



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Job Description

Job Title: Professorial Group Leader in Virology

Department / School: The Roslin Institute

Reports To: Director of The Roslin Institute

Job Purpose

We are seeking to appoint a highly successful scientist to lead an independent programme in virus research to improve understanding of how viruses interact with human and animal hosts. The Roslin Institute's mission is to achieve sustainable agriculture, control diseases and enhance health; to this end we host a collaborative and diverse community of researchers who use world-class facilities for state-of-the-art 'omics, *in vivo* livestock and chicken genome editing, aquaculture, bioimaging and contained use of pathogens.

Main responsibilities

- | | Approx. % of time |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. To lead a research group of international quality in virology, focused on One Health concepts in infectious diseases that will contribute to The Roslin Institute's research strategy and strengthen the outcomes of the Institute Strategic Programme Grants. | 40 |
| This post will be expected to contribute substantial leadership in the development and growth of virology within the Institute and across the Easter Bush Campus and Edinburgh University through the Edinburgh Infectious Diseases network (EID - https://www.ed.ac.uk/edinburgh-infectious-diseases-network). The post-holder will actively contribute to the research strategy of the School and Institute, and make a significant contribution to the management of virology research activity. | |
| 2. To seek income from competitive funding sources and deliver objectives of resulting grants, including to translate findings via commercial partnerships where appropriate. This will include responsibility for compliance with relevant regulations and University policies for research integrity and ethics. The post-holder will also publish research findings of high quality and impact in a timely | 40 |

manner in the refereed scientific literature. He/She will also present research findings at both national and international conferences, events and meetings.

3. Support effective career development and mentoring of staff and students at all levels within the Institute, consistent with policies to promote equality, diversity and inclusion. 10

4. To contribute to public education activities on behalf of the Institute and develop collaborative initiatives to promote the importance of virology research to the public. 5

5. To contribute to teaching, including by supervision of postgraduate students and contributing to undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the School and wider University where appropriate. 5

Key Contacts/Relationships

- The postholder will interact with both other members/research groups within The Roslin Institute and the wider academic community within the School and University of Edinburgh, as well as external academic partners internationally.
- The Director of the Institute (who is also Dean of Research & Innovation for the campus) and Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
- The Campus Operating Officer and other Professional Services on Campus
- External funding agencies and commercial partners.

Person specification

Planning and Organising

The post-holder will plan funding bids for both small short-term project funds to longer-term (5 year+) programme funding applications.

As a team leader, the post-holder will organise and lead the research group to ensure new methodologies are developed and novel techniques explored.

Problem Solving

The postholder will be able to overcome and deal with the problems normally encountered in a Group leader position – these will vary in complexity and will require a high degree of negotiation and influencing skills.

Decision Making

The post-holder must determine what funding opportunities to explore, and what publications to present findings to in order to demonstrate and maintain successful research activity within the UK and internationally within their field.

Leadership

- Be a motivating, inclusive and effective leader, able to work with and enthuse a diverse range of staff in virology.
- The post-holder will be expected to contribute to shaping the strategic direction of the virology research within the Institute and wider School.
- Be able to provide an excellent training environment for young researchers.

Management

- Be able to manage and direct a sustainable, diverse research group

- Be able to strengthen and sustain positive collaborative and external stakeholder partnerships and networks;
- Be committed to knowledge transfer and innovation, with an ability to translate research at the Institute into commercial opportunities;
- Be motivated to work with industry and other organizations within the virology community.

Knowledge Skills and Experience

Attribute	Essential	Desirable
Education, Qualifications & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD in Biological Sciences and a proven record in virology. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Training
Knowledge & Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high international profile in virology, evidenced by significant grant income, publication output and impact from their research. Experience of developing and implementing strategy for a significant research programme. • Experience in working with industry and other stakeholders in the infectious diseases community. • Experience of teaching and other contributions to wider academia. • Demonstrable skills in people management and mentoring. • Excellent written and oral communication skills with the ability to articulate research activity to a variety of audiences. • Be able to communicate and debate difficult issues with the public, such as the use of animals in research or genetic modification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of translation of research activity into commercial opportunity • Experience of undergraduate and/or public education activity.

Dimensions

The Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh is supported by strategic funding from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). The Institute is located on the Easter Bush Campus and is embedded within the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies (R(D)SVS) as part of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. The Institute offers world-class infrastructure for animal bioscience research, with a mission to achieve sustainable agriculture, control diseases and enhance health. Our research is underpinned by our international reputation for innovation and leadership in pioneering animal bioscience and aims to deliver knowledge, skills and technologies in BBSRC priority areas. Our researchers are currently organised into eight research divisions (Quantitative Genetics, Functional Genetics, Genome Biology, Translational Bioscience, Bacteriology, Virology, Immunology and Epidemiology). Researchers in these coalesce in multi-disciplinary Institute Strategic Programmes. For 2023-28 these are 'Genes & Traits for Healthy Animals' and 'Prevention & Control of Diseases'.

Additional Information

The Easter Bush campus is home of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies which incorporates Veterinary Clinical Services, Roslin Innovation Centre, The Global Academy for Agriculture and Food Systems and The Roslin Institute. It offers world-class infrastructure for work with farm animals, including via the National Avian Research Facility and Large Animal Research & Imaging Facility.

Employing over 800 staff, there is a wide breadth of activity taking place on the campus ranging from:

- Undergraduate and postgraduate teaching (over 1000 students on the campus at any one time, including 800 veterinary students on the internationally accredited BVM&S programme);
- Research and innovation (a highly active research institute, and a wide range of research facilities);
- clinical services (referral hospitals and clinical practices for small animal, equine and large animal);
- Pathology and other specialist services (including consultancy services)

A large estate spread over three locations – Easter Bush Campus, Dryden Farm and Langhill farm. Over £380M has been invested at Easter Bush since 2008 to create a world class research and innovation campus, with ambitious plans for further development.

Health & Safety Requirements for the role

This job requires:

- Standard Disclosure Check

Key Job hazard information specific to the role

This role may result in potential exposure to certain hazards as listed below. These will be risk assessed by the school or department, which may require you to participate in, for example, health surveillance or follow other health and safety requirements.

Cat 2 and Cat 3 pathogens, radioactive materials and/or animal allergens
(surveillance will vary depending on research activity)

Display screen assessments due to high level of PC based activity.