

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

FACULTY OF BIOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

SCHOOL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY AND MEDICINE

RESEARCH FELLOW IN MATERNAL AND FETAL HEALTH

VACANCY REF: BMH- 028590

<b>Salary:</b>	Grade 7, £46,735 to £57,422 per annum, depending on relevant experience
<b>Hours:</b>	1 FTE
<b>Duration:</b>	Fixed term for 3 years, available from 1 September 2025
<b>Location:</b>	Oxford Road, Manchester

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**Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:**

Name: Mark Dilworth

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**Please note, alongside their application, applicants are expected to submit an original research proposal** (maximum of 4 pages including any figures/tables, size 11 minimum font, 1 page annexe permitted for references only) which clearly outlines the following:

- Title of proposed project
- A lay summary (maximum 250 words)
- A brief outline of the importance of your project / challenge(s) your project aims to address
- Aims and objectives or key research questions
- Research plan (design/methods/analyses)
- Expected outcomes/deliverables
- How this Fellowship will support your future research plans

**Role Summary**

[The Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre](#), in the Division of Developmental Biology and Medicine, seeks to appoint a Research Fellow in Maternal and Fetal Health. This Fellowship provides funds to enhance the competitiveness of non-clinical researchers, who have completed a substantial period of research training, and would now benefit from the appropriate time, support and infrastructure to compete for prestigious external Fellowships and relevant UKRI funding across the biomedical portfolio. We are looking for an outstanding scientist who will contribute to

one or more of our research priority areas (i) embryo implantation and early placental development (ii) placental dysfunction in complications of pregnancy and (iii) maternal cardiometabolic physiology in health and disease.

Our vision is to empower the fellow with the skills to become the next generation of leader who will be ambitious in their research, ask original questions, uncover new knowledge and inspire others with their breakthroughs. You'll gain access to both discipline-specific and interdisciplinary training environments and receive specialist support from our [Research Services](#) and [researcher development teams](#).

The Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre is one of the largest pregnancy-focused research centres in Europe and incorporates the [Tommy's Stillbirth Research Centre](#), one of four Tommy's funded centres in the UK. The centre has collaborations across the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health. Our research groups are diverse and employ a wide range of approaches that include research on human organoid and blastoid models, computational modelling, data science, advanced imaging and pre-clinical studies in *in vivo* models. The centre benefits from strong links between scientific and clinical researchers and is the ideal environment to undertake cutting-edge translational research. The interdisciplinary nature of the centre provides an integrated and stimulating research environment for our biomedical scientists and plentiful opportunities to access clinical data and samples from pregnant women and birthing people, including those with complications of pregnancy. Most of the research groups in the division are based in state-of-the-art purpose-built research laboratory and office suites in St. Mary's Hospital and at the Michael Smith Building. The Division of Developmental Biology and Medicine is comprised of approximately 25 principal investigators made up of scientists and clinicians with national and international reputations in their respective fields.

### **Introduction to the University of Manchester and the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health (FBMH)**

The University of Manchester is the largest single-site university in the UK with around 38,000 students and more than 11,000 staff. We are committed to expanding our world-leading research, and exploiting our capability for interdisciplinary research; transforming the way our students learn to make them the most employable graduates and truly global citizens; and ensuring that all our activities make a positive difference to society. The [new vision and strategic plan](#) for The University of Manchester will take us into our third century. It builds on a rich heritage of discovery, social change and pioneering spirit that is at the heart of our University and our city region.

To achieve our ambitious goals we aim to attract and retain the very best people to work across a range of academic disciplines and support functions.

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health is comparable in size to a medium-sized UK university. Thirty undergraduate and 90 postgraduate programmes offer our students opportunities to develop the skills and knowledge they need for a successful career.

The Faculty has an integrated structure, developed to deliver its key research and innovation goals (I) to undertake world-class discovery science, (II) to develop new approaches to prevention and early detection of disease, and (III) to develop the next generation of person-centred therapies. This structure facilitates interdisciplinary working and enables us to learn from each other and share best practice, articulate our research strengths, drive large-scale, collaborative research activities and strengthen relationships with our research and healthcare partners. The integration

of discovery biology, clinical application and patient care within a single Faculty, particularly in a region with notable health inequality, provides us with a real opportunity to have a very significant and positive impact on people's lives.

The Faculty has established a number of key strategic partnerships that underpin its ambitions to develop ground-breaking research. Working alongside six local NHS Trusts, the Faculty is a key member of the [Manchester Academic Health Science Centre \(MAHSC\)](#) - a federation of equal partners that unites leading healthcare providers with world-class academics and researchers. It aims to be a global centre for the delivery of applied health research and education and provide leadership for our local and regional health systems.

