

Post Title:	Research Assistant
Post Status:	Specific Purpose Contract – Full-time or Part-time.
Research Group / Department / School:	Department of Clinical Medicine Tallaght, Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, School of Medicine. Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Trinity Centre Tallaght University Hospital and Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin College Green, Dublin 2, Ireland
Reports to:	R. Asst Prof. Natalia Muñoz-Wolf
Salary:	Appointment will be made in line with Irish Universities Association (IUA) Level 1 Point 1-7 [€29,275 to €34,062 per annum], appointment will be made no higher than point 3.
Hours of Work:	39h/week
Closing Date:	12 Noon (GMT), July 31st, 2023

Proposed start date: September 2023 (date flexible)

Post Summary

This is an opportunity for a graduate level scientist to pursue cutting edge research in a multidisciplinary research environment. The successful candidate will work on a Health Research Board funded project investigating how the microbiome composition impacts upon the immune response in the lungs of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) patients.

COPD is the 3rd leading cause of death worldwide and affects over half a million people in Ireland. This respiratory condition causes difficulty breathing and irreversible damage to the lungs. COPD is an extremely debilitating condition for which there is only palliative treatment. Some patients experience flare-ups (exacerbations) which often causes hospitalisation and worsening of their condition, while others have a more stable pattern of disease. The reasons for these exacerbations are poorly understood.

Over the past decade a wealth of evidence has pointed at the human microbiota, a complex community of commensal microorganisms that colonise the mucosae and the skin, as a critical factor modulating human health and disease. The microbiome as emerged as an important factor influencing the response in the lungs during respiratory infections, asthma, allergy and is now emerging as a new element contributing to COPD. Here we will investigate how changes in the microbiome affect COPD progression and if shifts in the microbiome known as dysbiosis can contribute to COPD flare-ups. We will investigate how microbial-derived metabolites can help ease symptoms of COPD and restore the balance in the lungs.

The successful candidate will join the ***Translational Respiratory Immunology Lab*** (TRIL) <https://www.respiratoryimmunology.com/> led by Res. Asst. Professor Natalia Muñoz-Wolf at the School of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin <https://www.tcd.ie/medicine/> and the Department of Clinical Medicine at Tallaght university Hospital <https://www.tuh.ie/Departments/The-Professorial-Respiratory-Centre/>.

Standard Duties and Responsibilities of the Post

We are looking for a highly motivated candidate with background in immunology and/or microbiology or clinical research to join our team.

The successful candidate will work closely with the research and clinical teams and will manage:

- Processing and storage of clinical samples including blood, stool and bronchoalveolar lavage;
- Purification of DNA for microbiome analysis;
- Isolation of monocytes from patients' blood samples;
- Sample shipment to our collaborators.

- Manage orders including equipment, reagents, supplies and other necessary items for the laboratory.
- Management of the combined lab space ensuring general cleanliness and organisation of reagents as per Health and Safety Guidelines in Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute and Tallaght University Hospital labs including the maintenance and management of existing or newly acquired equipment (in collaboration with other research teams).
- Maintenance of cell lines and assisting with current and future PhD students and postdoctoral researchers.
- Assist in the management of transgenic mouse colonies and genotyping.
- Assist in generation necessary documentation related to clinical research ethics, health and safety protocols, SOPs and animal ethics.

- Scheduling of team meetings and related activities.

Funding Information

Health Research Board

Person Specification

Applicants should have a background in biological sciences, including but not limited to immunology, microbiology, biochemistry, or molecular biology with previous laboratory experience.

Qualifications

Essential qualifications include:

- A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Sciences (including but not limited to immunology, microbiology, biochemistry, or molecular biology)
- Proficiency in written and spoken English (proof proficiency may be requested for non-native speakers)

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

Essential

- High ethical standards
- Some experience in a research lab environment
- Candidates must have excellent communication skills
- Able to work in a collaborative and dynamic environment with clinicians and scientists on a daily basis in more than one location.
- Flexibility and problem solving skills to adapt to a constantly evolving research environment.

Desired

- Previous experience with clinical samples
- Knowledge of tissue culture techniques
- Knowledge of DNA isolation will be highly regarded.

Skills & Competencies

- Excellent interpersonal and communication and able to deliver presentations and report results both in writing and verbally;

- Excellent analytical skills
- Willing to help grow the lab culture and improve day-to-day performance by identifying problems and proposing solutions;
- Ability to manage competing priorities and able to prioritise tasks with a high level of professionalism;
- Ability to work flexibly and effectively as part of a team and to engage with a multidisciplinary team;
- Resourceful / conscientious and self-motivated individual with a 'can do attitude' – ability to see tasks through to completion;
- Able to grasp the value of clinical samples and to accommodate flexible working hours when patient-derived samples require it.

Application Procedure

Applicants should submit a cover letter (max 1 A4 page) stating their interest in the post and suitability for it.

