QR PhD studentship

**PhD Studentship: Designing and delivering selective inhibitors of the calcium-binding protein S100P as anti-metastatic agents.**

**Programme Description**

The University of Hertfordshire invites applications for a PhD studentship in the School of Life and Medical Sciences on a QR funded scheme.

The project provides an exciting opportunity to carry out multidisciplinary research in cancer drug discovery as part of the Centre for Health Services and Clinical Research <https://www.herts.ac.uk/research/centres/centre-for-health-services-clinical-research>, in the university’s state-of-the art Science Building. The candidate will also undergo training through the Doctoral College Researcher Development Programme.

**Expected start date**: Autumn 2020

**Duration**: 3 years

**Studentship details**

Students receive a stipend (£15,285 per annum in 2020/21) plus approved expenses. The studentship will also cover UK/EU student PhD tuition fees in each year of registration.

(Non UK/EU students will be required to pay 50% of the international student PhD tuition fees each year; £13,650 in 2020/21, increasing annually.)

**Project Information:**

The calcium-binding protein S100P is overexpressed in a number of cancers, notably in the majority of pancreatic adenocarcinoma, the most common and difficult-to-treat form of pancreatic cancer. This protein promotes tumour progression and metastasis through a number of pathways, making it an attractive prospect as a potential drug target. The group has already discovered a number of functional small molecule inhibitors and molecular fragments through computational modelling and biophysical screening techniques.

The multidisciplinary project will be based in the new (from August 2020) department of Clinical, Pharmaceutical and Biological Sciences at Hertfordshire, in collaboration with our research partners at the University of Cambridge. The successful PhD candidate will undertake computational modelling, design and synthesis of novel small molecule inhibitors, taking these forward for formulation and cell-based assays of targeted drug delivery.

**Supervisor Information**

Dr Sharon Rossiter, Dr Stewart Kirton and Dr Laura Urbano, University of Hertfordshire

**Applicant Requirements:**

**Essential:** The applicant must hold, or be about to attain, a first class or upper second-class (2:1) Honours degree or equivalent from a recognised institution, in the area of chemistry, pharmaceutical sciences, biochemistry or similar subject with a substantial chemistry component.

IELTS 6.5 (or above with no less than 5.5 in any band)/TOEFL 79 (if international student).

**Desirable:** Previous experience of any aspect of drug discovery through employment, placement or project work would be an advantage.

Candidates with an enthusiasm for multidisciplinary drug discovery are encouraged to apply.

**About the University**

The University of Hertfordshire is based in Hatfield only a short (25-minute) train journey from central London.  According to the UK-wide Research Excellence Framework 2014 over 85% of the submitted research at the UH was judged to be internationally excellent. The University of Hertfordshire is ranked among the Top 600 world universities according to the ‘Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016’ and was awarded TEF Gold in 2018.

**Application Process**

To apply, please download the [application form](https://www.herts.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/31105/uh-application-form.pdf) from our [website](https://www.herts.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply#Research) and send along with qualification certificates and/or university transcripts and a copy of your passport to: [doctoralcollegeadmissions@herts.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralcollegeadmissions@herts.ac.uk).

Due to the current pandemic, references should also be sent by email to [doctoralcollegeadmissions@herts.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralcollegeadmissions@herts.ac.uk).

The deadline for applications is 31st July 2020.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an online interview in early August. If you do not receive a reply within four weeks of the closing date, you should assume that your application has not been successful.

Informal enquires about the project are welcome and should be addressed to Dr Sharon Rossiter ([s.rossiter@herts.ac.uk](mailto:s.rossiter@herts.ac.uk) ).