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Job Reference Number:

MI/25/33_2

Position:

Postdoctoral Scientist

Group/Department:

Systems Oncology Group

Salary:

£37,000 – £44,852 (depending on
qualifications and experience)

Duration:

Fixed term until 28 February 2027 (in the first
instance)



CRUK MI FURTHER PARTICULARS



Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute is a Research Institute within
The University of Manchester and is core funded by Cancer Research UK



MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



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PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

Ref: MI/25/33_2

Job Title: Postdoctoral Scientist

1. The Institute invites applications for the above post.
2. Salary will be within the range of £37,000 – £44,852 per annum, dependent upon qualifications and experience.
3. Applications should be submitted via JobMarker, the online recruitment system by the closing date as stipulated in the advert.
4. For applicants who require assistance with their application please contact the HR Department for further information on:
Tel: +44 (0) 161 306 9752
Email: jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk
5. Informal enquiries can be made to Dr Claus Jorgensen, email: claus.jorgensen@cruk.manchester.ac.uk
6. Applicants are advised that if the Institute receives a high level of applications, we reserve the right to close the vacancy earlier than advertised.
7. The Institute will endeavour to contact shortlisted candidates promptly. However, there may be occasions where a high volume of applications are received, therefore an applicant's patience is appreciated.
8. As an equal opportunity employer, we welcome applicants from all sections of the community regardless of age, sex, gender (or gender identity), ethnicity, disability, nationality, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital or transgender status. All appointments are made on merit.
9. As our Postdoctoral Scientist you will be a visible presence within the Institute, providing professional and timely services within your role.





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COPY OF THE ADVERTISEMENT

The Institute will actively foster a culture of inclusion and diversity and will seek to achieve true equality of opportunity for all members of its community.

Postdoctoral Scientist – Systems Oncology Group

- Job Ref: MI/25/33_2
- Salary starting: £37,000 – £44,852 (depending on qualifications and experience)
- Duration: Fixed term until 28 February 2027 (in the first instance)

About the role:

Dr Claus Jorgensen, Group Leader of the Systems Oncology Group, is looking for a Postdoctoral Scientist to join his group. This is a great opportunity for a self-motivated, innovative, meticulous and organised candidate who is keen to work in a dynamic laboratory undertaking cutting edge research.

The goal of the Systems Oncology Group is to understand how the tumour microenvironment, and the desmoplastic reaction, regulates tumour cell function and therapeutic response in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. We have identified a novel target regulating the interactions between tumour cells and the microenvironment, which we believe may be a target for future therapeutic intervention.

The objective of this post is to functionally characterise this target and its role in regulating tumour cells, host cells, and their interactions. Specifically, the post holder will use a number of *in vitro* cell biology assays to assess cell function and biochemical assays to assess cell signalling *in vitro*; this will include functional CRISPR analysis, pharmacological studies, enzyme assays and mass spectrometry analysis in 2D and 3D cell models. Tumour models will be analysed by IF/IHC, proteomics, genomics and transcriptionally as well as testing novel combination treatments using available *in vivo* models (see Hutton et al Cancer Cell 2021, Lee et al Nat Comm 2021 and Below et al Nat Mat 2022). This is a project for a highly collaborative individual seeking to make a difference in a very hard to treat cancer.

About the Systems Oncology Research Group:

Please visit our website to view information about Systems Oncology Research Group:

<https://www.cruk.manchester.ac.uk/research-group/systems-oncology/>

About you:

You should have a PhD in biochemistry, cell biology or a related field. Experience in protein biochemistry, analysis of cell signalling and use of *in vitro* models of cancer is required. Experience with *in vivo* tumour models and immunology is desirable. Key



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qualities include independent thinking, ability to work in a team and good communication skills, all of which are needed to efficiently work in a multidisciplinary team.

Why choose Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute?

The Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute (www.cruk.manchester.ac.uk), an Institute of The University of Manchester (www.manchester.ac.uk), is a world-leading centre for excellence in cancer research. The Institute is core funded by Cancer Research UK (www.cancerresearchuk.org), the largest independent cancer research organisation in the world. In spring 2023 the Institute moved into the new Paterson Building, a £150 million flagship purpose-built biomedical research centre directly attached to The Christie NHS Foundation Trust (www.christie.nhs.uk), in South Manchester.

We are partnered with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust, one of the largest cancer treatment centres in Europe. These factors combine to provide an exceptional environment in which to pursue basic, translational and clinical research programmes.