In addition candidates should submit a Curriculum Vitae (max 2 A4 pages) with the most relevant experience, including the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), to:

Dr Natalia Muñoz-Wolf

Research Assistant Professor

Translational & Respiratory Immunology Lab

munozwon@tcd.ie

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a virtual or face-to-face panel interview with the PI and lab members. They may be asked to give a short presentation on their background and expectations on the post and career.

Further Information for Applicants

URL Link to the Translational & Immunology Research Lab	https://www.respiratoryimmunology.com/
URL link to the School of Medicine	https://www.tcd.ie/medicine/
URL link to the Department of Clinical Medicine at Tallaght University Hospital	https://www.tuh.ie/Departments/The-Professorial-Respiratory-Centre/
URL Link to Area	www.tcd.ie
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin

Trinity is Ireland's leading university and is ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Founded in 1592, the University is steeped in history with a reputation for excellence in education, research and innovation.

Located on an iconic campus in the heart of Dublin's city centre, Trinity has 18,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students across our three faculties – Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences; Engineering, Mathematics and Science; and Health Sciences.

Trinity is ranked as the 17th most international university in the world (Times Higher Education Rankings 2020) and has students and staff from over 120 countries.

The pursuit of excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of a Trinity education, and our researchers have an outstanding publication record and strong record of grant success. Trinity has developed 19 broad-based multidisciplinary research themes that cut across disciplines and facilitate world-leading research and collaboration within the University and with colleagues around the world. Trinity is also home to 5 leading flagship research institutes:

- Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI)
- Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience (TCIN)
- Trinity Translational Medical Institute (TTMI)
- Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute (TLRH)
- Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN)

Trinity is the top-ranked European university for producing entrepreneurs for the past five successive years and Europe's only representative in the world's top-50 universities (Pitchbook Universities Report).

Trinity is home to the famous Old Library and to the historic Book of Kells as well as other internationally significant holdings in manuscripts, maps and early printed material. The Trinity Library is a legal deposit library, granting the University the right to claim a copy of

every book published in Ireland and the UK. At present, the Library's holdings span approximately 6.5 million printed items, 400,000 e-books and 150,000 e-journals.

With over 120,000 alumni, Trinity's tradition of independent intellectual inquiry has produced some of the world's finest, most original minds including the writers Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett (Nobel laureates), the mathematician William Rowan Hamilton and the physicist Ernest Walton (Nobel laureate), the political thinker Edmund Burke, and the former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. This tradition finds expression today in a campus culture of scholarship, innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship and dedication to societal reform.

Rankings

Trinity is the top ranked university in Ireland and ranked 108th in the world (QS World University Rankings 2020). Trinity ranks in the top 50 in the world on 6 subjects and in the top 100 in 20 subjects (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019). Full details are available at: www.tcd.ie/research/about/rankings.

The Selection Process in Trinity

The Selection Committee (Interview Panel) may include members of the Academic and Administrative community together with External Assessor(s) who are expert in the area. Applications will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive confirmation of receipt within 1 day of submitting your application online, please contact the named Recruitment Partner on the job specification immediately and prior to the closing date/time.

Given the degree of co-ordination and planning to have a Selection Committee available on the specified date, the University regrets that it may not be in a position to offer alternate selection dates. Where candidates are unavailable, reserves may be drawn from a shortlist. Outcomes of interviews are notified in writing to candidates and are issued no later than 5 working days following the selection day.

In some instances the Selection Committee may avail of telephone or video conferencing. The University's selection methods may consist of any or all of the following: Interviews, Presentations, Psychometric Testing, References and Situational Exercises.

It is the policy of the University to conduct pre-employment medical screening/full pre-employment medicals. Information supplied by candidates in their application (Cover Letter and CV) will be used to shortlist for interview.

Applications from non-EEA citizens are welcomed. However, eligibility is determined by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and further information on the Highly Skills Eligible Occupations List is set out in Schedule 3 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Highly-Skilled-Eligible-Occupations-List/> and the Ineligible Categories of Employment are set out in Schedule 4 of the Regulations <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Employment-Permits/Employment-Permit-Eligibility/Ineligible-Categories-of-Employment/> . Non-EEA candidates should note that the onus is on them to secure a visa to travel to Ireland prior to interview. Non-EEA candidates should also be aware that even if successful at interview, an appointment to the post is contingent on the securing of an employment permit.

Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community. On that basis we encourage and welcome talented people from all backgrounds to join our staff community. Trinity's Diversity Statement can be viewed in full at <https://www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/diversity-statement>.

Pension

Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.

Application Procedure

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Applicants should submit a full Curriculum Vitae to include the names and contact details of 2 referees (including email addresses), to:-

Name

Email Address



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VACANCIES IRELAND**
universityvacancies.com

