THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

FACULTY OF BIOLOGY, MEDICINE & HEALTH

FBMH TECHNICAL SERVICES

RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

VACANCY REF: BMH-031993

Salary:	UoM Grade 4 £29,588 - £32,080 pro rata depending on relevant experience
Hours:	35 hours per week (1 FTE)
Duration:	Fixed term for 36 months
Location:	Oxford Road

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:
Name: Prof Suzan Verstappen
Email: lorraine.schmidt@manchester.ac.uk
Name: Jonathan Worboys
Email: jonathan.worboys@manchester.ac.uk

Overall Purpose

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Worboys lab as part of an 8-year program funded by a Wellcome Career Development Award. This is a full-time (1 FTE) post due to commence from September 2026, initially for three years with the possibility to extend.

The program involves the use of super-resolution microscopy, omics technologies such as mass spectrometry-based proteomics and state of the art genetic editing technologies and synthetic biology in human immune cells to understand the function of immune checkpoints and the mechanisms underlying their effective blockade. Success in this research area could have profound long-term clinical implications.

The candidate will provide technical and administrative support to the research activities within the group. This will involve:

- assisting with a range of project-specific research activities
- contributing to experimental design, experimentation and data analysis
- consulting with researchers within the group and within the wider university

- presenting and reporting research findings
- maintaining laboratory equipment and consumables stocks
- ensuring health and safety and ethics compliance within the laboratory
- maintaining laboratory inventories and audits
- identifying ways to maximise sustainable lab practice.

The candidate must have previous lab experience *or* lab management experience.
The post holder will need to liaise with others to ensure they have a clear understanding of the needs of the School, Faculty and University to achieve their goals.

About The Team

The Worboys lab is within the Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation, home to internationally renowned immunology and inflammation expertise in a vast array of basic and applied disciplines. This vibrant research community has over 160 principal investigators and research fellows and over 500 postgraduate research students.

The Worboys lab study how immune receptors control immune responses. Immune cells communicate with other cells in the body through immune receptors, found on their surface. Upon interaction, receptors arrange into intricate patterns at the interaction sites, and evidence suggests this organisation is vital for their function. A major focus in the lab is to understand how the spatial organisation of immune receptors controls their activity, and to design methods to manipulate this.

Immune checkpoints are regulatory immune receptors that normally function to prevent catastrophic overactivation of immune responses. In cancer, blocking these molecules has led to a revolutionary new form of treatment. Currently, these therapies aren't refined and only work in a fraction of patients. Another major focus within the lab aims to better understand how therapies towards immune checkpoints work to drive their development.
Find out more about the team on their website (https://worboyslab.com).

Key Accountabilities

- Providing research support to members of the Worboys Lab, under the direction of the Principal Investigator
- Contributing to the analysis and presentation of data using appropriate systems and methods for inclusion within publications and presentations
- Using initiative to find solutions to problems and implementing appropriate changes to working practices.
- Assisting with training and advising staff and students on experimental protocols, equipment use, induction and safe working practices
- Assisting in the efficient and safe operation of the Group’s Laboratory areas.
- Ensuring systems are in place for monitoring general consumable stock levels and procurement of consumables and equipment.

- Liaising with other technical staff to ensure compliance to local laboratory rules and practices.
- Continually assessing ways to improve laboratory sustainability and promote local adoption.
- Preparing and maintaining risk assessments for the reagents, chemicals, equipment and procedures used within the group.
- Working in compliance with relevant Health and Safety regulation, Data Protection Act and University policy legislation and regulations, eg. Human tissue Act, Equality & Diversity, etc. Advise and ensuring others within the Group also comply with current regulations of the School, Faculty and University.
- Attending and contributing to research group and staff meetings.
- Performing any other reasonable duties commensurate with the grade to support the strategies of the School or Faculty.

Person Specification

Knowledge

- Relevant laboratory experience in any biological science field.
- Knowledge of and compliance with relevant Health and Safety regulation, the Data Protection Act, Standard Operating Procedures and risk assessments including COSHH risk assessments.

Experience

- Previous experience of preparing Standard Operating Procedures and risk assessments including COSHH risk assessments.

Skills

- Ability to plan, organise and undertake a complex workload with multiple and competing priorities, without supervision.
- Excellent organisational skills to manage laboratory consumables and procedures to maximise sustainable practices and efficiency.
- Demonstrates numerical, analytical and problem-solving skills with the ability to identify and resolve issues effectively.
- Competent computer skills including relevant scientific and analytical software
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision and as part of a team.
- Ability to clearly present information verbally, electronically and on paper.
- Ability to follow and deliver clear instructions and communicate effectively and politely with staff and students.
- Ability to work to a high standard with good reproducibility of results.

Education

- A qualification at QCF level 6 (such as a bachelor's degree) in a relevant biological science subject.

OR

- QCF level 2 passes (such as GCSE's) in English and Mathematics and at least one Science subject and extensive relevant experience of working in a research laboratory.

Other

- Willingness to undertake any necessary training and deliver in-house training to others.
- To attend and contribute to research group and staff meetings.

Key Behaviours

One University: A 'One University' approach, whereby we break down silos and work collaboratively towards furthering the University's strategic goals, vision and values.
Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom: Support the University's commitment to securing and actively promoting the importance of free speech and academic freedom within our community.
Service Excellence: Committed to prioritising service excellence and high performance to deliver great people-centred experiences.
Agility: Demonstrate a commitment to agility and continuous improvement by embracing change, championing innovation, and being flexible and forward thinking to adapt.
Sustainability: A sustainable approach that safeguards the University of the future by championing environmental practices, advancing digital capability, and supporting financial stability and philanthropic initiatives.
Inclusion: Support the University's ambition to create an inclusive place to work where every person matters, demonstrating a commitment to non-discriminatory conduct and respect for others, and fostering a University where people feel deeply connected to each other, to Manchester, and to the wider world.
Social Responsibility: Promote and champion the University's social responsibility ambitions to advance social inclusion, prosperous communities, better health, and cultural engagement.
Only include the following behaviour statement in roles that include line management or people leadership responsibility
People Leadership: Demonstrates effective leadership by empowering, motivating, and developing teams to achieve high performance. Builds a collaborative and inclusive work environment and provides clear direction, support, and feedback.