Our aim is to understand the fundamental basis of cancer and apply that knowledge to developing new treatment strategies for cancer patients. Our advanced research programmes span a spectrum of cancer research, from the molecular and cellular basis of cancer through to drug discovery, translational research and clinical trials.

The Institute has access to outstanding laboratory facilities and exceptional core services, including next generation sequencing, microarrays, confocal microscopy, bioinformatics, histology and mass-spectrometry.

How to apply?

To apply for this position please complete the online application via 'Apply Now'. Please ensure you detail the names of three referees and ensure you submit your application before the closing date specified.

Please note this vacancy will close for applications at 11:59pm on the closing date specified.

Informal enquiries can be directed to Dr Claus Jorgensen via email: claus.jorgensen@cruk.manchester.ac.uk.

Closing date: Sunday 26th October 2025.

1st round interviews: w.c. 10th November 2025.



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Job Description

After the closing date this job description will be removed from our website. Should you wish to refer to this information at a later date, please ensure that you save a copy of this document.



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Disabilities and alternative formats

The University of Manchester is a disability confident Leader and is committed to supporting disabled people in recruitment, employment, and career development. We will make reasonable adjustments to enable applicants to compete to the best of their ability wherever it is reasonable to do so. Therefore, if you have any additional support needs throughout the recruitment process or require documentation in alternative formats, please do not hesitate to contact the HR Department, for further information, on:

Tel: +44 (0) 161 306 9752

Email: jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk



The Disability Confident scheme, accredited by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), helps employers recruit, retain and train great people. Disability Confident organisations play a leading role in changing attitudes about, and increasing understanding of, disability. There are three levels of the scheme with Leader being the highest.



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JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB DETAILS

Job Title:	Postdoctoral Scientist
Grade:	Postdoctoral Scientist
Department:	Systems Oncology Group
Division:	Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute (CRUK MI)

ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Accountable to: Group Leader, Systems Oncology Group

JOB PURPOSE

This is a funded postdoctoral position aimed to characterise a newly identified target with the aim of developing novel combination therapies for pancreatic cancer. The post holder will work as part of a dedicated team to functionally interrogate the role of a new target against both tumour and host cells. This will include functional and biochemical characterisation of the target and engagement with a newly developed drug discovery program to characterise a series of compounds biochemically and cell biologically. The work will include analysis of tumour cell signalling, therapeutic response using 2D and 3D organoid *in vitro* models, CRISPR screening, proteomics and gene expression analysis. This work will support development of precision medicine for pancreatic cancer patients.

It is recognised that the post holder is in training to develop their academic independence.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- To be inquisitive.
- To develop and drive an independent project within a multidisciplinary group.



- To pursue a program of work agreed with the Group Leader.
- To ensure successful completion of the project and maximise publication output.
- To prepare manuscripts for publication; to address referee's comments.
- To keep up with the scientific literature.
- To design and execute experiments.
- To use established procedures and develop new approaches; to acquire new skills.
- To maintain accurate records of experiments and reagents.
- To prepare and attend weekly laboratory meetings.
- Mandatory attendance at Institute seminars.
- To present work at the Institute, and at domestic and international meetings.
- To attend the Institute retreat, space permitting.
- To supervise graduate students, visiting scientists and others as necessary.
- To interact with collaborators and companies.
- To adhere to the rules and regulations of any facilities, in house or external, that needs to be accessed during the course of the work programme.
- To conform to COSHH, Codes of Practice, and Local and Institutional Rules.
- To perform other functions consistent with the position and nature of the post as determined by the Group Leader.

STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

- Work efficiently, cost-effectively and in a flexible manner.
- To meet objectives within pre-determined timescales.
- Effective communications to be maintained with staff at all levels.
- Strict adherence to protocols and Institute policies.
- To comply with Health & Safety requirements, including having an awareness of personal responsibilities to maintain a safe working environment.
- To maintain confidentiality of information in line with data protection requirements and University policy.
- Manage and prioritise own workload to meet deadlines.
- To contribute to the University's agenda for social responsibility, including sustainability.
- Familiarise themselves with the University's Equality and Diversity policies and to actively support these wherever possible.
- Be a team player.
- To strive to accomplish high quality of work.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

The person specification should set out the qualifications, experience, skills, knowledge, personal attributes, interests, other requirements which the post holder requires to perform the job to a satisfactory level

