

About King's

Please see the link below for supporting information for prospective applicants. This also includes some background information about the university including rankings, research outputs, King's Health Partner Trusts and our current fundraising initiative. www.kcl.ac.uk/aboutkings

Job description

Post title	Postdoctoral Research Associate
Department/Division	Basic and Clinical Neuroscience/Neuroscience
Faculty	IOPPN
Grade/salary	Grade 6, £34,189- £37,412 per annum plus £3,223 London Allowance per annum
Hours of work	Full time (35 hours per week)
Period of appointment	Fixed-Term Contract to the 31/01/21
Responsible to	Professor Kei Cho
Responsible for	N/A
Campus	Denmark Hill

Role purpose

We are seeking to appoint a postdoctoral neuroscientist to the King's College London funded by the Wellcome Trust. The position is offered within the UK Dementia Research Institute (DRI), this is a national consortium focused on cutting-edge dementia research. The post-holder will be involved in developing an independent programme of neurodegeneration research as part of a wider network of collaboration.

The primary research interest of the group involves understanding the pathophysiology of synapse weakening in **Alzheimer's disease (AD)**. The proposed research projects will investigate how synaptic function is modified by aberrant process of RNA-binding proteins in the hippocampus.

The role will involve brain slice electrophysiology (whole cell patch clamp recording) and multi-photon imaging in hippocampal slice.

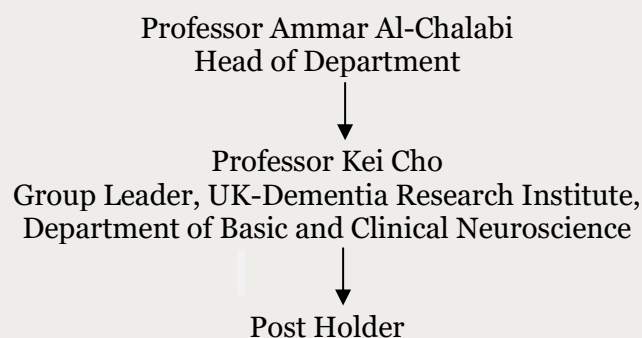
Role profile

The key objective of the post is the study of the consequences and key roles of RNA-binding proteins on synaptic function in the brain. By the end of the post the successful candidate would be expected to:

- Investigate research questions and develop specific research projects under guidance from the Group Leader
- Demonstrate the importance of your research in the form of intellectual property, novel techniques or findings that make a significant contribution to the field
- Publish at least one first or senior author publication in a high impact factor journal
- Disseminate research findings and promote your scientific profile at international conferences
- Contribute to the training and supervision of junior staff

Undertake any other reasonable duties that may be requested by the PI.

Organisational chart



About the Faculty

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/index.aspx>

About the Department of Basic and Clinical Neuroscience:

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/depts/bcn/index.aspx>

Person specification

Eligibility to work in the United Kingdom

Applications are welcome from international candidates. However, this post does not meet Home Office requirements that would qualify it for a Certificate of Sponsorship and consequently the university would be unable to offer sponsorship for a visa under Tier 2 of the points based immigration system to anyone appointed to the post.

For details of alternative routes to obtaining permission to work in the UK please refer to the UK Visas and Immigration website:

www.gov.uk/visas-immigration

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	How identified and assessed*
*For 'How identified and assessed' use: AP - application, AS - assessment, I - interview, P - presentation, R - references			
Education / qualification and training			
PhD in relevant area of Neuroscience or Neurobiology	X		AP
Masters degree or equivalent in relevant area of Neuroscience		X	AP
Knowledge / skills			
Research excellence in the field of Neuroscience	X		AP,I,P
Knowledge of Neurodegeneration	X		AP,I
Technical skills in electrophysiology	X		I
Multi-photon imaging skill		X	I
Experience			
Brain slice electrophysiology recording (whole cell patch clamp recording)		X	AP,I
Quantitative and statistical analysis	X		I
General cell and molecular biology and biochemical techniques	X		AP,I
Preparation of high quality neuronal cell cultures	X		AP,I
Personal characteristics/other requirements			
Organisational skills and ability to deliver to stringent performance criteria	X		I,R
Dynamic, highly motivated, enthusiastic and genuinely interested in basic and translational neurodegeneration research	X		AP,I
Take a lead role in personal project	X		I

Criteria	Essential	Desirable	How identified and assessed*
*For 'How identified and assessed' use: AP - application, AS - assessment, I - interview, P - presentation, R - references			
Good oral and written communication skills	X		I,P
Good interpersonal interaction skills	X		I,R
Proactive, adaptable and flexible approach to working	X		I,R
Carry out meticulous data collection and analysis, and maintain accurate permanent records of all experimental work	X		I,R
Role specific requirements			
Commitment to research	X		I,R
Willingness to supervise junior members of the group	X		I
Ability to work independently, but also as part of a research team and with collaborators	X		I,R

Occupational Health Clearance

As part of our pre-employment checks the successful applicant will be sent a 'Health and Capability Declaration Form' and if they declare that they do have a health condition or disability that may require accommodation measures so that they are able to carry out their work comfortably and efficiently, they will be sent an Occupational Health Questionnaire to determine whether any reasonable accommodation measures are required for the candidate to take up the post.

