



JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Post-doctoral Scientist (Veterinary Epidemiology)
POST REF: 16P-45

The Pirbright Institute is a unique national centre that works through its highly innovative fundamental and applied bioscience to enhance the UK capability to contain, control, and eliminate viral diseases of animals and viruses that spread from animals to humans. We thereby support the competitiveness of UK livestock and poultry producers, and improve the health and quality of life of both animals and people.

The Pirbright Institute is situated at The Pirbright Laboratory in Surrey.

PURPOSE

Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus (CCHFV) is a tick borne human pathogen of the utmost seriousness being both fast acting and highly lethal - "the Asian Ebola". The virus has repeatedly caused sporadic outbreaks with a fatality rate of up to 80% yet no effective vaccines or therapeutic measures exist. Recently a "MVA-GP", pox-vectored vaccine based on Modified Vaccinia virus Ankara encoding the envelope glycoprotein (GP) spikes of CCHFV has been developed. We are seeking to recruit a post-doctoral scientist with a background in epidemiology to support a newly funded project evaluating a novel vaccine for Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) in collaboration with Public Health England (PHE). The successful applicant will take a leading role in designing, implementing and analyzing the results of immunogenicity and field efficacy studies in sheep. These studies will validate the vaccine as a method to control the reservoir of infection that results in human disease, analogous to the control of rabies in wild foxes in Europe. Importantly, these studies in sheep, combined with immunogenicity studies in non-human primates, will validate the vaccine platform for use in humans.

The successful applicant will have a broad background in epidemiology with ideally a masters and PhD level training. Although not essential, experience of working in the field and a qualification in veterinary science would be an advantage.

ORGANISATION POSITION

The successful applicant will be integral part of the collaborative project team, reporting to the project leads at the Pirbright Institute. They will also be a key contact with the field team at the study site.

MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsible for designing, implementing and analysing the data from the vaccine field trial which will include:

- Working with colleagues at the TPI, PHE and the partner country in developing an appropriate study design to establish the efficacy of a novel vaccine under field conditions
- Supporting colleagues in the partner country in organizing and implementing the field activities of the project that will include provision of training (e.g. for data collection and biosecurity)
- Supporting colleagues at the Pirbright Institute in the experimental studies performed in the high containment facilities
- Managing the collection, storage and analysis of all data collected with support from colleagues at The Pirbright Institute and Public Health England
- Delivering relevant reports for funders, peer-reviewed publications and presenting the study findings at international conferences

This job description is only an outline of the tasks, responsibilities and outcomes required of the role. The jobholder will carry out any other duties as may be reasonably required by his/her line manager. The job description and personal specification may be reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the changing needs of the Human Resources department and The Pirbright Institute.

All employees shall actively participate in the Institute-wide quality assurance system in conjunction with the Institute's Quality Manager. Employees are also expected to safeguard their own health and safety and security by following policies and all employees are responsible for the Health and Safety and security of staff under their management.

BENEFITS OF THE POST

The post is graded at a **Band D** and is a fixed term contract with funding with funding for 3 years. The salary is **£32,200 to £34,929 per annum**, depending on qualifications and experience. This is a full time role of 37 hours per week, Monday to Friday.

Pension

Qualifying staff will automatically be enrolled into the Pirbright Institute Group Personal Pension Scheme (subject to age and earnings) which is administered by Aviva. This is a salary exchange scheme. Those staff who do not immediately qualify will be given an opportunity to opt into the scheme. Shortly after commencing employment members of staff that have been auto-enrolled will receive separate information outlining the options open to them and the scheme details. This will be sent from the pension provider. The Institute does not make contributions to other personal pension schemes.

Annual leave is 25 days on appointment plus 10.5 days public and privilege days. The Institute has a subsidised child care scheme, staff restaurant and free parking.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Any offer of employment will be subject to security screening, health clearance, receipt of satisfactory references, and continued right to work and remain in the UK.
- The Institute is engaged in Research work on a number of virus diseases of livestock, several of which are highly infectious to livestock, compliance with the Disease Security Regulations is an essential requirement of employment. Where disease agents of birds and other domestic animals are being studied specific restrictions to contact with these species may apply off site/ at home. Such

restrictions will be applied on a case by case basis subject to on the individual's work portfolio and access to relevant facility areas. In case of poultry and horses it may require 3-5 days of no contact after handling/having contact with these pathogens and materials potentially carrying these agents.

- For those applicants where English is not their first language, please note that the successful applicant must be able to prove their ability to communicate in English. The required standard for the Pirbright Institute has been set as an overall mark of 7.0 in the IELTS qualification (with no lower than 7.0 for listening and reading, no lower than 6.5 for speaking and no lower than 6.0 for writing) or the equivalent in an alternative qualification

Closing date: 9 September 2016

Interview to be held on: TBC

HOW TO APPLY

It is an Institute policy to use a Pirbright Institute application form, please ensure that you complete this form as a CV alone will not be accepted.

To view or apply for this vacancy please visit The Pirbright Institute vacancy website, where an application form and further details can be found: <http://www.pirbright.ac.uk/jobs/Jobs.aspx> (job reference 16P-45).

Please send applications to:

Human Resources, The Pirbright Institute, Pirbright, Surrey, GU24 0NF

Email: pirbright.hr@pirbright.ac.uk

If you are unable to apply on-line, please contact The Pirbright Institute by telephone on 01483 232441 and ask for the Human Resources Department or email pirbright.hr@pirbright.ac.uk

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Qualifications and Experience

Essential

- A PhD or equivalent in a relevant branch of biosciences (s)
- An excellent record of research productivity (s)
- Significant and relevant experience of performing field studies in a recognised R&D environment (s)

Desirable

- A high-quality research reputation (based on citation indices, invited lectures, honorary positions, awards) (s)

Specific skills

Essential

- Evidence of experience and vision in the management of science and the ability to think and operate strategically (i)
- Evidence of excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate effectively and persuasively with funding bodies, peer-review groups, government agencies, etc (i)

Desirable

- Evidence of leadership qualities in a multi-disciplinary environment (i)
- Evidence of networking and influencing skills and the ability to build effective collaborative links (i)
- Evidence of entrepreneurial skills and expertise (i)

Personal Skills**Essential**

- Time management skills (i)
- Reliability under pressure (i)
- Decision making and problem solving skills (i)
- Ability to delegate (i)
- Highly developed negotiation and conciliation skills (i)

Special Requirements

- Capacity to travel extensively outside the UK, with a flexible approach to hours and occasional periods with overnight stays

