

Scientist

Life Arc - Edinburgh

Scientist

Immediate start

LifeArc is the new name for MRC Technology, a medical research charity with a 25 year legacy of helping scientists and organisations turn their research into treatments and diagnostics for patients.

LifeArc is pioneering new ways to turn great science into greater patient impact. It brings together a network of partners to tackle specific diseases and directly funds academic and early stage research.

So far, LifeArc's work has helped to develop four drugs (Keytruda®, Actemra®, Tysabri® and Entyvio®) and a test for antimicrobial resistance.

LifeArc's Centre for Diagnostic Development (CDD) operates at the interface between academic research and the Diagnostic industry. We offer collaborative diagnostic assay development and validation, helping translate early stage diagnostic research through to its commercial exploitation and its use in the clinic.

CDD are currently focused on developing molecular diagnostics where there is an unmet clinical need in areas such as oncology, infectious disease and inflammatory disease. Our facility has state of the art data capture and management systems and uses the latest technological platforms such as Next Gen Sequencing and multiplex qPCR to design and develop innovative molecular diagnostics. The team has recently relocated to a large facility in the Edinburgh BioQuarter, so this is an exciting time to help grow and contribute to CDD's success.

We are seeking a highly motivated, well-organised scientist to help contribute to the design, assessment and validation of innovative PCR and NGS based assays. This varied role will involve a wide range of diagnostic development projects including the optimisation of qPCR assays on molecular diagnostic systems as well as genome and transcriptome sequencing using Illumina and Nanopore sequencers.

A key aspect to the role is the critical evaluation and feasibility assessment of potential diagnostic projects in the fields of infectious disease, oncology and enabling diagnostic technologies. Excellent communication skills are essential for maintaining comprehensive project reports and presenting work internally and to a wider audience via publication and scientific presentations. Industry experience would be highly desirable, as would experience of working in a clinical or diagnostic environment.

You will be educated to MSc or PhD in molecular biology, infectious disease, genetics or a closely related discipline. You should be confident with standard molecular biology laboratory techniques (e.g. cloning, DNA and RNA manipulation), possess a good working knowledge of PCR and qPCR, and have experience of assay design and development. Demonstrable skills in NGS library preparation and sequencing technologies would be advantageous, although analytical support will be provided by our bioinformatics team.

Given the nature of the work, we are looking for someone who has good attention to detail and a proven ability to solve technical issues and develop solutions, both independently and as part of a team.

It is LifeArc's policy to employ individuals on the basis of their suitability for the work to be performed and their potential for development, regardless of age, sex, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, marital status, pregnancy or maternity, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief.

Your salary will be determined by qualifications and experience. In addition, LifeArc offers a defined contribution pension scheme, private health insurance, a flexible benefits scheme and 31 days paid holiday per year.

To apply please email your CV and covering letter explaining why you want to work for LifeArc via the link below or by post to Recruitment, LifeArc, Accelerator Building, Open Innovation Campus, Stevenage, SG1 2FX (electronic applications preferred).

Closing date: 12th November 2017

Job Type: Full-time