Job Title: Postdoctoral Scientist

	ESSENTIAL The qualities without which a post holder could not be appointed	DESIRABLE Extra qualities which can be used to choose between candidates who meet all the essential criteria	METHOD OF ASSESSMENT
QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PhD* in biochemistry, cell biology, immunology or a relevant field <p><i>*(as a minimum requirement candidates must have submitted their thesis** by the start date of their employment and awarded their PhD within the specified probationary period).</i></p>		CV and Presentation of certificate
EXPERIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experience in cell biology and use of 2D and 3D tumour models.• Experience with primary cell culture models• Experience in biochemical analysis of cell signalling• Experience in use and analysis of small molecular inhibitors• Evidence of technology development and problem solving• Demonstrable experience in defining and solving research questions• Experience with CRISPR loss of function analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrated ability to generate high quality publication(s)• Experience in pharmacological targeting <i>in vivo</i> tumour models• Use of <i>in vivo</i> models of cancer• Immunology• Experience with analysing tumour samples by IHC/IF, biochemistry	CV, references, publications and interview



SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To set goals, respond to challenges and take the initiative• Cell culture techniques (fx primary cell isolation, transduction, 3D models)• Analysis of cell signalling• Protein biochemistry• Ability to interact with colleagues and learn new skills• Analysis of pharmacological inhibitors• Ability to engage in constructive debate and work as part of a team to support laboratory objectives• Ability to prioritise and discriminate the critical from the trivial• Excellent communication skills• Ability to share ideas and information and communicate clearly and concisely• Ability to work independently with minimal supervision• Innovative approach to problem solving• A demonstrated ability to perform research and to develop novel ideas• Computer literate, familiarity with MS office package	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set up and analyse <i>in vivo</i> cancer models (fx GEMM and orthotopic models)• Ability to inspire and motivate colleagues, including students and technicians• Data analysis by R and/or other software packages	CV, references, publications and interview
KNOWLEDGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge of the essentials of biochemistry and cell signalling• Knowledge of cell	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usage of software for Data analysis (R, Matlab etc)• Ability to rapidly	CV, references, publications and interview



KNOWLEDGE Continued	signalling/information processing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of cancer biology • Detailed knowledge of the tumour microenvironment 	assimilate new information into a comprehensive view of the development of the field	CV, references, publications and interview
OTHER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to travel • To show commitment to equality and fairness and integrity in dealing with others • Self-motivated • Meticulous • Interactive • Systematic • Organised • Ability to work to strict deadlines • Ability to work well within a team framework as well as on an individual project • Technically focused • Willingness to implement new management and experimental techniques • To be willing to work across organisational boundaries • To seek new knowledge and share ideas • To be open and responsive to change and innovation 		Interview, Referees' comments

**** It is essential that thesis submission takes place prior to the individuals start date. Written confirmation is required by the University where the PhD is being studied that a submission has taken place. The successful candidate has to be awarded their PhD qualification within the Probation period in place for a Postdoctoral Scientist otherwise this will not meet the requirements for the grade.**



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THE CITY OF MANCHESTER AND THE REGION

Manchester is one of the great European cities and the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute is located a short distance from the city centre and is serviced by regular public transport to the city centre. The city's architecture represents one of the high points of Victorian achievement. The modern city is a major centre of banking, commerce and manufacturing.



It is consistently ranked as the best liveable city in the UK by the Economist Intelligence Unit. In 2021, Manchester was ranked in the top 3 of the TimeOut World's Best Cities list with the comment, "the friendliest city with the best community spirit and top-notch nightlife including its Gay Village and Northern Quarter in the heart of the city." It has a highly cosmopolitan atmosphere, and its cultural life is internationally renowned.

Manchester offers extensive provision for research. Library facilities include the John Rylands University Library (the major library in the North West and the third largest in the country) and the Manchester Central Reference Library.



Housing is varied, plentiful and the price ranges can start moderately priced and are as varied as the requirements. Schooling ranges from world-famous private schools to excellent sixth-form colleges and comprehensives.

Manchester is well served by a major international airport, with direct scheduled flights to many destinations in Europe as well as North America and Asia. Some of the most beautiful countryside in Europe is just short of an hour's drive from the Institute in the Peak District National Park, while the Lake District and Snowdonia in Wales are also within easy reach.





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Manchester Piccadilly railway station has been refurbished and is served by inter-city and other train services – with a direct link to Manchester Airport. The network of Metrolink tram services offers an alternative mode of public transport from certain parts of the conurbation and includes connections near to the Institute.

