.</p> <p>Owing to the nature of this position, any offer of employment with the University will be subject to a satisfactory security screening and the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust issuing an honorary contract, or a Research Passport, to allow you to undertake the necessary work.</p>

The role

This is an exciting opportunity to join an internationally renowned malaria vaccine development programme led by Professor Simon Draper and Dr Angela Minassian. This has a strong translational focus that spans iterative vaccine design, antibody immunology and experimental medicine, where vaccines are tested for early stage efficacy using a human malaria challenge model. The role is focused on designing, delivering and executing clinical trials of malaria vaccines and human malaria challenge studies in Oxford, and providing support for trials at partner sites in Africa (Tanzania, The Gambia and Burkina Faso) and Thailand.



The successful applicant will work closely with the clinical team, led by Dr Angela Minassian, to lead on and maintain high quality in the design and conduct of these studies. The clinical team are based at the Centre for Clinical Vaccinology and Tropical Medicine, Churchill Hospital, and are fully integrated with the Draper Group laboratory research team based at the Department of Biochemistry. This forms part of a new hub for infectious disease and immunology research in the Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin Building and [Kavli Institute for Nanoscience Discovery](https://draperlab.web.ox.ac.uk/). The group's current website is here: <https://draperlab.web.ox.ac.uk/>.

The post will provide front-line experience of clinical research in a multi-disciplinary academic environment and the research is expected to lead to high quality publications. This includes opportunities for suitable candidates to seek independent research funding and to develop a laboratory, clinical or a translational research proposal for a higher degree (MD/DPhil).

Professor Draper's group has a strong translational focus, seeking to develop innovative and new concepts in vaccine or antibody-based design and delivery, and with full integration of the clinical and laboratory teams. Over the last 10 years we have translated nine vaccine candidates, including viral vectors, recombinant proteins-in-adjuvants and virus-like particles, into Phase I and II clinical trials in the UK and Africa. Over half of these trials include an experimental malaria challenge component, either with falciparum or vivax malaria parasites. The group has a strong record of attracting external grant funding, a strong publication record, and has expanded significantly in recent years. We have a diverse funding portfolio and strong links with industry and a variety of non-industrial / academic collaborators. We aim to foster scientific excellence within an open and free-thinking environment. The Draper group has a friendly and collaborative ethos, aiming to provide a supportive environment for all staff working in laboratory-, clinic- and office-based roles. The research group currently consists of approximately 25 members of staff including clinical research fellows, project managers, administrative staff, research scientists and students.

Responsibilities

- Provide clinical input into the design and execution of clinical trials with other team members and to take responsibility for delivering designated clinical trials,
- Work closely with the clinical trials team including Chief Investigator, project managers, nurses, recruitment coordinator and data manager in the design, conduct and analysis of clinical trials and produce required study documents and reports.
- Provide technical advice and training for research staff relevant to the implementation of the research, in accordance with the protocol, ethics approval, SOPs and guidelines
- Lead with regards clinical governance in the monitoring and reporting of the research at study sites and to trial specific data safety monitoring boards (for example reporting of serious adverse events)
- Provide medical oversight of trial participants including those enrolled in controlled human infection studies
- Present results as a verbal presentations or written reports for both internal meetings and those with external collaborators/stakeholders,
- Collaborate with members of the clinical, laboratory and statistical teams in the preparation of academic manuscripts for peer-reviewed journals

- Be involved as part of the wider Draper research group, including attending weekly lab group meetings.
- 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 two days per year.
- Undertake mandatory training as required by the University, Division and Department. The specific list of training courses may change from time-to-time, in response to both legal and internal University requirements.
- All employees will have to ensure that their work in the laboratory or clinic is conducted safely at all times and, in particular, that work is undertaken following the appropriate health and safety policies and procedures for the particular area, without compromise to their own safety or that of others who may be affected.

Selection criteria

Essential selection criteria

1. GMC registration; you must be currently qualified and licensed to practise medicine in the UK
2. Experience within clinical medicine
3. Excellent verbal and written communication skills for a wide range of audiences
4. Excellent interpersonal skills, including the ability to be comfortable and confident interacting with volunteers and patients in a research study, clinical research co-ordinators, team members, laboratory and administrative staff, monitors, collaborating company representatives, and the broader research community
5. Requires flexibility in the hours worked, as some out of hours work is required (especially during challenge studies) but this can be taken back as time off in-lieu.
6. Excellent IT skills, including email, word processing, spreadsheets and databases.

Desirable selection criteria

1. Previous laboratory or clinical trials experience relevant to malaria or infectious disease or vaccine research.
2. Understanding of Good Clinical Practice
3. Knowledge of immunology
4. An interest in further research, particularly in areas of infectious or tropical diseases, medical microbiology/virology or immunology
5. Holding a MRCP or equivalent (UK)
6. Management experience

Pre-employment screening

Standard checks

If you are offered the post, the offer will be subject to standard pre-employment checks. You will be asked to provide: proof of your right-to-work in the UK; proof of your identity; and (if we haven't done so already) 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 for which you may need us to make appropriate adjustments.

