1. Advertisement

Post Title: Professor of Genome Stability  
School/department: School of Life Sciences  
Hours: full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).  
Contract: fixed term for one year  
Reference: 2726  
Salary: Professorial Salary is determined by negotiation  
Closing date: 09 December 2019. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.  
Expected start date: as soon as possible

The School of Life Sciences is at the forefront of research in the biological sciences in the UK, coming in the top 10 in the REF 2014.

The Genome Damage and Stability Centre (GDSC) at the School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex seeks to make a 1 year fixed term Professorial appointments in the area meiotic chromosome segregation. We seek an outstanding individual with an established reputation who will seek external funding to build an internationally recognised research programme that complements existing activities in the GDSC and the School of Life Sciences. The GDSC is a research-focused grouping of 16 laboratories with an outstanding international reputation in the causes, consequences and prevention of genomic instability.

Potential candidates are welcome to make informal contact with the Director of the Genome Damage and Stability Centre (Prof. Antony Carr: a.m.carr@sussex.ac.uk) or the Head of the School of Life Sciences (Prof Sarah Guthrie: S.Guthrie@sussex.ac.uk)

The University offers various schemes to provide real benefits to parents, these can be found at http://www.sussex.ac.uk/humanresources/personnel/familyfriendlypolicies

Applications should be accompanied by a full CV, a statement of research interests and aspirations (not more than 4 pages), and the names of three academic referees.

*The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds*

The School is committed to equality and valuing diversity, and currently holds an Athena SWAN Silver Award. Applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEMM) at Sussex. The School of Life Sciences welcomes applications to academic posts from candidates who wish to work part-time or as job-sharers.

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For full details and how to apply see our vacancies page

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2. The School/Division

The School of Life Sciences is the largest School in the University in terms of research activity with an annual research income of over £13m, and one of the largest in terms of student and staff population. The School has a teaching and research faculty of nearly 100, over 150 research fellows and technicians, and a small professional services team. Life Sciences have played a major role in the research and teaching of the University of Sussex since 1961. The original School of Biological Sciences (BIOLS), founded by John Maynard Smith FRS, trained some of the world’s leading biologists and biomedical scientists, and was a beacon of innovation and creativity in its integrated approach to research and teaching.

The current School of Life Sciences was formed in 2009 when Professor Laurence Pearl FRS was appointed as founding Head of the new School. Under his leadership the School adopted a unified structure with no formal departments. Instead there are six research Subject Groups – Neuroscience; Evolution, Behaviour and Environment; Genome Damage and Stability; Biochemistry and Biomedicine; Chemistry and the Sussex Drug Discovery Centre. Each research subject group is chaired by a prominent scientist, who is responsible for research leadership in their subject. The School currently has six Fellows of the Royal Society (FRS) and seven Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci) on its Faculty.

Professor Sarah Guthrie was appointed Head of School in September 2017, and the School will continue to develop under her leadership.

The School admits nearly 600 undergraduates each year on to a range of BSc and MSci degrees, with around 75 students on postgraduate taught degrees in Genetic Manipulation and Cell Biology, Cancer Cell Biology and Neuroscience. Taught programmes are firmly based on our research excellence, and offer students substantial opportunities for personal research experience along with conventional lecture, seminar and tutorial teaching. We offer 3-year BSc and 4-year integrated Masters degrees (MSci) in Biochemistry, Biomedical Science, Biology, Ecology, Genetics, Neurosciences, and Zoology, and Royal Society of Chemistry accredited BSc and MChem degrees in Chemistry and Chemistry and Drug Design. We also offer a Foundation Year in Biological Sciences which is ideally suited for students whose A-level (or equivalent) qualifications don’t meet the requirements for direct entry on to our BSc/Masters degrees.

We have a large and vigorous postgraduate research community with over 170 PhD students undertaking cutting-edge research across all our areas of interest. As well as standard PhD programmes in all the Subject Groups, we also offer a highly interdisciplinary 4-year Neurosciences PhD incorporating a first year with laboratory rotations, run in partnership with the Schools of Psychology and Engineering and Informatics, and the Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

In the REF2014 more than 96% of the School’s research was rated as ‘world leading’, ‘internationally excellent’, or ‘internationally recognised’. Our Biological Sciences research in particular was ranked 10th in the UK overall, and 8th on quality of our research outputs – putting us comfortably above the majority of Russell Group institutions.
3. CORE JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Professorial Fellow of Genome Stability
Grade: Grade 10
School: Life Sciences
Location: GDSC
Responsible to: Head of School
Direct reports: n/a
Key contacts: Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University, academics of similar standing in the field in other institutions.

Role Description: Professorial Fellow is the most senior career-grade research position. Professorial Fellows are expected to show high academic standing, to make a broad and sustained contribution to their field and the discipline both nationally and internationally, and to demonstrate sustained exceptional performance in research. They will demonstrate academic leadership in research, and support the management and strategic planning processes of the School and the University.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in high-quality research activity resulting in high-quality publications to be submitted to the REF at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence; to lead major research projects; to consistently secure research funding and third-stream income; and to play a key role in the development and implementation of the School research strategy.

2. To provide guidance, support and mentoring to junior members of staff working in the same or cognate research areas.

3. To provide a significant contribution to School teaching and learning activities.

4. To support the management activities of the School and University.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.1 Play a leading role in the development and implementation of School research strategies and themes, and lead and co-ordinate research activity in own subject.

1.2 Identify and develop research objectives, and proposals for own or joint research.

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1.3 Carry out independent research and act as a Principal Investigator or project leader on major research projects. This may involve leading and line managing the staff including their recruitment, probation, mentoring, performance review and staff development; managing the budget, and taking responsibility for the delivery of the programme.

