Research Associate in Biomaterials Engineering

Department of Biology

Closing date: 7 August 2019

Interview date: To be confirmed

Vacancy reference: 7824
We are looking for a highly qualified full-time Postdoctoral Research Associate to join the group of Dr. David Kent based in the Department of Biology at the University of York.

The position will explore a new and exciting area of stem cell biology with potential implications for disease evolution and stem cell expansion: the physical biology of blood stem cells. This postholder will explore the impact of physical forces on the fate choices of highly purified single blood stem cells and develop tools to help expand blood cells outside the body. The Kent laboratory’s research focuses on understanding cell fate decisions in normal and malignant blood stem cells. We have recently pioneered approaches in single cell biology which link single stem cell function to single cell gene expression (Wilson et al., Cell Stem Cell; Nestorowa et al., Blood; Shepherd et al., Blood 2018) and determined that the order of mutation acquisition impacts disease evolution and clinical features of blood cancers (Ortmann et al., NEJM).

The successful candidate must hold a PhD (or equivalent experience) in a relevant subject and have research laboratory experience with expertise in engineering and physical biology. Particular expertise in materials science, nanofabrication, and microfluidic device design/construction are desirable. Experience or exposure to the fields of stem cell biology, immunology, flow cytometry, and molecular biology will be an asset. The successful candidate will have a track record of research excellence and communication skills.

Once appointed, the postholder will undertake research that falls under the umbrella of normal and malignant single stem cell biology with a particular focus on understanding the physical biology of blood stem cells. The postholder will be expected to drive an independent project but also to work closely with other lab members. Opportunities for mentorship and additional collaborations will be available and encouraged.

This position is funded by ERC.
Main purpose of the role

- To conduct research under the supervision of senior colleagues and to contribute to the production of research
- To assist in the identification and development of potential areas of research and the development of proposals for independent or collaborative research projects

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- To conduct individual and collaborative research projects, duties to include: analysis and interpretation of research data; use of appropriate research techniques and methods; writing up of research results and dissemination through publications, seminar and conference presentations and public engagement and outreach activities; contributing to the identification of possible new areas of research
- To contribute to the preparation of research proposals and applications to external bodies
- To undertake appropriate organisational and administrative activities connected to the research project, including conference organisation, and the development of promotional or educational material including website maintenance and development
- To develop and initiate collaborative working internally and externally, duties to include: the building of internal contacts and participation in internal networks; collaboration with colleagues on joint projects as required; participation in and identification of external networks in order to share information and identify potential opportunities for collaboration and possible sources of funding; attendance at and contribution to relevant meetings
- To provide guidance to other staff and students, as required, as well as coordinating the work of small research teams
- To assist with undergraduate teaching in own area of expertise.
## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First degree in Engineering or Biomedical Science</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD in Biomaterials Engineering or equivalent experience</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## Knowledge

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<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge in Biomaterials Engineering to engage in high quality research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Knowledge of a range of research techniques and methodologies</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has research expertise in an area that will complement and enhance the department's research strategy and goals</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## Skills, abilities and competencies

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<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highly developed communication skills to engage effectively with a wide ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to write up research work for publication in high profile journals and engage in public dissemination</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to develop research objectives, projects and proposals for own and joint research, with the assistance of a mentor if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Competency to conduct individual and collaborative research projects</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to identify sources of funding and contribute to the process of securing funds, with collaborators if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Competency to make presentations at conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<th>Experience</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Experience of carrying out both independent and collaborative research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Experience of writing up research work for publication</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to work as part of a team and also to work independently using own initiative</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Experience in Biomaterials Engineering</td>
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<th>Personal attributes</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attention to detail and commitment to high quality</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborative ethos</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Positive attitude to colleagues and students</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Ability to plan and prioritise own work in order to meet deadlines, including using initiative to plan research programmes</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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Our department welcomes staff and students from around the world. We celebrate excellence, breadth and diversity across the spectrum of modern biology.

