



MRC Postdoctoral Fellow

Medical Research Council Toxicology Unit

Closing Date: Monday 13th January 2020
Job Reference: PU21650



The role

Salary:

Grade 7

£32,816-£40,322

Contract:

3 Year Training
Programme

Location:

Cambridge

Department:

MRC Toxicology Unit

Responsible to:

Gerry Melino

Working pattern:

Full-time

Key responsibilities

Research

- The key responsibility is to undertake cutting edge research and be trained within the areas of cancer biology with a particular focus on p53-family.
- The post holder will be expected to provide enthusiasm and the intellectual energy necessary to deliver their respective research responsibilities and to play an active role in learning new skills. The role will contribute to the overall aims and successes of the research projects they take responsibility for within the programme so that they deliver their aims and objectives to the agreed timescales. As this is a three-year training programme it is expected that they will make contributions to projects over a three-year lifespan.
- Conduct individual and collaborative research projects applying state-of-the-art technologies to obtain significant advance in the understanding of the function of p53 family isoforms in cancer biology.

Objectives

- To conduct research aimed at investigating p53-family role in cancer.
- To design/conduct experimental work, data collection, analysis and interpretation. To keep accurate records of conducted research and to contribute to the research of the group as a whole.
- To plan their own work and objectives on a monthly basis and manage their research work within their defined projects along with their manager and collaborators.
- To develop new skills and undertake an agreed personal development plan over the three-year period.

- Write up research work, keeping accurate records for presentation and publication.
- Manage own research and administrative activities, with guidance if required

Problem Solving

- Having completed a PhD, the post holder will be expected to have some of the skills and understanding to be able to act independently in solving research problems, many of which may require novel approaches. This will require the integration of different activities some of which will be supported by on the job training and exposure to new disciplines so that the projects deliver successful outcomes to agreed timescales.

Communication Skills

- Communicate widely their research plans, ideas, and projects; write scientific papers; and present research results at internal meetings and at conferences.
- Communicate effectively with academic and non-academic audiences through written and oral communication, including public engagement and involvement.

Team Work

- Liaise with colleagues, students, and visitors to the Unit with a highly collegial, teamwork approach to scientific research. To interact effectively with a wide range of staff, students, external collaborators, and others to ensure the smooth running of the research programme, including the effective use of resources e.g. datasets, training of others, and taking responsibility for use of other communal facilities.

Development /Training

- This is a 3 year training position designed to enhance their research and generic skills through a tailored development programme.

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Education and Qualifications		
To have been awarded (or in the final stages of obtaining) a PhD in a relevant discipline such as Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, Oncology.	√	
Specialist Knowledge and Skills		
Evidence of ability to plan and carry out experiments independently.	√	
Previous experience of working with protein and RNA analysis, mammalian cell culture, transient and stable transfections, immunofluorescence.	√	
Good experience of in vivo work using mouse models		√
OR strong experience in molecular biology techniques, such as molecular cloning, promoter analysis, gene microarray, ChIP-seq, RNA-seq		
Relevant Experience		
Proven skills of working independently to solve experimental problems	√	
Good publication record in a peer-reviewed journal	√	
Demonstrable skills in working independently and an ability to solve research related problems and challenges	√	
Interpersonal and Communication Skills		
Highly motivated	√	
Strong desire for self-development	√	
Vision and ability to plan and manage projects over the medium term	√	
Strong commitment to team work	√	
Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.	√	
Able to supervise junior scientists/students	√	
Able to collaborate and provide advice to other researchers both inside and outside the Unit		√
Additional Requirements		
Motivation to learn and a willingness to contribute to the wider efforts of the research team and unit	√	

Medical Research Council Toxicology Unit



The Unit

Our Mission is to understand the fundamental mechanisms that determine cell fate following exposure to exogenous and endogenous toxicants and to translate the Unit's discovery science into clinical and industrial environments.

We aim to produce novel insights to enhance successful drug design; develop predictive adverse outcome models that can be shared with our industrial partners; and gain a greater understanding of diseases that result from toxic injury and so provide innovative therapeutic avenues for translation into a clinical setting. In addition to informing the field of toxicology, our research outputs will provide novel information about the processes of ageing, including the development of neurological disorders, and will establish new ways in which to stratify patients for therapy.

Our research environment provides state-of-the-art research facilities including microscopy, Cryo-EM, flow cytometry, proteomics, bioinformatics and imaging. In addition, excellent opportunities exist for collaborative interactions with University of Cambridge researchers.

At the core of each of our programmes is mechanistic toxicology-based research of the highest quality. All programmes are expected to deliver research at an internationally competitive level.