1.4 Define research objectives and questions, review and synthesise the outcomes of research studies, and develop ideas for application of research outcomes.

1.5 Develop proposals for major research projects which will make a significant impact, and lead to an increase in knowledge or understanding or the development of new explanations, insights, concepts or processes.

1.6 Produce high-quality research outputs that are world-leading in the field, for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and make a significant contribution to the School’s REF assessment at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

1.7 Make presentations at national or international conferences or exhibit work in other appropriate events of a similar standing and identify ways to disseminate research outputs informally via the internet and the media.

1.8 Develop and maintain an independent research reputation by, for example, serving on peer review committees, or acting as a referee for journal articles or research grant applications.

1.9 Play a key role in the management of the REF assessment exercise.

1.10 Provide academic leadership and inspiration to those working within own research area, and foster inter-disciplinary team-working.

1.11 Play a lead role in identifying sources of funding and securing bids, both individually and in collaboration with others.

1.12 Play a lead role in identifying and exploring opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, and in planning and managing these activities.

1.13 Lead and develop internal and external networks to foster collaboration on both an individual level and on behalf of others in the School, share information and ideas, and promote the subject and the University, both nationally and internationally.

1.14 Develop successful links with external contacts such as other educational and research bodies, employers, professional bodies and other providers of funding and research initiatives to foster collaboration and generate income, and to influence the external research and policy agenda.

1.15 Contribute to the enhancement of research quality and thinking in the field by being involved in quality assurance and other external decision-making bodies.

1.16 Act as a leading authority in the field or specialism, developing new knowledge, understanding and innovation in the area.

1.17 Conduct risk assessments and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, if required.
2. **Teaching & Student Support**

2.1 Undertake teaching duties, and contribute to the development of the curriculum in own area, if required.

2.2 Contribute to the development of teaching and learning strategies within the School.

2.3 Supervise postgraduate research students.

3. **Contribution to School & University**

3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.2 Contribute to the overall management of the School in areas such as budget management and business planning, if required.

3.3 Chair School or University committees, and participate in University decision-making and governance.

3.4 Contribute to School- and University-level strategic planning and development.

3.5 Advise and provide support to less experienced colleagues.

3.6 Mentor staff in related or cognate research areas within the School, providing advice on personal and career development plans, and assisting them in identifying and securing career development opportunities.

3.7 Undertake additional administrative duties, as required by the Head of School.

4. **Role-specific duties**

   1. Identify and develop research objectives, and a research proposal to establish an independent research programme in the control of meiotic chromosome segregation.

   2. Carry out independent research and act as a Principal Investigator or project leader on major research projects. This will involve leading and line-managing the staff including their recruitment, probation, mentoring, performance review and staff development; managing the budget, and taking responsibility for the delivery of the programme.

   3. Review and synthesise the outcomes of research studies, and develop ideas for application of research outcomes.

   4. Produce high-quality world-leading research outputs in the field of meiotic chromosome segregation and make an appropriate contribution to the School's REF assessment.

   5. Play a lead role in identifying and exploring opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy.

   6. Act as a leading authority in the field of meiotic chromosome segregation, developing new knowledge, understanding and innovation in the area.
This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

**INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

- Publication of highly-regarded text books or other significant teaching materials for use in higher education, chosen by third parties on a discretionary basis.
- Evidence of sustained output of high-quality research publications or other recognised forms of output, subjected to peer review and describing significant discoveries, applications or observations.
- Evidence of providing academic leadership, development, mentoring and career management advice for colleagues, research assistants and students.
- Evidence of leadership in the discipline and cognate disciplines, demonstrating an ability to inspire colleagues to develop their own research potential, including partnerships with individuals and/or bodies of international standing.
- Sustained record of attracting funds year-on-year, which are notable awards in terms of size and scope, and of leadership of and collaboration in significant research projects and/or consultancy or work with external organisations.
- Transfer of intellectual property into the wider economy.
- Development of research and consulting relationships with other organisations, and development of business and community links that bring tangible benefits to the University.
- Sustained record of successful postgraduate research supervision.
- Academic distinctions (e.g. academic awards; editorship of, or refereeing for, journals; grant reviewer for awarding bodies; services for learned societies; election to Fellowships).
- Transfer of research findings into practical applications and/or enrichment of the wider culture through creativity in the social sciences, humanities and the visual and performing arts.
- External and visiting appointments.
- Influence on the formulation of policy.
- Advancement of the discipline through a distinctive contribution to intellectual leadership, professional, clinical or vocational practice.
- Evidence of enhancing the international standing and profile of the School and University.
- A sustained contribution to the delivery of University and/or School strategy.
- Evidence of exceptional collegiality.
- A leadership role within the University, creating significant performance improvement.
PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Educated to doctoral level in a relevant discipline.

2. In-depth knowledge of specialism to enable the development of new knowledge, innovation and understanding in the field.

3. Significant track record of influential publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.

4. Successful and sustained track record of generating research and knowledge exchange income that is notable in terms of size and scope, and the translation of research results into practice.

5. Experience of successfully leading large externally-funded research projects.

6. An international reputation in the field of study.

7. Successful track record of supervising postgraduate students.

8. Evidence of proactive contribution to the School and/or University.

9. Excellent presentation skills, with the proven ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.

10. Leadership and people management skills.

11. Ability to exercise a high degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.

12. Commitment to collegiality and interdisciplinary working.

13. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.

14. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.

15. A willingness to participate in support activities beyond normal teaching duties.

16. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERION

In-depth knowledge of meiotic chromosome segregation to enable the development of competitive research grant applications.