There are three outstanding professional theatre companies, the halls of the Hallé and BBC Philharmonic orchestras, the Cornerhouse as well as other cinemas, and Europe's fastest-growing Chinatown.

Amongst the developments enriching the area's cultural life have been the opening of the Lowry Centre and Media City at Salford Quays; the opening of the Bridgewater Concert Hall; the refurbishment of the City Art Gallery; the opening of Urbis in the centre of Manchester and of the Imperial War Museum North, designed by Daniel Libeskind, in Trafford.



Trafford, specifically Old Trafford, is known internationally for sport, it is a venue for Test cricket and the home of Manchester United FC. The Commonwealth Games were held in Manchester in 2002 and were highly acclaimed. The Commonwealth Stadium became the home of Manchester City FC in 2003.





OUR BENEFITS PACKAGE

Facilities and General Discounts

We have a wide range of fantastic facilities for you including coffee shops, cafes, and restaurants in various buildings on Oxford Road, library, museum, art gallery, theatre (providing music and drama) and the world-famous radio telescope at Jodrell Bank. You can attend a varied programme of events at these, many of which are free to staff. Staff also have a plethora of discounts available to them on fitness, entertainment, restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, and online retailers.

Health and Fitness

We have a fantastic range of sports and fitness programmes across three of the best sports facilities in the city of Manchester. Each of our facilities provides something for everyone and are in convenient locations across Oxford Road, Fallowfield and all the way into the City Centre. Staff have a discounted membership to these facilities.

Wellbeing

The Institute is committed to supporting staff wellbeing and have a range of resources available. This includes a free 24/7 helpline through our Employee Assistance Programme which allows staff to talk in confidence to trained counsellors and advisers on areas like emotional, physical, and mental health.

The University's counselling service offers confidential help with any personal issues affecting work, self-esteem, relationships, sexuality, mental health and general well-being. It is accessible to all staff and is part of a wider network of help and support; and can advise on where else to seek help and make referrals to NHS mental health services.

The University's Occupational Health service provides confidential services to protect the health of staff and ensures that all health issues are effectively managed. Additionally, the Institute has wellbeing working groups and employee champions to support staff.

We offer a generous annual leave allowance of 32 days per year, (pro rata for part time staff) plus bank holidays for England. The Institute gifts an additional day's leave on Christmas Eve.

Travel

The Institute is committed to reducing its environmental impact and actively supports and promotes travel by sustainable means. We work closely with The Christie NHS Foundation Hospital to have a green travel plan that aims to provide a package of measures that increase the travel options available to staff. These options include as a Cycle to Work Scheme and annual interest-free travel loans with Northern Rail, Stagecoach and Metrolink.



Family Friendly Support

If you have childcare responsibilities the Institute can provide you with a range of support to assist you in balancing your work and home life commitments. Information is available on the government's Tax Free Childcare Scheme and The University's Workplace Nursery Scheme. We also have a range of family friendly policies and staff have the right to request to work flexibly.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

The Institute is committed to creating an environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone is treated fairly, regardless of gender, gender identity, disability, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marital or transgender status, age, or nationality. The Institute has an EDI committee which provides leadership, drive and strategic direction on equality, diversity, and inclusion across all parts of the Institute. The committee will seek to promote cultural change and ensure that the EDI action plan is embedded across all functions of the Institute.

Personal Development

Whether you are a research scientist, technical or operational staff, you will receive excellent on the job training and an opportunity to share skills experience and expertise in a collaborative environment. The Institute has a range of training available for support and professional development.

Disability

The Institute is committed to providing a positive working environment free from discrimination, harassment, or victimisation due to a disability where all staff are treated with respect and dignity. The Institute has access to a Disability Advisory and Support Service (DASS) which has a dedicated disability adviser for staff to provide advice, guidance and support about a range of practical adjustments in the workplace.

Pension

We have two generous pension schemes to provide benefits for you and your family. For more details, please contact the HR department.





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ADDITIONAL RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION PARTICULARS

Shortlisted Candidates:

1. We will reimburse reasonable travel expenses. You need to retain all your receipts, as you will need to submit these with your expense claim form. This form will be given to you when you attend your interview.
2. If candidates require accommodation the Institute can arrange this for you. Please notify the HR Department as soon as possible so that this can be arranged on:
Tel: +44 (0) 161 306 9752 or
Email: jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk.

