



Research Fellow (MRC UKRI Innovation/Rutherford Fund Fellowship)

UK Regenerative Medicine Platform Acellular Technologies Hub.

Salary: £38,896 to £55,389 per annum, depending on experience.

Closing Date: 16:00 on Friday 9th February

Interview Date: 23rd February 2018

Reference: UKRMP- Fellowship

Location: Various

The [UK Regenerative Medicine Platform](#) (UKRMP) is seeking to appoint six MRC UKRI Innovation/ Rutherford Fund Fellowships at a level of £600,000 over 3 years. The aim of these prestigious Fellowships is to develop talented, early to mid-career researchers that can underpin future industry growth and productivity, within the context of excellence in medical science, particularly Regenerative Medicine. Opportunities to develop industry collaborations or placements through these Fellowships should be pursued where appropriate, although this is not a requirement for these awards.

These **distinct personal Fellowships** are equivalent to an MRC Career Development Award, which will allow the individual to transition to independence, and are designed to support a research programme that must align to the aims of the UK's Industrial Strategy and to the [UKRMPs three thematic areas moving forward](#):

- 1) Pluripotent Stem Cells and Engineered Cells (PSEC),
- 2) The Engineered Cell Environment
- 3) Acellular/ Smart Materials and 3D architecture

The UKRMP was established in 2013 to facilitate the clinical translation of stem cells and regenerative biology. It aimed to do this by establishing interdisciplinary research hubs with the critical mass and expertise to address key knowledge-gaps; by providing the novel tools, platform technologies and engineering solutions; and by creating a world-leading and fully connected national programme to produce excellent discovery science and facilitate the commercial development and clinical delivery of regenerative medicine products.

The funding for these Fellowship opportunities is part of a £4.7bn National Productivity Investment Fund to invest in science, research and innovation originally which was announced in the 2016 Autumn Statement to support the high-skilled research talent required for a growing, innovative economy. The six Fellowships will be evenly split across the three thematic areas listed above. The Fellowship will enable appointees to establish their own research programmes at their chosen institution, with the expectation that their research interests complement those of the UKRMP Hub with which they will interact.

Candidates are required to have the support of an academic sponsor at their chosen institution and should obtain a letter of support prior to submitting their application. **Please note that the successful candidates must be in post by 1st May 2018 at the latest.**



The UKRMP is seeking to recruit two outstanding researchers seeking to establish their own independent research careers / groups in the priority area of **Acellular / Smart Materials and 3D architecture**. These awards will provide salary support, on the Academic pathway at Research Fellow level (£38,896 to £55, 389 per annum, depending on experience), covering both clinical and non-clinical trainees and including opportunities for technical specialists / technologists outside of the traditional academic PI track.

The posts will be a fixed-term contracts of 36 months (full time) with Institutional policies regarding long-term leave (e.g. parental or sickness) and part-time working applying. MRC Terms and Conditions apply. The successful applicant must be available to start **no later than 1st May 2018**.

The research programme of the Fellowship should relate to the Regenerative Medicine priority area of Acellular / Smart Materials and 3D architecture and the development of next generation scaffolds and biomatrices to support regenerative therapies. This might be through any one or more of the following:

- The production of smart biomimetic scaffolds tailored to specific physiological systems, which have tuneable, bioresponsive properties and can restore tissue functionality
- Surface modification strategies to optimise stem/progenitor cell behaviour
- Multiple scaffold production approaches in three dimensions and over multiple length scales that allow different tissue-like architectures to be realised within a single scaffold, e.g. vascularisation structures within well aligned muscle-like structures
- The interaction of acellular technologies with therapeutic stem, progenitor or differentiated cells, as well as the immune system and disease state
- Approaches, evaluation and interaction of acellular technologies with stem, progenitor or differentiated cells, across the length scales in appropriate preclinical models including immunomodulatory and safety consideration for tissue repair
- Strategies to evaluate and characterise post-intervention repair and regeneration processes, including the dynamics of synthetic scaffold degradation
- Approaches to support cell functionality and engraftment as delivery vehicles, including strategies designed to improve blood flow to support transplants
- The role of mixed and 3D cell cultures in enhancing cell functionality and tissue morphogenesis, with validation of their standardisation and scalability as a platform for tissue regeneration
- Safety and immunological considerations for the development and translation of biomaterials

If you would like an informal discussion about the fellowships, please contact [Dr Sharon Crouch](#).



How to apply

Candidates are required to submit the following documents as a single PDF document with the reference **UKRMP Fellowship** in the subject line, in one email directly to Dr Benjamin Pierce (b.pierce@imperial.ac.uk) no later than **4 PM GMT on 9th February 2018**. Candidates can expect a confirmation that their submission has been received within 2-working days. If this is not received it is the responsibility of the candidate to contact 020 7594 6746 to confirm successful submission.

- Covering letter (maximum 1 page), including an explanation of your choice of host institute and academic sponsor and confirmation that the candidate will be able to start this post by **1st May 2018**.
- CV in NIH format including ORCID, and the names and full contact information of 2-3 references that can be contacted immediately if shortlisted for interview (maximum 2 pages). Include a list of your top 5 journal publications.
- Outline of the proposed research programme, including a description of how the research programme will complement and advance the objectives of the UKRMP (maximum 2 pages, not including references).
- Training plan outlining a mentoring plan, description of how the Fellowship will benefit the career of the applicant, and the nature of the proposed interactions with the UKRMP Acellular Hub (maximum 1 page).
- Letter of support from proposed academic sponsor (maximum 1 page).

Shortlisting for interview will be based on the information provided within above materials. Interviews will take place in London on **23rd February 2018**. If you are shortlisted and are unable to attend or skype on the interview date, it will not be possible to offer you an alternative date.

Following successful interview, selected candidates must submit an abstract of their proposal, their contact and nationality details and the costings associated with their Fellowship to the MRC; in order to deliver the BEIS reporting requirements associated with this funding. The **NPIF Fellowship call** will be available on Je-S for submission of these details and following this, a Je-S generated offer letter will then be issued to award the funding.

UKRMP and its associated institutions are committed to being equal opportunities employers.