Our research is focused around fundamental science research foci, which are Cell and Developmental Biology, Molecular and Cellular Medicine, Bioinformatics and Mathematical Biology, Infection and Immunity, Ecology and Evolution, Microbiology, Biochemistry and Biophysics, Cancer and Plant Biology. The Department has successfully continued to establish state-of-the-art laboratory space and a new teaching building opened in Autumn 2016. In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise, the Department of Biology was again placed in the top 10 in the UK. We are ranked 1st for impact outside academia - our research has had major influence on environmental policy, industry and health. This demonstrates our strengths across the biological sciences: from ecology to biochemistry, biotechnology and biomedical sciences. The Department of Biology covers the spectrum of contemporary biological sciences with no internal barriers, and collaboration internally and externally is strongly encouraged. Our Department comprises >70 academic and teaching staff, >100 research associates, >140 professional support staff (technical and administrative), 180 graduate students, and approximately 860 undergraduates.

The Department places high value on its research-led undergraduate teaching which is reflected in our performance in university league tables and the National Student Survey (NSS). The University holds a Gold Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) award and we are preparing for departmental TEF awards in 2020. Our staff are committed to delivering high-quality teaching and developing and applying innovative and appropriate teaching techniques using material which creates interest, understanding and enthusiasm amongst students. Staff carry out on-going curriculum review, the review of module content and materials and contribute to the development of teaching and learning strategies.

The department is strongly involved with two prestigious Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTP); the White Rose Doctoral Training Partnership in Mechanistic Biology (BBSRC) and Adapting to the Challenges of a Changing Environment (NERC). The former brings together the very best molecular, chemical and cellular bioscience research across the White Rose Consortium of Universities (Leeds, Sheffield and York), while the latter encompasses environmental, ecological and evolutionary research across the Universities of York, Sheffield and Liverpool, together with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Students benefit from PhD training programmes with interdisciplinary collaboration at their core. This enables students to develop a range of research skills in biological, biochemical, ecological and environmental areas as well as equipping them with core mathematical, data analysis and generic professional skills that are necessary for...
bioscience research in the coming decades.

As befits a department of our size, we have extensive professional support services which underpin our teaching and research. This includes teams in operational services; horticulture; stores and logistics and teaching laboratory technicians. We provide excellent biological services facilities and mechanical and electronic workshops. We also have administration teams which cover; Health and Safety; Research support to assist with external funding proposals for research activities; a Student and Academic Services team in place to support academic staff and students; a core Department Management Team Hub who support a broad range of administrative processes in order to facilitate the smooth running of departmental activity.

We also have our Bioscience Technology Facility which is a unique resource providing a purpose-built facility for our world-class scientists and technologists working across six bioscience research capabilities. Collectively it brings together a unique range of expertise and equipment, and is recognised as a leading example of how to provide research support in the 21st Century. The focus is on six core areas: Bioinformatics, Genomics, Imaging & Cytometry, Molecular Interactions, Protein Production, and Proteomics. The Department has a dedicated bioinformatics support team within the Technology Facility who can provide help and assistance with a wide range of bioinformatics software.

The Department of Biology operates a set of family-friendly policies and welcomes applications that are made on a part-time and job share basis. We will do our best to accommodate such requests where possible. Staff working patterns are flexible and a formal flexitime system is also in operation and the University has a nursery on site. We are proud to foster a supportive culture that helps staff and students reach their full potential and we embrace equality, diversity and inclusion as well as the values of the Athena SWAN Charter in all our departmental activities. Our philosophy is that poor working practices discriminate disproportionately against women whereas good practices support all. We have a Gold Athena SWAN award in recognition of our culture, ethos and activity.

THE DEPARTMENT
THE UNIVERSITY

Founded on principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University of York opened in 1963 with just 230 students. In 2019 it is the home of more than 18,000 students across more than 30 academic departments and research centres. Since opening over fifty years ago, we have become one of the world's leading universities and a member of the prestigious Russell Group.

