

Ad for Clinical Coordinator/Research Fellow in Paediatric Ucwangingo Labantwana HIV Cure Study

Grade 7 Research Fellow (£30,434 - £37,394)

Grade 6 Research Fellow (£27,057 - £32,277)

Applications are invited for the post of Research Scientist/Research Fellow in the research group led by Professor Philip Goulder. The group is based at the Peter Medawar Building for Pathogen Research, South Parks Road, Oxford but the primary focus of its research is the HIV epidemic in subSaharan Africa, and, specifically, the epidemic in Durban, South Africa (for further information, please visit the website <http://www.paediatrics.ox.ac.uk/team/philip-goulder>). The project here focuses on defining the potential for HIV cure in paediatric HIV infection.

The post-holder will be joining a team in Durban that initiated this study in July 2015. He/she will be leading the identification of in utero HIV infection using point of care testing, the initiation of antiretroviral therapy within hours of birth, and thereafter optimising follow up and maximising ART adherence in infected children. The short term goal of this study is to minimise the size of the latent HIV reservoir with a view to initiating Phase I trials 2-3 years downstream to test the impact of additional immunotherapeutic interventions such as broadly neutralising infusions and/or T-cell vaccination. A related study ongoing in Durban focuses on a cohort of non-progressing ART-naive children HIV infection and the aim here is determine the factors contributing to low immune activation and lack of disease in this unique group. The post-holder would be responsible recruitment and maintenance of both cohorts.

In addition to the participation in cohort maintenance an important component of the work will be based in the laboratory. This would suit someone interested in studying towards a PhD. In the Paediatric 'Cure' study this work would include laboratory based assays to quantify the latent HIV reservoir in infants receiving ART within 24-48hrs of birth compared to those receiving ART within 1-2 weeks of birth. The aim of studies of non-progressing HIV-infected children will be to define the host genetic, immune and virological factors contributing to outcome. The work will mostly be based in Durban, South Africa but some period of time may also be spent at the Peter Medawar Building in Oxford.

Applicants will need to be medically qualified, and the post would especially suit those with experience or a particular interest in paediatrics, ideally with experience of managing HIV-infected patients and of paediatric HIV infection in South Africa. Experience in the type of laboratory work relevant to the project is not a pre-requisite, although laboratory experience is a strong advantage. Training will be provided in Oxford and/or Durban as needed.

The post is available for two years in the first instance. This is a full-time post and funding is available to start from January 2016. Applications for this vacancy are to be made online. To apply for this role and for further details, including a job description and selection criteria, please see the below.

The closing date for applications is 21st November 2015.

Interviews will be held 2nd-4th December 2015.

Further further information please contact Professor Philip Goulder, philip.goulder@paediatrics.ox.ac.uk