

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

FACULTY OF BIOLOGY, MEDICINE AND HEALTH

FACULTY OFFICE - BIOLOGY, MEDICINE AND HEALTH

RESEARCH TECHNICIAN IN INFLAMMATION AND PREGNANCY

VACANCY REF:BMH-029927

Starting Salary:	£28,031 - £28,778 per annum depending on experience
Hours:	35 hours per week
Duration:	Available from 1 st November 2025 on a fixed term basis until 31 st March 2026
Location:	Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre in St. Mary's Hospital
Responsible to:	Nicola Begley (Technical Operations Manager)

Enquiries about the vacancy, shortlisting and interviews:

Name: Nicola Begley (Technical Operations Manager)

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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.

The Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health 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: Tommy's; British Heart Foundation; Cancer Research UK; Diabetes UK; and the Wellcome Trust. 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.

Background to the Post

A post has become available for a research technician to work on an externally funded research project investigating the inflammatory profile of pregnancies complicated by chronic histiocytic intervillitis (CHI).

The ideal candidate will have previous experience of reproductive biology, immunostaining and in vitro culture. The post will be based at The Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre in St. Mary's Hospital.

The overall purpose of the role is to provide technical support with minimal supervision, in a range of project-specific research activities including: the running and trouble-shooting of experiments; the maintenance, use and teaching of research-associated equipment. To assist team members in ensuring that staff and students operate safe working practices ensuring health and safety compliance within the laboratories.

You will work with Dr Chloe Brady and Prof Alexander Heazell and will also be expected to take part in departmental and laboratory group meetings, write written reports and generally make a positive contribution to the running of the lab.

Key Responsibilities, Accountabilities or Duties:

- Carry out and assist staff and students with standard experimental protocols as directed by your supervisor, this will include (i) reagent preparation, (ii) tissue sample collection, dissection and culture, (iii) tissue sectioning, immunostaining and microscopy, (iv) cell culture (v) RNA extraction and (vi) flow cytometry.
- Operate and assist staff and students in the operation of laboratory equipment.
- Liaise with research midwives to collect blood and placental samples.
- Assist with monitoring general consumable stock levels and procurement of consumables and equipment. Take delivery of goods and store in accordance with local and statutory guidelines.

- Assist in the smooth running of the laboratories including general housekeeping duties.
- Assistance in the preparation and collation of accurate data.
- Keep accurate records using paper and computer-based systems.
- To assist with the operating of a range of computer software packages including image analysis software, spread sheets, word processing and other general data processing systems including a database for logging samples.
- Take delivery of goods and store in accordance with local and statutory guidelines.
- Work in compliance with relevant Health and Safety regulation, Data Protection Act and University policy legislation and regulations, e.g. Human tissue Act, Equality & Diversity, etc.
- Assist in carrying out of risk assessments for the preparation and use of reagents, chemicals, equipment and procedures by self and others in your research group.
- Any other reasonable duties commensurate with the post.
- Several of these duties overlap with similar projects within the research group and it is anticipated that roles and responsibilities will be shared between technicians.

Personal Specification

Essential Knowledge, Skills, Experience and Qualifications:

- A qualification at QCF level 6 (such as a bachelor's degree) in a relevant biological or biomedical science subject, **OR**, QCF level 2 passes (such as GCSEs) in English and Mathematics and at least one Science subject and substantial relevant experience of working in a research laboratory.
- Fully protected against Hepatitis B virus or a willingness to have a course of vaccinations.
- Relevant and specific laboratory experience in tissue and cell culture, and in the use and maintenance of related equipment.
- Previous experience of immunostaining.

- Knowledge of and compliance with relevant Health and Safety regulation, the Data Protection Act, Standard Operating Procedures and risk assessments including COSHH risk assessments.
- The ability to communicate effectively with people at all levels, both verbally and in writing and the ability to work flexibly within an interdisciplinary team.
- Meticulous laboratory technique and the ability to execute complex experiments independently if required.
- Competent computer skills including relevant scientific and analytical software e.g. Word, Excel, GraphPad Prism.
- The ability to work independently and use own initiative.
- Have a keen interest in seeing observations made in the laboratory to translate into new therapies for patient benefit.
- Demonstrate pro-activity and ability to multi-task, prioritise, handle projects and deliver outputs on time without direct supervision.
- A flexible but meticulous and methodical approach to work and a willingness to undertake a variety of tasks.
- Willingness to work flexible hours.
- Ability and enthusiasm to learn new skills.
- Willingness to undertake any necessary training.
- Willingness to attend and contribute to research group and staff meetings.

Desirable Knowledge, Skills, Experience and Qualifications:

- Higher Education Qualification such as a bachelor's or Master's degree or Higher National Certificate or Diploma in a relevant science subject.
- Reproductive biology research experience
- Experience in the following laboratory techniques: human tissue dissection and culture, tissue processing and sectioning, immunostaining, RNA extraction and flow cytometry.
- Knowledge of specific legislation e.g. the Human Tissue Act (2004)