Please read the candidate notes on the University's pre-employment screening procedures at:

<https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/pre-employment-checks>

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, and the offer of employment will be subject a successful outcome of this assessment.

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

- The hazards or safety-critical duties involved are as follows:
- Working with infectious pathogens (hazard group 2/3) - [Hazard Group 3 pathogens](#)
- Working with blood, human products and human tissues
- Work in clinical areas with direct contact with patients (NOT administrative roles)
- Work with any substance which has any of the following pictograms on their MSDS:



- Travel outside of Europe or North America on University Business

Additional security pre-employment checks

This job includes duties that will require additional security pre-employment checks:

- A satisfactory enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check due to screening and vaccination of volunteers and participant data management.

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 and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, and in recent years we have spun out 15-20 new companies every year. 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.

Department of Biochemistry

The Department of Biochemistry in Oxford was established in 1920 and is now one of the largest in Europe. Situated in an attractive area close to the University Parks and River Cherwell, the Department is housed in the University Science Area and is currently undergoing a major expansion programme centred on the recently completed and award-winning New Biochemistry Building. The Science Area includes the Radcliffe Science Library and the Natural History Museum, and is conveniently located for easy access to the town centre and colleges.

The department includes research laboratories working in the areas of Cell Biology, Development and Genetics; Chromosomal and RNA Biology; Infection and Disease Processes; Microbiology and Systems Biology; and Structural Biology and Molecular Biophysics. It is particularly well equipped with an extensive computer network, all the basic hardware essential in today's research, together with an excellent range of state-of-the-art specialist equipment.

For more information please visit: <http://www.bioch.ox.ac.uk/>

The University of Oxford is a member of the [Athena SWAN Charter](#) and holds an institutional Bronze Athena SWAN award. The Department of Biochemistry is strongly committed to equality and valuing diversity and we operate a flexible working policy for all staff. The Department holds a departmental Silver Athena SWAN award to recognise advancement of gender equality: representation, progression and success for all.

Centre for Clinical Vaccinology and Tropical Medicine, Churchill Hospital, Oxford

The clinical activities of the Draper Group are undertaken at the Centre for Clinical Vaccinology and Tropical Medicine (CCVTM) which is a purpose-built centre on the Churchill Hospital site. CCVTM is a multi-disciplinary unit which houses physicians, nurses, clinical trial project managers and administrators from a number of other University of Oxford Research Groups, including the Oxford Vaccine Group.

For more information see: <https://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/about/contact-us>

Medical Sciences Division

The Medical Sciences Division is an internationally recognized centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching, and the largest academic division in the University of Oxford. It includes 15 clinical departments and 5 non-clinical departments.

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: http://www.ox.ac.uk/divisions/medical_sciences.html

How to apply

Applications are made through our online recruitment portal. Information about how to apply is available on our Jobs website <https://www.jobs.ox.ac.uk/how-to-apply>.

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

As part of your application you will be asked to provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will 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)

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

All applications must be received by **midday** UK time 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).

If you need help

Application FAQs, including technical troubleshooting advice is available at: <https://staff.web.ox.ac.uk/recruitment-support-faqs>

Non-technical questions about this job should be addressed to the recruiting department directly, please email jobs@bioch.ox.ac.uk

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 online recruitment portal 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:

<https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/job-applicant-privacy-policy>. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/data-protection-policy>.

The University's policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for very senior research posts at **grade RSIV/D35 and clinical equivalents E62 and E82**, which with effect from 1 October 2023 will be 30 September before the 70th birthday. The justification for this is explained at:

<https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

For **existing** employees on these grades, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/the-ejra>.

There is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at other grades 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.

The University's Policy on Information Security Awareness

The information security awareness training is **compulsory** for all University staff; and as part of our responsibility as a Department, **ALL** employees of the Department will be required to complete the [online information security awareness module](#), which provides a combination of information, case studies and links to additional resources relating to information security. You will be expected to complete this course as part of your induction process, on your first day working in the Department of Biochemistry. This training will also need to be completed in order to successfully complete your probationary period.

In order to ensure that we are compliant and up-to-date with the information security awareness training, we need to ensure that all staff members have completed the latest course, which may be accessed from the Information Security's website by using the following link:

<https://www.infosec.ox.ac.uk/guidance-policy/training-and-awareness>

You will also be required to undertake this course on an annual basis, in order to satisfy the security awareness training requirements of the University's Information Security Policy.

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 <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/staff-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 <https://www.sport.ox.ac.uk/>.

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 <https://welcome.ox.ac.uk/>

There is also a visa loan scheme to cover the costs of UK visa applications for staff and their dependants. See <https://staffimmigration.admin.ox.ac.uk/visa-loan-scheme>

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 the Work+Family Space, 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 <https://hr.admin.ox.ac.uk/my-family-care>

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 <https://childcare.admin.ox.ac.uk/>

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 <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/disability-support>

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 <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/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.