



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Post Specification

Post Title:	Research Assistant
Post Status:	Specific Purpose Contract. 1 year. Full-time.
Research Group / Department / School:	Translational Inflammation Research Group and Renal Inflammation Group, School of Medicine, Trinity Translational Medicine Institute (TTMI), Trinity College Dublin, St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8, Dublin.
Location:	Trinity Translational Medicine Institute (TTMI), Trinity College Dublin, St. James's Hospital, Dublin 8, Dublin.
Reports to:	Dr Gareth Brady and Professor Mark Little.
Salary:	Appointments will be made on the IUA Research Assistant 2021-22 from Point 1 (€27,109 gross salary) or higher, depending on experience and in line with current Government pay policy.
Hours of Work:	40
Closing Date:	12 Noon (GMT), 30 th June 2022

Post Summary

Applications are invited for a Vasculitis UK-funded Research Assistant position to work on the molecular basis of inflammation in Anti-Neutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitides (AAV) based in Trinity Translational Medicine Institute (TTMI), Trinity College Dublin. Autoimmunity results from a breakdown in the natural processes of self-tolerance resulting in the aberrant production of autoantibodies directed against the body's own proteins with a wide range of molecular consequences that underlie the pathology of autoimmune disease. In AAV, these autoantibodies are typically directed against two proteins, PR3 and MPO that are present on the surface of two major immune cell types: neutrophils and monocytes. It has long been known that, when these antibodies bind their target proteins on the surface of neutrophils, they drive activation of these cells resulting in acute, local inflammation of vascular walls, most commonly in the respiratory tract and kidneys.

In recent years, monocytes, an immune cell that possesses a higher-order capacity to control, orchestrate and amplify both local and systemic inflammation, have been identified as having a central role in AAV inflammation, in particular, causing severe architectural tissue damage that follows the patient into treatment-mediated remission. The host lab have previously identified that MPO (but not PR3) autoantibodies can drive monocytes to secrete extremely high levels of IL-1 β along with lower levels of other inflammatory mediators. IL-1 β is a potent mediator of inflammation in the body, causing not only local inflammatory effects on vessel walls, but also driving programs of inflammatory gene expression in a broad variety of local and distant cells with wide-reaching consequences throughout the body.

Current treatments for AAV broadly suppress a variety of white blood cells, including the B-cells that produce the autoantibodies, but also severely suppress the immune system leading to opportunistic infections and, potentially, cancer. We have previously developed peptides derived from viruses known to inhibit inflammation that can abolish the release of IL-1 β from autoantibody-treated monocytes. Understanding how MPO autoantibodies drive the complex, tightly regulated signalling pathways leading to IL-1 β release and developing inhibitors of its release would provide an exciting window into the ways antibodies can drive the pathology of autoimmune vasculitis, whilst offering new tools for therapeutic intervention in a specific, targeted manner without the current requirement for global immunosuppression.

The successful candidate will work Dr Gareth Brady (Ussher Assistant Professor) who's expertise is in the molecular basis for inflammation and Professor Mark Little (Professor/Consultant of Nephrology) who is a leading clinical and research expert in AAV. Our chief interests include tracking the molecular events in auto-antibody-induced IL-1 β release from primary human monocytes, key mediators in orchestrating AAV disease.

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

The post holder will fulfil the defined work programme of the project. Duties will include; planning and executing experiments, analysing and interpreting data, maintaining current knowledge of relevant literature, disseminating research findings, contributing to project by

engaging with collaborators/team members provide and assistance to undergraduate and postgraduate students working within the group.

Funding Information

The role is funded by grants from Vasculitis UK.

Person Specification

Qualifications

RA Candidates should have a Degree in Biochemistry, Immunology or a related discipline.

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

The successful candidate will be a highly motivated scientist with relevant research experience appropriate to career stage. The post holder will have good interpersonal skills and will be able to work well with others and independently. The successful candidate will have excellent organisation and communication skills.

Skills & Competencies

The successful candidate will have prior research experience in cell culture, biochemical and cell biology, molecular techniques and immunoassays. Experience of flow cytometry instrument applications and assay panel development would also be highly beneficial.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a letter of application and full Curriculum Vitae, to include the names and contact details of 2-3 referees (including email addresses), to:-

Name: Dr Gareth Brady

Email Address: bradyg1@tcd.ie

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to Area	www.tcd.ie
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URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/
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Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 98th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2023). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is the top-ranked European university for producing entrepreneurs for the past five successive years and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook Universities Report).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of every book

published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals.

With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

Rankings

Trinity is the top ranked university in Ireland and ranked 98th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2023). Trinity ranks in the top 50 in the world in 4 subjects and in the top 100 in 18 subjects (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2022). Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named Recruitment Partner on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances, the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/> . Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

Application Procedure

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Dr. Gareth Brady

bradyg1@tcd.ie



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universityvacancies.com

