



## Research Fellow (MRC UKRI Innovation/ Rutherford Fund Fellowship)

UK Regenerative Medicine Platform Pluripotent Stem Cell and Engineered Cell (PSEC) Hub.

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

**Closing Date:** 16:00 on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Interview Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> 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 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 UK 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 at least one of the UKRMP2 Hubs 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 **Pluripotent Stem Cells and Engineered Cells**. 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 **Pluripotent Stem Cells and Engineered Cells** and the translation of Pluripotent Stem Cell (PSC)-derived cell based and similar gene based therapies. This might be through any one or more of the following:

- Understanding the significance of genetic variation on the functionality of hPSC-derived cell based therapies (e.g. background in genetics, cancer, or relevant bioinformatic analysis)
- Understanding the issues surrounding robust and effective differentiation of hPSC-derived cell based therapies (e.g. background in developmental or cellular biology, materials, high-content imaging, or process quality control)
- Addressing bottlenecks within the pathway to manufacturing safe and reliable hPSC-derived cell based therapies (e.g. background in manufacturing processes and quality control, gene therapy)
- Understanding the immunogenicity of hPSC-derived cell based therapies and a new generation of genetically engineered therapies (e.g. background in immunology, gene editing, or synthetic biology)
- Understanding the bio-distribution, efficacy and safety risks of hPSC-derived cell based therapies and a new generation of genetically engineered therapies (e.g. background in cryopreservation, transplantation into animal models, or in vitro safety testing)

If you would like an informal discussion about the Fellowship opportunities or the research objectives of the Hubs, please contact, [Dr Zoe Hewitt](#) (UKRMP Project Manager).

## How to apply

Candidates are required to submit the following documents as a single PDF by email with the reference **UKRMP Fellowship** in the subject line, to Dr Zoe Hewitt ([z.hewitt@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:z.hewitt@sheffield.ac.uk)) no later than **4 PM GMT on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018**. Candidates can expect a response to their submission within 2-working days. If this is not received it is the responsibility of the candidate to contact 0114 2222355 to confirm successful submission.



- Covering letter, including an explanation of your choice of host institute and academic sponsor and confirmation that candidates will be able to start this post by **1<sup>st</sup> 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),
- 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 PSEC Hub (maximum 1 page),
- Letter of support from proposed academic sponsor/ head of department.

Shortlisting for interview will be based on the information provided within above materials. Interviews will take place on **26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 in London**. If you are shortlisted and are unable to attend 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.