The Unit is committed to training the next generation of toxicologists and through new and developing collaborations, both within Cambridge and UK-wide, translating our findings into industrial and clinical settings.

The Melino group is currently based in central Cambridge (Pathology Building, Tennis Court Road) and will relocate to the refurbished Gleeson building in autumn 2020.

The Toxicology Unit has an active Postgraduate Postdoctoral Forum (PPF) which supports the ongoing development of early stage researchers. PPF meetings take place on a monthly basis and provide an excellent opportunity to practise presentations, share technical experience and to network with other early stage researchers at the Unit.

The School of the Biological Sciences

The School of the Biological Sciences is one of the six Schools that are responsible for delivering teaching and research and the administration of those activities within the University. The School delivers internationally-leading research and teaching on animal, plant and microbial science at scales that range from the atomic, molecular and cellular through whole organisms to populations and communities. The research impacts on the pharmaceutical and biotechnological industries, on human and animal health and the clinic as well as in conservation, agriculture and the environment.

About the School

The School of the Biological Sciences employs around 2000 staff teaching over 4000 students (around 2000 undergraduates in the Natural Sciences, Medical Sciences and Veterinary Sciences and Psychological and Behavioural Sciences Triposes plus around 2000 postgraduates).

The School collaborates closely with the School of Clinical Medicine. The joint Graduate School of Life Sciences looks strategically at graduate provision and education across the two Schools and at the undergraduate level the Medical Education Committee oversees medical education.

The School is currently arranged in two Faculty Boards (Biology and Veterinary Medicine) which are divided into nine Departments: Biochemistry, Genetics, Pathology, Pharmacology, Physiology, Development and Neuroscience, Plant Sciences, Psychology and Zoology are part of the Faculty Board of Biology while Veterinary Medicine is part of the Faculty Board of Veterinary Medicine.



The School also contains five major interdisciplinary Institutes: Wellcome Trust / CRUK Gurdon Institute for Cancer and Development, Wellcome Trust / MRC Stem Cell Institute, Cambridge Systems Biology Centre, Cambridge Centre for Crop Science and the Sainsbury Laboratory for Plant Development. It has also incorporated the MRC Toxicology Unit, Leicester which will physically relocate to Cambridge in 2020.

The School is involved with several Strategic Research Initiatives including being a major player in the Cambridge Conservation Initiative. The School is associated with the Museum of Zoology and the Botanic Garden. Key officers of the School plus details of relevant Research Ethics Committee (Human Biology and Psychology) can be found on the School's website..

Athena SWAN

The Athena SWAN Charter was launched in June 2005 to recognise and reward commitment to advancing the careers of women working in higher

education in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM).

The University of Cambridge was a founder member of Athena SWAN Charter and the University won its first award in the inaugural round of March 2006.

Since then, the University has successfully renewed its Bronze Athena SWAN award in 2009 and 2012 and in 2014 achieved a Silver Athena SWAN award.

Many of the Departments in the School of Biological Sciences hold awards at Bronze or Silver level and the School continues to support the Athena SWAN process across all subjects.



About us

The University is one of the world's leading academic centres. It comprises 150 faculties and departments, together with a central administration and other institutions. Our institutions, museums and collections are a world-class resource for researchers, students and members of the public representing one of the country's highest concentrations of internationally important collections.

The University has an annual income of £1.66 billion. Research income, won competitively from the UK Research Councils, the European Union (EU), major charities and industry, exceeds £400 million per annum and continues to grow.

The Colleges and the University remain committed to admitting the best students regardless of their background and to investing considerable resources both in widening access and financial support.

The 31 Colleges are self-governing, separate legal entities which appoint their own staff. Many academic staff are invited to join a College as a Teaching Fellow, which provides a further social and intellectual dimension. The Colleges admit students, provide

Our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our campaign, 'Dear World... Yours, Cambridge', will raise £2 billion to help us shape all our futures.

student accommodation and deliver small group teaching. The University awards degrees and its faculties and departments provide lectures and seminars for students and determine the syllabi for teaching and conducting research.