*Please note that reimbursement for accommodation may **not** apply.*

3. If candidates have any additional support needs to enable them to attend an interview, they will be able to request/discuss this with the HR department when arranging the interview.
4. Shortlisted candidates may be expected to complete a presentation as part of the selection process. Information regarding the duration and title of the presentation will be provided in the invitation to interview correspondence. We supply both laptop and projector for presentations.
5. All dates and times stated in correspondence from the Institute refer to UK GMT (Greenwich Mean Time).
6. Candidates need to bring along their passport to interview, a copy of which will be taken for our records, when you visit the Institute. If candidates have difficulty in producing their passport, please contact the HR Department prior to the interview on:
Tel: +44 (0) 161 306 9752 or
Email: jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk
7. MS Teams or **Zoom interview with or without presentation:**
Instances may arise where we propose to hold an online interview as a (first stage) selection process. If this is the preferred method of interview, this will be



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stated on your invite to interview email. You will be provided with a link and password to attend the interview at a specified time on a specified date. This link will redirect you to your MS Teams/Zoom interview. 24 hours prior to interview we will require:

- A contact telephone number emailed to jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk along with a scanned copy of passport for ID purposes
- Where applicable, a copy of your presentation emailed to: jobs@cruk.manchester.ac.uk.

Please note:

You do not have to have a Zoom account to attend a Zoom interview. You will be prompted to download the software, once you have clicked on the link that you have been provided. You do, however, need to have a working microphone and camera connected to your electronic device, for this interview to go ahead.

The criteria will be consistent with all other candidates.





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STANDARD CRUK MANCHESTER INSTITUTE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following is a basic summary of the standard terms and conditions applicable to the post you have applied for:

- The post of Postdoctoral Scientist is on a Cancer Research UK pay scale. It's on a Postdoctoral Scientist grade with a salary range of £37,000 – £44,852 per annum (dependent upon experience).

Individuals' pending their formal PhD qualification will be placed on a salary of £35,500 per annum. Once their PhD has been awarded, the individual will revert to the appropriate Postdoctoral Scientist salary (once evidence has been provided to the Institute's Human Resources Department).

- Your employment will be with The University of Manchester appointed under the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute terms and conditions.
- Salary is paid monthly on the penultimate last working day of the month.
- There are 32 days holiday per year plus Bank Holidays for England.
- Duration of contract is fixed term until 28 February 2027 (in the first instance).
- Working hours are 35 hours per week.
- There is a probationary period attached to this post of 8 months. It's standard for many organisations now and consists of two 4-monthly reviews with your line manager.
- You are eligible to join USS (<https://www.uss.co.uk/>) pension scheme.
- You will be eligible to claim relocation expenses in accordance with the criteria listed in the Institute's Relocation Policy.
- Any offer made by the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute would require the successful candidate to undergo a medical clearance. This is arranged with Occupational Health department at The University of Manchester prior to starting employment and consists of a basic medical. This is to address and gain clearance for any potential hazards identified for the role on offer.



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- Offer is subject to receipt of satisfactory references and proof of your highest qualification.
- Offer is subject to documented evidence of your right to work in the UK under the Home Office UK Border Agency Regulations.
- Overseas candidates should determine, when applying for the position, the likelihood of obtaining a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) for the post by assessing their own circumstances against the criteria specified on the [gov.uk website](https://www.gov.uk)
- Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) for this role is: 2119.
- Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) Research subject code is CAH03-01-08 – Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry.
- Successful overseas candidates will be eligible to claim reimbursement of expenses to cover their visa and National Health Surcharge costs, if required.

Please note reimbursement does not extend to include family members, although a loan scheme is available.

- The appointment will be subject to a satisfactory pre-employment enhanced security check.
- The successful candidate is required to complete a Rehabilitation of Offenders/Criminal Records declaration form at the offer stage of the process. *Please note a criminal record will not necessarily be a bar to obtaining a position.*
- The Institute is promoting a green travel plan and there are staff benefits promoting this including a cycle to work scheme and the use of public transport. There are strong links to bus routes and trains to all CRUK Manchester Institute locations. More information about this can be found on our 'Our Benefits Package' page or by contacting the HR Department.

Please note there are car parking restrictions imposed around these sites.



**DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL
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#LifeAtCRUKMI



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**THANK
YOU!**



Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute is a Research Institute within
The University of Manchester and is core funded by Cancer Research UK