Key partnerships in the charitable sector include British Heart Foundation; Cancer Research UK; Diabetes UK; and the Wellcome Trust; and the Faculty also has research and funding links to a number of commercial organisations including Unilever, AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline and Boots, who will help us to bring new drugs and products to the market.

### **Working for the University of Manchester**

The University of Manchester strives to make our community a welcoming, caring and enthusiastic one, fuelling ambition with opportunities and support to help us all achieve our personal and professional goals.

Our diverse job opportunities include an attractive [benefits package](#) with family-friendly policies that provide for flexible working. We care deeply about career and personal development, offering a structured induction programme for new staff, an annual performance and development review, staff training for all career stages and mentoring opportunities to support your career development.

We have a genuine commitment to [equality of opportunity](#) for our staff and students, and are proud to employ a workforce that reflects the diverse community we serve.

As a global institution, situated at the heart of a lively, [culturally diverse city](#), we welcome applicants of all nationalities. To help international job applicants plan for life in the UK, we have put together some useful [information on passports and visas](#), travel to the UK, accommodation and a number of other practical considerations.

### **Links to Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre group leader profiles:**

[Prof John Aplin](#)

[Dr Kylie Belchamber](#)

[Prof Daniel Brison](#)

[Dr Paul Brownbill](#)

[Dr Igor Chernyavsky](#)

[Dr Elizabeth Cottrell](#)

[Dr Michelle Desforges](#)

[Dr Mark Dilworth](#)

[Prof Alexander Heazell](#)

[Dr Lucy Higgins](#)

[Prof Jenny Myers](#)

[Dr Laura Ormesher](#)

[Dr Victoria Palin](#)

[Dr Peter Ruane](#)  
[Dr Adam Stevens](#)  
[Dr Teresa Tropea](#)  
[Prof Melissa Westwood](#)  
[Dr Stephanie Worton](#)

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Overall Purpose**

This Fellowship provides an opportunity for an outstanding non-clinical postdoctoral researcher to develop their own independent interdisciplinary research programme in a maternal and fetal health related field.

You will be managed by a supervisory panel of senior academics and be line-managed by Dr Mark Dilworth.

### **Key Responsibilities**

The duties and responsibilities of the role, which may be adjusted in the light of changing/developing priorities, are:

- A primary focus on securing personal external funding (junior, intermediate or senior fellowship) in an area of research currently supported by the Division.
- To develop a world-class interdisciplinary research programme in the field of maternal and fetal health.
- To actively engage in collaborative research in topic(s) complementary to the research priorities within the division.
- To ensure dissemination of high-quality research through appropriate channels (e.g. peer-reviewed papers in journals of international standing, conference presentations, communications to non-academic audiences).
- To fully engage with the collegial way of working within the centre/division including the undertaking of required administration and leadership roles.
- To make meaningful contributions to the University's social responsibility goals.
- To display a clear commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- To develop and display leadership skills as necessary to run and manage a successful research team.
- To supervise undergraduate (final year project) and postgraduate taught (Masters) students in their research projects.
- To attract high-quality PGR students and successfully engage with PGR supervision.
- To actively participate in a nominal amount of undergraduate and/or postgraduate teaching (typically up to 20 hours per annum).
- To initiate business engagement and commercialisation opportunities when appropriate.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION - RESEARCH FELLOW GRADE 7**

### **Essential**

- A PhD qualification or equivalent in a subject relevant to the role with substantial post-qualification research experience.
- An excellent track record, relative to career stage, of publishing high-quality original research in internationally recognised journals.
- An ambitious research vision including some success in securing external research funding.

- Proven ability to apply specialist research skills autonomously.
- Proven experience of, or commitment to, the delivery of high quality teaching and learning at undergraduate and/or postgraduate level.
- Experience of, or a willingness for, successful supervision of PhD, Masters and final year undergraduate students.
- Evidence of invited presentations at national/international conferences.
- Evidence of contributing to the work of others via practical and intellectual help.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills and ability to work with colleagues at all levels.
- Willingness to work across fundamental biosciences and to engage with translational/clinical environments where appropriate.

**Desirable**

- Proven track record of research technique development.
- Ability to manage and motivate, whilst being a team player.
- Proven ability to devise, advise on and manage research programme(s).
- Previous research focus in a cognate area of physiology/maternal and fetal health.
- A qualification in, or some experience in, teaching (e.g. membership of HEA).