Assistant/Associate Project Scientist
Laboratory of Retinal Therapeutics and Translational Science
Department of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy

Apply Here: https://recruit.ucdavis.edu/JPF03719

Recruitment Period
Open date: August 25, 2020
Next review date: September 8, 2020 - Apply by this date to ensure full consideration
Final date: June 30, 2021 – Applications will continue to be accepted until this date, but those received after the review date will only be considered if the position has not yet been filled.

Description:
The Department of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine, seeks to hire a full time employee as an Assistant/Associate Project Scientist to perform research functions in interdisciplinary studies on questions in cell biology of retinal disease and focused on therapeutic interventions.

Project Scientists are members of the Academic Federation. The Project Scientist makes significant and creative contributions to a research or creative project in his/her academic discipline. The appointee possesses the subject matter expertise and the creative energy necessary to function at a high level of competence. The appointee will participate in activities to increase, improve, or upgrade competency. Appointees with Project (e.g., Scientist) titles may engage in University and public service. They do not have teaching responsibilities. Although the Project Scientist is expected to work independently under the general guidance of an academic member with an independent research program (i.e., Professor, Professional Researcher, Specialist in Cooperative Extension, etc.), he/she is not required to develop an independent research program or reputation. He/she will carry out research or creative programs with supervision by an individual in an academic title that carries with it automatic Principal status. The Project Scientist does not usually serve as a Principal Investigator but may do so by exception.

Successful candidates are expected to participate in three major categories of activities listed below:

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESIGNATED AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

1. RESEARCH (60% EFFORT)
   This position requires creative contributions to and collaborative development of an active research program investigating topics relevant to the research area of understanding the pathobiology of retinal diseases as manifest in animal models, and to explore translational approaches for therapy. One current lab focus is on X-linked retinoschisis (XLRS) disease, and incumbent’s studies will be directed in part toward understanding the retinal biology of XLRS and the role of the RS1 protein.

   At the start this position will focus particular attention to the role of RS1 in cone photoreceptors; developing an in vitro activity assay for AAV-RS1 treatment vectors; and phenotyping rodent models of Rs1 gene knockout. The bigger picture is to work to develop gene and cell-based therapeutic strategies that are applicable to the clinical field. The candidate is expected to bring scientific creativity to studies. The candidate will assist in study design, and in collecting and interpreting data. The candidate will be expected to participate in maintaining an orderly lab and shared duties and will work to maintain a collegial and scientifically stimulating culture with the other scientists in the lab, the department and university.

2. Publication (25% EFFORT)
The candidate is expected to compile study results in written reports and manuscripts for publication either independently or in collaboration with the PI. This extends to creation of scholarly manuscripts themselves and in collaboration with others in the lab. The candidate is expected to contribute to the preparation and submission of laboratory grant applications, and she/he is encouraged to work toward applying for her/his own laboratory support.

3. **PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE AND ACTIVITY (15% EFFORT)**

The candidate will participate in professional societies and conferences appropriate to his/her specific field of cell biology of retinal disease and will serve as a reviewer of research proposals and scientific publications as appropriate. The candidate will attend seminars to present research results and may give oral presentations to public and professional interest groups. When appropriate, the candidate may coordinate and/or give presentations at seminars, laboratory meetings or educational functions.

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**BASIC QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Must hold a PhD in work tightly related to retinal cell biology.
- Must have experience with phenotype characterization of mouse retina and ocular disease models.
- Must have experience with studies of pathological mechanisms of retinal disease.
- Must have experience with intraocular injection techniques to mouse eye for vector administration.
- Must have experience with recording electroretinogram and pattern-ERG responses in mice.
- Must have experience with cell-based therapies for retinal neurodegeneration.
- Must have experience with neurotrophic factors for cell rescue in retinal degenerative disease.
- Must have experience with in vitro studies using cell culture and molecular work, histology with immunostaining and imaging.
- Must have experience with engineering bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) for delivery to the retina.

**PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Knowledge of ex vivo retina explant procedures.
- In vivo work with mouse retina including intraocular injections, stereotaxic brain injection, measuring intraocular pressure, pupillometry, ocular perfusion.

**TERM OF APPOINTMENT:** Full-Time (100%) appointment. Initial appointment is for 12 months; reappointment is pending satisfactory performance, needs of the research project, and sufficient funding.

**TO APPLY:**

To apply, please go to the following link: [https://recruit.ucdavis.edu/JPF03719](https://recruit.ucdavis.edu/JPF03719). For full considerations applications must be completed by September 8, 2020; however, the position will remain open until filled through June 30, 2021.

Qualified applicants should submit:

- CV.
- Cover letter detailing their qualification for this position.
- Research Statement of what you would contribute to the laboratory.
- Contact information for 3 references

UC Davis commits to inclusion excellence by advancing equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. We are an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer, and particularly encourage applications from members of historically underrepresented racial/ethnic groups, women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, LGBTQ community members, and others who demonstrate the ability to help us achieve our vision of a diverse and inclusive community. For the complete University of California nondiscrimination and affirmative action policy see: [http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct](http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/4000376/NondiscrimAffirmAct). If you need accommodation due to a disability, please contact the recruiting department.
Under Federal law, the University of California may employ only individuals who are legally able to work in the United States as established by providing documents as specified in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Certain positions funded by federal contracts or sub-contracts require the selected candidate to pass an E-Verify check. More information is available http://www.uscis.gov/e-verify.

UC Davis is a smoke & tobacco-free campus (http://breathefree.ucdavis.edu/)

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