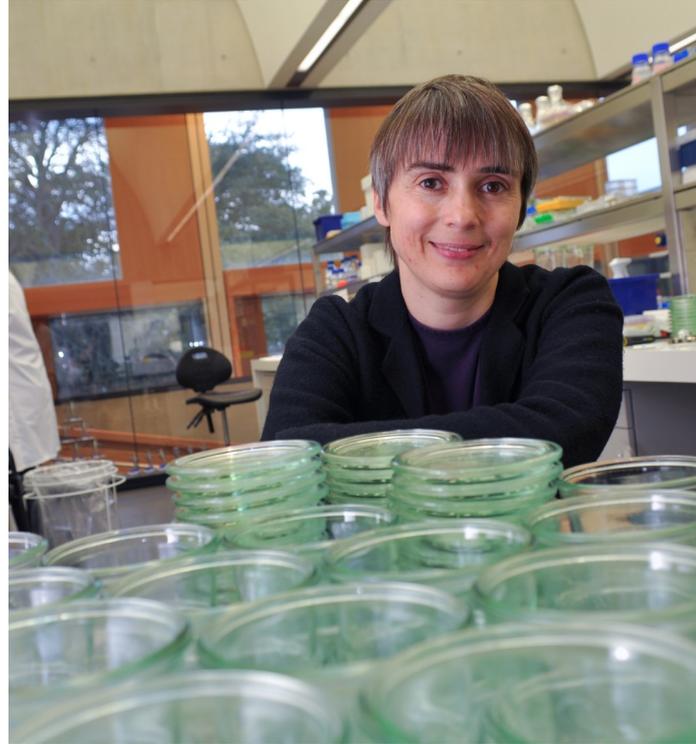
The University's estate is undergoing the most significant transformation in its history. Cambridge has been able to create a new science and technology campus to the west of the city centre, and is now expanding further to the north west of Cambridge including investing in affordable homes for University key workers and community facilities. Even with our continued development, the University remains within walking or cycling distance across the campus. The University is a major partner on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and we continue to redevelop our historic city centre sites demonstrating our determination to ensure that we can offer the best facilities and opportunities for our staff and students.

Our instinct for seeking out excellence and setting up enduring and mutually beneficial collaborations has led us to establish strategic partnerships across the globe. Whether it is the successful Cambridge-Africa Programme involving universities in Ghana, Uganda and elsewhere on the African continent; or the close association with the government of India to pursue new research in crop science; or the creation, with Germany's Max Planck Institutes, of a Cambridge-based centre for the study of ethics, human economy and social change – international partnerships are now an inextricable part of the University's make-up.

Working at the University

Working at Cambridge you will join a diverse, talented and innovative community, with more than 18,000 students and over 11,000 staff from all walks of life and corners of the world.

The University continually explores strategies to attract and retain the best people. It is committed to supporting its staff to achieve their best. We are a fair, diverse and inclusive society and we believe our staff are our greatest asset. There is strong commitment to developing institutional leadership and supporting and encouraging staff development at all levels. Furthermore, the University's Athena SWAN award recognises and celebrates good practice in recruiting, retaining and promoting women. We offer a variety of roles including academic, research, professional, managerial and support roles. We also offer extensive benefits and excellent learning opportunities within a stimulating working environment. The University has signed up to the Race Equality Charter, a notional framework for improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff and students within higher education.



Living in Cambridge



Cambridge is rich in cultural diversity. From beautiful University and College buildings, museums and art galleries, quaint gardens and punts on the River Cam, to a vibrant restaurant and café scene, our employees are surrounded by the wonderful features of this unique city.

If you prefer the faster pace of life, London is a 45 minute train journey away. For those travelling from overseas, Stansted Airport is just 45 minutes away and Heathrow Airport under 2 hours away.

The University is a short distance from a host of other attractions such as Ely Cathedral, Newmarket Races and various wildlife parks and stately homes.

Cambridge is also within easy reach of the beautiful Broads and coastlines of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Further information about attractions in and around Cambridge can be found at [Visit Cambridge](http://www.visitcambridge.org), the official tourism website for the city.



Terms of appointment

Tenure and probation

This is a fixed term training programme post which will terminate 3 years from appointment. On this date your employment will terminate without need for further notice.

Appointments will be subject to satisfactory completion of a six month probationary period.

Hours of Work and Working Pattern

Your employment is full time. There are no conditions relating to hours and times of work but you are expected to work such hours and days as are reasonably necessary for the proper performance of your duties. Your times of work should be agreed between you and your head of institution

Pension

You will automatically be enrolled to become a member of USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme) – a defined benefits pension scheme. For further information please visit:
www.pensions.admin.cam.ac.uk/.

Annual leave

Full time employees are entitled to annual paid leave of 6.6 weeks (or 33 days for those working full time), plus public holidays.

General information

Pre-employment checks

Right to work in the UK

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it.

Health declaration

Once an offer of employment has been made the successful candidate will be required to complete a work health declaration form.

Qualifications

The person specification for this position lists qualifications that are essential and/or desirable. Please note that if you are offered the post you will be asked to provide your relevant original certificates of these qualifications.

