



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY



HR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

Postdoctoral Researcher in Cellular Immunotherapy of Cancer

School of Medicine

Ref. No. 011060

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a **full time, 2-year specific purpose position** as a **Postdoctoral Researcher in Cellular Immunotherapy of Cancer in the School of Medicine** at the University of Galway, Ireland.

Working under the supervision of principal investigator, Prof. Michael O'Dwyer, the successful candidate will be involved in the pre-clinical development of novel, engineered cell natural killer (NK) cell therapy products for treatment of cancer.

This position is funded by the **National Breast Cancer Research Institute** and is available from **1st June 2025** to the contract end date of **31st May 2027**.

Salary: Postdoctoral Researcher salary scale **€45,846 - €58,481** per annum, (subject to the project's funding limitations), and pro rata for shorter and/or part-time contracts.

The default position for all new public sector appointments is the 1st point of the salary scale. This may be reviewed, and consideration afforded to appointment at a higher point on the payscale (subject to the project's funding limitations), where evidence of prior years' equivalent experience is accepted in determining placement on the scale above point 1, subject to the maximum of the scale.

[\(Research Salary Scales - University of Galway\)](#)

Closing date for receipt of applications is 17:00 (Irish Time) on 2nd June 2025 . It will not be possible to consider applications received after the closing date.



JOB DESCRIPTION

The successful candidate will be involved in the pre-clinical development of novel, engineered cell natural killer (NK) cell therapy products for treatment of cancer. Experience with novel cellular technologies, in an oncology setting and experience with approaches for gene editing or the ability to pick these up is important.

Duties:

- Member of scientific research team
- Contribute to the establishment of laboratory capability and laboratory systems.
- Provide input into developing research work plan and associated experiments.
- Input into identifying technical and quality requirements required to complete work plan.
- Develop, execute, and document strategies for isolating and modifying NK cells from primary sources.
- Demonstrate exceptional skills at handling NK cells.
- Have cell culture experience that includes handling of primary cells.
- Capability to work with nucleic acid constructs and modification of effector lymphocytes.
- Any other duties as required consistent with working in an academic lab environment and commensurate to this level of post

Education/Experience Requirements

- Possession of a PhD in immunology and lymphocyte biology with post-doc experience, and experience in one of the following disciplines: cancer cellular therapy, cancer immunology, immunology, or related field.
- Prior experience with cellular therapies is important. Experience with developing lymphocyte-based cell therapies would be preferred. Experience of working with NK cells is desirable.
- Experience with modification of lymphocytes for product development is essential.
- Ability to be flexible, innovative and highly organized to work quickly and efficiently in a small academic team is necessary.

Required Competencies – Knowledge, Skills & Abilities

- Experience in different techniques used in immunology and cancer cell biology for characterizing native and modified lymphocytes for product development
- Capability to assist with planning proof of concept studies in different cancer models both in vitro and in vivo are desired.
- Experience with isolation and culturing of lymphocytes from various sources is necessary.
- A team player and significant experience with working in a team setting.
- Well organized and has good experience in designing and documenting protocols and data generated from them.
- A methodical approach to analysing and processing data with good working knowledge of statistical packages.
- Good problem-solving skills.
- Good time management and organisational skills



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- The ability to work independently
- Strong communication skills
- The ability and desire to work collaboratively in multidisciplinary teams
- Good track record in delivering projects on time and on budget.
- Ability to learn specific experimental and computer-based techniques and apply them to practical tasks and assignments.
- Ability to contribute and promote ideas and research proposals.
- Ability to take responsibility for smaller, discrete projects and sub-projects without detailed supervision.
- Ability to supervise the work of less experienced laboratory staff.
- Flexibility to provide support to several senior scientists at the same time.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Essential Requirements:

- PhD in immunology or related discipline
- Strong knowledge of cancer biology
- Experience in isolation and culture of primary immune cells, ideally NK cells
- Expertise in flow cytometry, western blotting, ELISA
- Experience performing cytotoxicity assays
- Good communication skills

Desirable Requirements:

- Experience working with NK cells
- Experience in genetic modification of lymphocytes using both viral and non-viral methods
- Experience working with chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) modified immune cells
- Experience in gene editing e.g. using CRISPR/Cas9 and/or other nucleases
- Working knowledge of molecular biology and construct design



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CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Continuing Professional Development/Training:

Researchers at University of Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans. University of Galway provides continuing professional development supports for all researchers seeking to build their own career pathways either within or beyond academia. Researchers are encouraged to engage with our Researcher Development Centre (RDC) upon commencing employment - see [HERE](#) for further information.

Further Information/Links

- **To apply:** [Search Current University of Galway vacancies](#). Applications must be submitted online.
 - [How to apply guide](#)
- For informal enquiries, please contact **Prof Michael O'Dwyer, Principal Investigator** michael.odwyer@universityofgalway.ie
- [University's Strategic Plan](#)
- [Working in Research at University of Galway](#)
- [Moving to Ireland \(Euraxess\)](#)
- [Applicant Information](#)
- We reserve the right to re-advertise or extend the closing date for this post.
- University of Galway is an equal opportunities employer.
- All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment.