Specific aspects - indicate frequency D (daily), W (weekly), M (monthly) where applicable:			
Intensive Display Screen Equipment work (e.g. data entry or digital microscopy) ¹ :	D	Direct patient contact involving exposure prone procedures (EPP) ² :	
Heavy manual handling ¹ :		Direct patient contact, no EPP ²	
Highly repetitive tasks (e.g. pipetting or re-shelving books) ¹ :	D	Work with patient specimens (e.g. blood or tissue samples) ² :	
Shift work, night work or call-out duties ² :		Work with GM organisms or biological agents that may pose a hazard to human health ² :	W
Work involving risk of exposure to environmental or human pathogens (e.g. in waste streams or soils) ²		Hazards which require health surveillance e.g. respiratory sensitisers (allergens, substances with risk phrase R42, wood dust etc.) or loud noise ²	D/W/M
Driving vehicles on university business ² :		Food handling or preparation ² :	
Work at height (e.g. ladders, scaffolds etc.) ¹		Work in confined spaces (e.g. sump rooms, etc.) ¹	
1. These hazards do not require health assessment but may require advice from OH if a successful candidate declares a disability or health condition in the Health & Capability Declaration. 2. These hazards automatically require the successful candidate to undergo employment health assessment to identify any necessary health surveillance, recommended vaccinations or other risk control measures. The Occupational Health option must be checked on the SRAF or the Employment Checks page in the e-Recruitment system.			

Equal opportunities

King's College London recognises that equality of opportunity and the recognition and promotion of diversity are integral to its academic and economic strengths. The following principles apply in respect of the university's commitment to equality and diversity:

- To provide and promote equality of opportunity in all areas of its work and activity;
- To recognise and develop the diversity of skills and talent within its current and potential community;
- To ensure that all university members and prospective members are treated solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential without receiving any unjustified discrimination or unfavourable treatment on grounds such as age, disability, marital status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, trans status, socio-economic status or any other irrelevant distinction;
- To provide and promote a positive working, learning, and social environment which is free from prejudice, discrimination and any forms of harassment, bullying or victimisation;
- To foster good relations between individuals from different groups and tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

King's has been a member of the Athena SWAN Charter since 2007 and first gained its Bronze institutional award in 2008. Our award was successfully renewed in 2016 for a further four years. The Athena SWAN agenda forms part of a wider suite of diversity and inclusion work streams. Working with the Charter is helping King's to identify best practice for the working environment of all staff working in science disciplines.

Summary of Terms and Conditions of Service

This appointment is made under the King's College London Terms and Conditions of Service for Research staff a copy of which is available from the Recruitment Team upon request.

Probation

6 months

Annual leave

27 working days per annum pro rata (please note the annual leave year runs from January-December) bank holidays and customary closure days in are in addition to the annual leave entitlement. Staff receive four additional customary closure days in December. Notification as to how these days are taken is circulated at the start of the academic year.

Superannuation

This appointment is superannuable the USS www.uss.co.uk pension scheme. In accordance with recent legislation, we automatically enrol our staff in a pension scheme if they meet certain age and earning criteria. This is known as auto-enrolment. The university collects pension contributions via a salary sacrifice method called *PensionsPlus*. These deductions are made before the calculation of tax and national insurance is calculated; therefore reducing the amount you pay.

Staff already superannuated under the NHS Superannuation Scheme may opt to remain in that scheme provided an application to do so is received by the NHS scheme trustees within three months of appointment to King's College London. Please note that NHS Superannuation Scheme: Medical Schools are classed as "Direction Employers" and some benefits of the NHS Scheme are not available to Direction members.

Alternatively staff may opt to take out a personal pension. Please note that the university does not provide an employer's contribution towards a private pension plan.

Staff benefits

King's College London offers a wide range of staff benefits. For the full comprehensive list of staff benefits please refer to our website: www.kcl.ac.uk/hr/staffbenefits

Applying for the post

To apply, please register with the King's College London application portal and complete your application online.

We will not accept curriculum vitae in isolation and you must complete the required application form for your application to be considered.

For an informal discussion or to find out more about the role please contact: Professor Kei Cho
Kei.cho@kcl.ac.uk

Closing date: 10 February 2019

Interview date scheduled for: TBC

Applicants with disabilities

King's College London is keen to increase the number of disabled people it employs. We therefore encourage applications from individuals with a disability who are able to carry out the duties of the post. If you have special needs in relation to your application please contact the Recruitment Coordinator responsible for the administration of the post on recruitmentteam11@kcl.ac.uk

Response

All applications will be considered with respect to the criteria outlined in the person specification. We aim to contact you within four weeks of the closing date to inform you if you have been selected for interview. Due to the large number of applications we receive we are unfortunately not able to provide feedback at the shortlisting stage.