



INSTITUTE FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
PIRBRIGHT LABORATORY

Post Doctoral Scientist- Post Ref: 09P/0036

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Institute for Animal Health (IAH) is one of five research institutes of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and is at the forefront of research into animal diseases.

It is based on two sites: **Compton (near Newbury)** and **Pirbright (near Woking)** where this post is based. In total, the Institute employs some 400 staff and, at any one time, is host to up to 50 students and visiting scientists

PURPOSE

The purpose of the work is to improve understanding of the molecular mechanisms of BTV endocytosis by insect cells, and bovine endothelial and dendritic cells.

JOB DESCRIPTION

The post holder will produce purified BTV and modified viruses (ISVP and virus cores) for two BTV serotypes. The viruses will be used to study cell entry mechanisms used by these particles to infect insect cells, and bovine endothelial and dendritic cells. The post will be suitable for someone with experience of virus purification and expert knowledge of confocal microscopy and endocytosis mechanisms.

The 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 Division and the Institute for Animal Health.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Essential

The Institute is engaged in Research work on a number of virus diseases of live stock, several of which, in particular foot-and-mouth disease, are highly infectious to livestock, therefore compliance with the Disease Security Regulations is an essential requirement of employment.

The Employee must not live on any premises where any cloven hooved animals are kept, such as cattle, sheep, pigs, goats or deer, and must not visit any premises where such animals are kept within three days of entering the restricted area of the laboratory, or within five days of entering the restricted animal accommodation.

All employees shall actively participate in the IAH-wide quality assurance system in conjunction with the Institute Quality Manager. Employees are also expected to safeguard their own health and safety and security by following IAH policies and all

employees are responsible for the Health and Safety and security of staff under their management.

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

The post would suit a RA with a 1st degree (BSc) in molecular biology/virology or a related area, or a newly qualified post-doctoral scientist. Experience of virus purification and confocal microscopy are essential. Experience of working in containment (SAPO 3) and specifically with BTV would be advantageous. You should be intelligent and motivated, have good use of English and be able to write up data as research communications (refereed papers). You must be highly motivated and a good team player.

Essential Criteria:

- RA with a 1st degree (BSc) in molecular biology/virology or in a related area
- Or a newly qualified post-doctoral scientist
- Experience of virus purification and confocal microscopy
- Ability to be self motivated, work collaboratively and communicate effectively
- The ability to work to strict protocols
- Excellent communication skills, verbal and written
- Meticulous attention to detail – essential as you will be writing up data as research communications (refereed papers)

Desirable Criteria:

- Experience of working in containment (SAPO 3) and BTV would be advantageous.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information or an informal discussion of how the Institute operates and the challenges which will face the successful candidate please telephone or write to the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Ash Road, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey, GU24 0NF (tel.01483 232 441) or email iah.pirbright@bbsrc.ac.uk

BENEFITS OF THE POST

The post is graded at Band C/D-PD dependent on qualifications and experience and is an SETC, with funding until 31/12/2010. Starting salary for band C is £21,098 to £23,442 and band D is £26,610 to £29,566 depending on qualifications and experience. On appointment, you are eligible to join the Research Council's Pension Scheme. You have the choice of either:

- An attractive, index-linked defined benefit pension scheme that currently has a 3.5% member contribution rate. The bulk of the cost of this scheme is met by the employer: or
- A stakeholder pension with a contribution from the employer. Our basic contribution is based on your age, and we pay this regardless of whether you choose to contribute anything. You do not have to contribute if you do not wish to but, if you do, we will also match your contributions up to an additional 3% of pay.

Annual leave is 27 days on appointment plus 10.5 days public and privilege holidays. The Institute has a subsidised child care scheme, staff restaurant and free parking. Staff work a 37 hour week, Monday to Friday.

Closing date: 17th March 2010