



## Job Description

<b>Job Title:</b>	Research Associate – UK Dementia Research Institute
<b>Department/Division/Faculty:</b>	Department of Life Sciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences
<b>Campus/Location:</b>	South Kensington Campus
<b>Job Family/Level:</b>	Research Job Family, Research Associate* ( <a href="#">Research salary scale</a> )
<b>Responsible to:</b>	Profs William Wisden & Nicholas P. Franks
<b>Key Working Relationships (Internal):</b>	Research, technical and administrative staff, and students of the UK DRI and in the Department of Life Sciences, Imperial College London
<b>Key Working Relationships (External):</b>	Research and technical staff of the UK DRI centres and collaborating universities; administrative staff of the UK DRI HQ; research staff of collaborating programmes as indicated by the Group Leader
<b>Contract type:</b>	Full time, fixed term until 31 October 2025

### Research Programme

The Franks-Wisden lab (<https://www.franks-wisden-lab.org/>) investigates how, and if, poor sleep leads to changes in health, and whether boosting sleep can help improve some of the symptoms associated with dementia. We use mouse models to explore these questions.

As a Research Associate in the lab, you will join a collaborative and highly skilled team. You will take a leading role on a project to further the knowledge of treating Alzheimer's disease by developing and using neurotechnology to selectively activate sleep circuitry that boosts REM sleep.

The Research Associate will be expected to submit publications to refereed journals and to attract external research funding.

### Key Responsibilities

Research Duties:

- To take initiative in the planning of research
- To learn and apply suitable techniques for the analysis of complex data
- To work collaboratively as part of a multidisciplinary research team
- To conduct data analysis
- To ensure the validity and reliability of data at all times
- To maintain accurate and complete records of all findings using electronic notebooks and version-controlled systems
- To present findings in regular group meetings to the PI and colleagues, and at conferences
- To write reports for submission to research sponsors



- To submit publications to refereed journals
- To provide guidance to staff and students, providing supervision as required
- To attend and participate in relevant workshops and conferences, as necessary
- To develop contacts and research collaborations within the College, the UK DRI and the wider community
- To promote the reputation of the Group, the College and the UK DRI
- Contribute to bids for research grants
- To conduct and plan own scientific work with appropriate supervision.
- To maintain highly organised and accurate record of experimental work
- To actively participate in the research programme of the Group
- To publish in high quality journals and to present data at national and international meetings
- To participate in Group/Centre research meetings and internal seminars
- To collaborate with other allied scientists within Imperial, the UK DRI and elsewhere, as appropriate.
- To contribute to the smooth running of the Group's/Centre's laboratories and, facilities with other scientists, clinicians, technicians and students within the laboratories
- Assist in the supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate research students and research assistants as required
- To comply with the College, Department, and Centre safety practices and to attend courses on safety when appropriate
- Any other duties as may be deemed reasonable by Head of group as well as Head of Division/Department/Section

#### Other Duties:

- To undertake any necessary training and/or development
- To undertake appropriate administration tasks
- To attend relevant meetings

Where Imperial or funder conditions necessitate, you will be required to complete timesheets for your work on projects in a timely manner.

**\*Candidates who have not yet been officially awarded their PhD will be appointed as a Research Assistant within the salary range £38,194 - £41,388 per annum.**



## Person Specification

Requirements	Essential (E)/ Desirable (D)
Candidates/post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:	
<b>Education</b>	
<b>Research Associate:</b> Hold a PhD (or equivalent) in neuroscience or in neurotechnology or electronic engineering, or a related area	E
<b>Research Assistant:</b> Near completion of a PhD (or equivalent) in neuroscience or in neurotechnology or electronic engineering, or a related area.	E
<b>Experience &amp; Knowledge</b>	
Practical experience of <i>e.g.</i> , electronics and/or electronic circuit design, or <i>e.g.</i> , optogenetics, and an interest in pursuing animal behavioural experiments.  Alternatively, you will be a researcher with experience in mouse behaviour, neural circuit manipulation, but also wanting to take part in neurotechnology development.	E
Practical experience within a research environment and publications in relevant peer-reviewed journals	E
Practical experience of: electronic circuit design, optogenetics	D
Experience with various preclinical mouse models and adeno-associated vectors	D
Knowledge of electronic circuit design and/or optogenetics	D
Knowledge of research methods and statistical procedures	E
<b>Skills &amp; Abilities</b>	
Ability to conduct a structured review of relevant literature	E
Ability to develop and apply new concepts	E
Creative approach to problem-solving	E
Excellent verbal communication skills and the ability to deal with a wide range of people	E
Excellent written communication skills and the ability to write clearly and succinctly for publication	E
Advanced computer skills ( <i>i.e.</i> , Microsoft Office 365, imaging software, statistical packages, referencing databases)	E
Ability to organise own work with minimal supervision	E
Ability to prioritise own work in response to deadlines	E
Ability to summarise and communicate complex data	E
<b>Other</b>	
An interest in the mission and research of the UK Dementia Research Institute	E
Willingness to work as part of a team and to be open-minded and cooperative	E
Flexible attitude towards work	E
Discipline and regard for confidentiality and security at all times	E



Willingness to undertake any necessary training for the role	E
Willingness to travel both within the United Kingdom and abroad to conduct research and attend conferences	D
Willingness to work out of normal working hours (including weekends) if the requirements of the project demand	D

## Further Information

Please note that job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties, which are broadly in line with the above key responsibilities.

Imperial College is committed to equality of opportunity and to eliminating discrimination. All employees are expected to follow the [Imperial Values & Behaviours framework](#). Our values are:

- Respect
- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Innovation

*Assessment (DORA), which means that in hiring and promotion decisions, we evaluate applicants on the quality of their work, not the journal impact factor where it is published. For more information, see <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-evaluation/>*

*The College believes that the use of animals in research is vital to improve human and animal health and welfare. Animals may only be used in research programmes which are ultimately aimed towards finding new treatments and making scientific and medical advances, and where there are no satisfactory or reasonably practical alternatives to their use. Imperial is committed to ensuring that, in cases where this research is deemed essential, all animals in the College's care are treated with full respect, and that all staff involved with this work show due consideration at every level. [Find out more about animal research at Imperial.](#)*

*We are committed to equality of opportunity, to eliminating discrimination and to creating an inclusive working environment for all. We therefore encourage candidates to apply irrespective of age, disability, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion and belief, gender identity, sex, or sexual orientation. We are an [Athena SWAN Silver Award](#) winner, a [Disability Confident Leader](#) and a [Stonewall Diversity Champion](#).*

**February 2023**