References

Offers of appointment will be subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

Screening Checks: This role requires a basic disclosure.

Any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon the satisfactory completion of this check; whether an outcome is satisfactory will be determined by the University. The nature of this role means that the successful candidate will also need to undergo a health assessment.

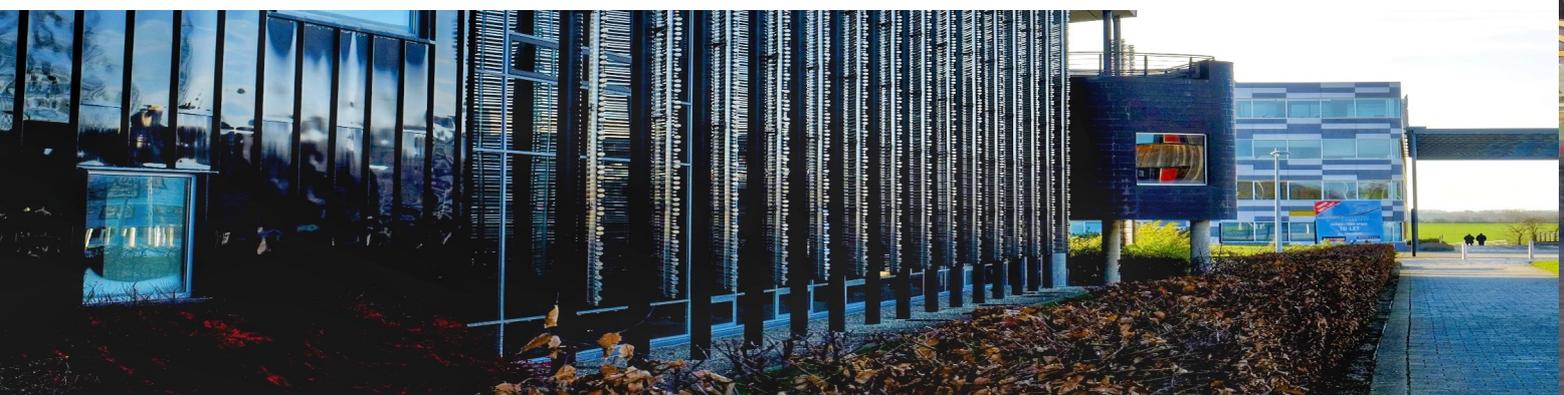
Information if you have a disability

The University welcomes applications from individuals with disabilities.

We are committed to ensuring fair treatment throughout the recruitment process. We will make adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so and, if successful, to assist them during their employment. Information for disabled applicants is available at <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/hr/staff/disabled/>

We encourage you to declare any disability that you may have, and any reasonable adjustments that you may require, in the section provided for this purpose in the application form. This will enable us to accommodate your needs throughout the process as required. However, applicants and employees may declare a disability at any time.

If you prefer to discuss any special arrangements connected with a disability, please contact Rebecca Heatherley via rsh49@mrc-tox.cam.ac.uk who is responsible for recruitment to this position. Alternatively, you may contact the HR Business Manager responsible for the department you are applying to via hrenquiries@admin.cam.ac.uk.



The University

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest and most successful universities. We are a renowned centre for research, education, and scholarship that makes a significant contribution to society. The University is consistently ranked amongst the top universities in the world. Our affiliates have won more Nobel Prizes than any other University.

Our sustained pursuit of academic excellence is built on a long history of first-class teaching and research within a distinctive collegiate system. For eight centuries our ideas and innovations have shaped the world. Our principal goal is to remain one of the world's leading universities in an increasingly competitive global higher education sector. Today the University of Cambridge is at the centre of a cluster of over 4,300 businesses employing 58,000 people. Our capital investment projects include the West Cambridge site, the North West Cambridge development and the growth of the Biomedical Campus in the south of the city. The North West Cambridge development includes the opening of a primary school – the first in the UK to be managed by a University. So we are deeply embedded in, and committed to serving, our local community. These are all conspicuous signs of a University that is not only adapting to new needs, but also anticipating the future.

Our mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. Our core values are:

- freedom of thought and expression; and
- freedom from discrimination.



What Cambridge can offer

We offer a comprehensive reward package to attract, motivate and retain high performing staff at all levels and in all areas of work. The University offers a wide range of competitive benefits, from family leave entitlement, to shopping and travel discount schemes. Our generous annual leave package contributes to the positive wellbeing of our University employees. Sabbatical leave enables academics to focus on research and scholarship, whilst still maintaining their full salary. The University also has a career break scheme for academic and academic-related staff, with additional flexible working policies for all other staff.