We are consistently recognised as one of the leading Higher Education Institutes and one of just six post-war universities to have appeared in the world top 100. We were rated 22nd in the 2019 Times & Sunday Times league table. The University of York has won six Times Higher Education (THE) Awards and five Queen's Anniversary Prizes.

The University is proud of its association with Athena SWAN, holding multiple awards in support of gender equality, representation and success for all, with gold awards for Chemistry and Biology and a University-wide bronze award.

Of 154 universities that took part in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, The University of York ranked 14th overall and 10th for the impact of our research. The University is consistently in the top ten UK research universities and attracts over £60m a year of funding from research alone.

Our vision is to make the University of York a world leader in the creation of knowledge through fundamental and applied research, the sharing of knowledge by teaching students from varied backgrounds and the application of knowledge for the health, prosperity and well-being of people and society.
Attractive workplace

Centred around the picturesque village of Heslington on the edge of the city of York, our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. York enjoys a safe, friendly atmosphere with facilities including bars, shops, theatres and concert halls all within easy walking distance.

The University has undergone an unprecedented period of expansion and renewal since 2000. We have invested in twenty new buildings on the original campus and have completed the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion. Our investment in new colleges, teaching and learning spaces, laboratories, research facilities and a new sports village mean there has never been a better time to join us.

During this period of change we’ve worked hard to retain our friendly, informal and collegiate atmosphere, which is important to our core values of inclusivity and interdisciplinarity.

We have a thriving international community and are committed to providing staff moving to York with as much support as possible through our Relocation Package and Welcome Officers.

The University is committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive community - a place where we can all be ourselves and succeed on merit. We offer a range of family friendly, inclusive employment policies, flexible working arrangements, staff engagement forums, campus facilities and services to support staff from different backgrounds.

For further information please visit our employee benefit pages.
The City of York

Internationally acclaimed for its rich heritage and historic architecture, York’s bustling streets are filled with visitors from all over the world. Within its medieval walls you will find the iconic gothic Minster, Clifford’s Tower and the Shambles - just a few of the many attractions.

But York isn’t just a great place to visit - it’s also a great place to live and work. While nourishing a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere, York still maintains the friendly sense of community unique to a small city.

Visit www.visityork.org for more information on the city of York.

Shopping, culture and entertainment

York boasts specialist and unique boutiques but also all the high street stores on its busy shopping streets. Alongside them you will find cinemas, theatres, an opera house, art galleries, a vast range of restaurants, live music venues and clubs. York is particularly renowned for its multitude of pubs and bars, from the modern to the medieval.

Housing and schools

Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a wide range of housing within comfortable distance of York and the University. For families, the area has a range of excellent schools both in the state and independent sector.

Great location

York is one of Britain’s best-connected cities. Halfway between London and Edinburgh on the East Coast mainline, on intercity trains you can reach London King’s Cross in less than two hours and Edinburgh in two and a half hours. York is also well served by road links, and it is easily accessible from the A1, M1 and the M62.

For those travelling from overseas, Manchester Airport is two hours away and Heathrow Airport just three and a half. Flights from nearby Leeds Bradford Airport provide easy access to mainland Europe. By Eurostar from London St Pancras, Paris is just over six hours away.

Yorkshire

The Lonely Planet guide recently declared Yorkshire the third best region in the world to visit. There is something to cater to every taste, whether it be the rugged landscapes of the Moors or the Dales, the picturesque seaside towns of Scarborough and Robin Hoods Bay, the gothic architecture of Whitby or the vibrancy of cosmopolitan Leeds.
Apply online

- Go to https://jobs.york.ac.uk
- Find this job using reference 7824
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 7 August 2019

What will I need?

We will ask you for details of:
- your employment history
- relevant qualifications
- two referees

You need to be ready to show us how you meet the requirements of the job, either in a written statement and / or by answering questions.

Help and assistance

Direct any informal queries to Dr. David Kent via email: david.kent@york.ac.uk. For an alternative contact, please email biol-dmthub@york.ac.uk.

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:

recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 324835