

Four-year funded PhD studentships

An outstanding opportunity is available for students to explore the leading edge biosciences and their applications for the benefit of patients. The **Oliver Bird Rheumatism Programme** has awarded over £6 million to 5 centres of excellence to establish a cohort of more than 50 talented young scientists who will receive comprehensive doctoral training in rheumatic disease research. **12 studentships are now available**, with a generous tax-free starting stipend of above **£16,950** (plus London allowance if appropriate) with annual increases, UK/EU fees, research expenses and a meeting and travel allowance.

The 5 Oliver Bird Collaborative Centres are all based on **multidisciplinary research teams** working at the forefront of modern bioscience. Between them they deploy a formidable range of modern scientific technologies including genomics, imaging, proteomics, stem cell biology and nanotechnology. They all share a commitment to **translating the results of their research for the alleviation of rheumatic disease**.

Each of the Centres offers a planned programme of training and a selection of PhD projects. A supporting programme run by the 5 Centres and the Nuffield Foundation includes an annual conference, visits, networking and additional skills training to enhance students' development as professional scientists. By working alongside both scientists and clinicians students will develop an appreciation of the clinical relevance of their research.

Outstanding young scientists, who are EU nationals and based in the UK, are invited to contact the **Oliver Bird Collaborative Centres** listed below to learn more about the programmes and potential projects available.



University of Aberdeen, Medical School Buildings, Foresterhill, Aberdeen AB25 2ZD Tel: 01224 551154

Coordinator: Professor David Reid d.m.reid@abdn.ac.uk

Integrated programme of research in translational bone and musculoskeletal disease.

Studentships examining diet & musculoskeletal disease, genetic factors & chronic pain, stem cells & musculoskeletal repair, signalling in rheumatoid cachexia, prostaglandins & bone, gamma, delta T-cells & musculoskeletal disease plus a full educational and pastoral care package.



University of Glasgow, Division of Immunology, Infection and Inflammation

Faculty of Medicine, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, 8-16 Alexandra Parade, Glasgow G31 2ER Tel: 0141 211 4688

Coordinator: Professor Iain McInnes i.b.mcinnnes@clinmed.gla.ac.uk

Elucidating immune mechanisms in inflammatory arthritis.

This Oliver Bird centre offers studentships focused upon understanding autoimmune mechanisms in cellular and molecular immunology, novel pathways promoting synovitis in inflammatory arthritis, utilising novel imaging and analytic techniques applied within an integrated translational research programme.



Joint Centre: King's College London & Queen Mary University of London

KCL, Academic Department of Rheumatology and Centre for Molecular and Cellular Biology of Inflammation, New Hunt's House, Guy's Hospital Campus, KCL SE1 1UL Tel: 020 7188 5906

QMUL, Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology, William Harvey Research Institute, Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, QMUL, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ Tel: 020 7882 8192

Coordinators: Professor Costantino Pitzalis c.pitzalis@qmul.ac.uk; Professor Frederic Geissmann

frederic.geissmann@kcl.ac.uk; Professor Andrew P. Cope andrew.cope@kcl.ac.uk

Translational research in rheumatoid arthritis: an integrated laboratory and clinical approach. The studentship programme includes the following areas: 1) Regenerative Medicine – in situ tissue engineering for joint tissues repair; 2) Identification of novel tissue specific targets for drug delivery by phage display in vivo; 3) Targeting osteoclasts for the treatment of arthritis; 4) Endogenous anti-inflammatory pathways in the resolution of inflammation; 5) Deliver therapeutics to sites of arthritic diseases through molecular and cellular engineering; 6) Monocyte subsets as cellular markers and therapeutic targets in lupus nephritis; 7) Origin of the autoantibody response in rheumatoid arthritis; 8) How do PTPN22 genetic variants predispose to autoimmune disease in vivo? 9) Physiological integration of TNF and interleukin-like signals; 10) Monocyte migration across microvascular endothelium: rules and consequences.



University of Newcastle, Department of Rheumatology, School of Clinical Medical Sciences,

Medical School, Framlington Place, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE2 4HH. Coordinator: Professor Tim Cawston

Mechanisms of joint inflammation and damage in rheumatoid and osteoarthritis

Newcastle also collaborates in the Programme, but has filled its current allocation of studentships.



University College London, Centre for Rheumatology, Windeyer Institute, Cleveland Street,

London, WC1T 4JF. Coordinator: Professor David Isenberg

From bones to B cell biology

UCL also collaborates in the Programme, but has filled its current allocation of studentships.

For further information, please see our website www.oliverbird.org

The aim of the programme is to develop a cohort of outstanding young scientists who will enhance future capacity in UK rheumatic disease research. Preference will be given to candidates who will contribute to this aim.