CAMBens employee benefits

We offer a CAMBens scheme for University employees, providing access to online and in-store shopping discounts and cashback. With more than 2,000 participating retailers, employees can save money on a wide range of household expenses, from groceries and clothes, to holidays and insurance and much more. A range of local discounts are also available, helping employees to save money whilst also supporting local Cambridge businesses. CAMBens Cars and CAMBens Cycle to Work salary sacrifice schemes are also available, which enable employees to save money on transport costs. A 10% discount rate on the purchase of train season tickets, bulk buy tickets and an interest free travel to work loan are also available for staff of the University of Cambridge.

Family-friendly policies

The University recognises the importance of supporting its staff. We have a range of family-friendly policies to aid employees' work-life balance including a

generous maternity, adoption and shared parental leave entitlement of 18 weeks full pay and emergency family care support via My Family Care.

In addition, our Ofsted rated 'outstanding' workplace nurseries, childcare vouchers, a childcare salary sacrifice scheme and a high quality holiday play scheme are available to help support University employees with caring responsibilities. The Newcomers and Visiting Scholars Group is an organisation within the University run by volunteers whose aim is to help newly arrived wives, husbands, partners and families of Visiting Scholars and members of the University to settle in Cambridge and give them an opportunity to meet local people.

Your wellbeing

The University's Sport Centre, Counselling Services and Occupational Health are just some of the support services available to University employees to promote their physical and mental wellbeing. There are many societies in Cambridge catering for almost every taste and interest. Whether you want to take part in a sport, participate in music or drama, pursue a hobby, or join a political group, you will almost certainly find that a society exists for this purpose. The University also hosts the [Cambridge Science Festival](#) and [Cambridge Festival of Ideas](#), as well as [Open Cambridge](#) weekend, which together attract over 50,000 visitors per year. The festivals are a great opportunity to get your first taste of public engagement, through volunteering, supporting hands-on activities or proposing a talk.



What Cambridge can offer

Pay and benefits

The University salary structure includes automatic service-related pay progression in many of its grades and an annual cost of living increase. In addition to this, employees are rewarded for outstanding contribution through a number of regular pay progression schemes. The University offers attractive pensions schemes for employees, with an additional benefit of a salary exchange arrangement providing tax and national insurance savings. Payroll giving is also a simple, tax-efficient way for employees to make monthly donations to charity.

Relocating to Cambridge

The University Accommodation Service exists to help employees in their search for a rental home in Cambridge. A new University development at North West Cambridge called Eddington offers subsidised rented accommodation to University staff. The development consists of high quality furnished one and two bedroom apartments. For more information about the development and how to apply please visit the website www.nwcambridge.co.uk

The importance of helping individuals settle into a new



area is also recognised by the University. The Shared Equity Scheme <https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/pay-benefits/cambens-employee-benefits/financial/shared-equity-scheme> provides financial assistance to qualifying new members of staff with the purchase of living accommodation, where they have to relocate to take up their appointment. Removal expenses are also available for qualifying new members of staff.

Equality & diversity

The University has a vibrant and varied community. We support and encourage under-represented groups and we value diversity. We welcome applications from individuals with disabilities. Our recruitment and



selection procedures follow best practice. We have an Equal Opportunities Policy, along with a range of diversity networks for women, black and minority ethnic and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff. More details are available here: <http://www.equality.admin.cam.ac.uk/>

Development opportunities

We support new employees to settle in through various activities. The encouragement of career development for all staff is one of the University's values and we put this into practice through various services and initiatives. Our Personal and Professional Development Department provides development opportunities and courses for all University employees. These include face-to-face sessions, online learning modules and webinars. Employees may also apply for financial support to undertake training that will lead to a qualification. We offer reduced staff fees for University of Cambridge graduate courses and the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars held by University departments and institutions. The CareerStart@Cam programme also supports employees in assistant staff roles who do not hold higher education qualifications to develop their skills, experience and qualifications.

Whether it is understanding the molecular basis of neurodegenerative diseases, or helping farmers in India increase their yield, or discovering better ways to live in large cities – I know that what we do in Cambridge affects lives, and livelihoods, the world over.

Vice Chancellor Emeritus, Professor Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, 2016

How to apply

Applications should be submitted online via the University of Cambridge jobs page www.jobs.cam.ac.uk by clicking "Apply online" in the job advert. You will need an email address to register for our online system.

Informal enquiries are welcomed and should be directed to Gerry Melino gm614@mrc-tox.cam.ac.uk

If you have any questions regarding the application process please contact Rebecca Heatherley rsh49@cam.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is **Monday 13th January.**