

JOB DETAILS

Postdoctoral Research Associate

School of Life & Health Sciences

Reference Number: R120289

Closing date: Thursday 31st January 2013

Interview date: Week commencing 11th February 2013

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ROLE DESCRIPTION

Outline

The role arises as the result of a BBSRC funded collaborative project between Dr Rhein Parri's group at Aston University and Dr.Stanislaw Glazewski's group at Keele University to study the role of astrocytes in experience dependent plasticity. Work at Aston will focus on ex vivo slice experiments using electrophysiological and calcium imaging/optical approaches and interact with the in vivo work carried out at Keele, which will involve occasional visits.

Job Purpose

The principle objective is to conduct research into the role of astrocytes in thalamocortical and cortical plasticity. This includes specifically: recording electrophysiologically with patch clamp/field recordings, analysis and interpretation of data and the writing of manuscripts for publication.

Responsibilities

Research

- Work independently and under the direction of Drs.Parri and Glazewski to plan and conduct the experimental component of the project.
- Prepare and publish papers in internationally recognised journals.
- Present work at national and international conferences.

Teaching/Training

- Assist in the supervision/training of masters and PhD students if required.

Administration

- Be responsible for day to day running of the laboratory and ordering of consumables
- Ensure compliance with health and safety requirements
- Attend departmental/research group meeting when required and participate in School committees where necessary.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

MOA = Method of assessment

Application Form (AF) Interview (I) Presentation (P)

	ESSENTIAL	MOA
Education/Qualifications	PhD in relevant subject	AF
Experience	Patch clamp recordings from brain slice preparations	AF
Aptitudes and Skills	Ability to work independently and within a team.	AF
	Good verbal and written communication skills.	AF/I
	Ability to present research work	I/P
	Self motivated	I/P
Other	A willingness to undertake further training and professional development as appropriate and to adopt new procedures as and when required	I
	Commitment to observing the University's Equal Opportunities policy at all times	I
	Ability to attend the University as and when required for scheduled activity, relevant meetings and project support	I

	DESIRABLE	MOA
Experience	Calcium imaging in brain slices or in vivo. Use of optogenetic stimulation approaches.	AF
	Injection into specific brain areas	AF

OUTLINE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE APPOINTMENT

<i>Term of appointment:</i>	<p>The appointment is fixed term for 3 years on the basis that it is supported by funding from the BBSRC.</p> <p>The appointment is at Grade 8. The salary range for this grade is £30,424 - £36,298 per annum.</p>
<i>Holiday entitlement:</i>	30 days per annum in addition to up to 13 days per annum public and University holidays.
<i>Pension:</i>	Eligible staff are offered a defined benefit pension with the Universities Superannuation Scheme.
<i>Performance related pay:</i>	In addition to the basic salary, the University operates a PRP scheme. Awards are determined on an annual basis.
<i>Qualifications:</i>	Successful candidates will be required to produce evidence of their qualifications upon joining the University.
<i>Relocation:</i>	Newly-appointed staff are required to establish their homes within reasonable daily travelling distance to and from the University. The University operates a relocation scheme to assist newly-appointed staff in meeting this requirement. Full details of the relocation scheme are included with offers of appointment.
<i>Medical examination:</i>	It is a condition of appointment that newly-appointed staff receive medical clearance from the University's Health Centre.
<i>Eligibility to work in the UK:</i>	Candidates who are not citizens of the United Kingdom, or of another EEA member country, should ensure that they meet the requirements of one of the 5 tiers of the immigration points based system. Candidates should check their eligibility to enter or remain in the UK <u>in advance of making any job application</u> using the points-based calculator on the UK Border & Immigration Agency (UKBA) website. If you do not meet the minimum points requirement, you will not be able to work in the UK and any application for employment would be unsuccessful.
<i>Document checks:</i>	As a result of the implementation of sections 15 to 26 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality 2006 Act on 29 February 2008, the University requires all prospective and, in some cases, current employees, to provide documentation to verify their eligibility to work in the UK. Further information about these requirements can be found on the UK Border Agency website. www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk .

Full details of the salary scales, terms and conditions of service and associated policies and procedures are available on the recruitment website.

FURTHER ADVICE

Please contact Dr Rhein Parri, for an informal discussion about the post.

Tel: +44(0) 121 204 4049 Email: h.r.parri@aston.ac.uk

If you would like information on the progress of your application, or advice on any aspect of the appointment process generally, or the terms and conditions of service, please do not hesitate to contact:

Christine Campbell	HR Advisor	+44 (0) 121 204 4613	c.m.campbell@aston.ac.uk
Merissa James	HR Administrator	+44 (0) 121 204 4591	m.l.james@aston.ac.uk

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

Aston University undertakes to promote equality and diversity within the University Community in all aspects of its work. Further, it aims to ensure through its admissions policies for students and its recruitment and selection processes for staff that it encourages applications from all groups represented in the wider community at a local, national and international level. The University will endeavour not to discriminate unfairly or illegally, directly or indirectly, against students or potential students, staff or potential staff. This commitment applies to all functions of the University and to any stage of an individual's career at Aston. For further details of policies and codes of practice on race, gender, disability, religion and belief, sexual orientation and age see: <http://www.aston.ac.uk/staff/equalops/>

An Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form is included with the application form.

DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998

Your application will only be used to inform the selection process, unless you are successful, in which case it will form the basis of your personal record with the University which may be stored in manual and/or electronic files. Information in statistical form on present and former employees is given to appropriate outside bodies.

Data you provide on the Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form will be included in a general database, for statistical monitoring purposes enabling the University to monitor the effectiveness of its Policy, Code of Practice and Guidelines on Equal Opportunities in Employment. Individuals will not be identified by name.