Senior Clinical Embryologist
School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

Closing date: 5 August 2019
Interview date: 28 August 2019
Reference number: ARU012A
Introduction

The Aberdeen Fertility Centre provides IVF/ICSI, and frozen embryo transfer treatment and also has an extensive egg and sperm donation programme. The Centre has been providing patients in Grampian, Highland, Orkney and Shetland with a full range of fertility services for over 25 years. The Centre has been involved in many notable Scottish achievements (first live birth following IVF treatment, first egg donation live birth, first frozen embryo live birth, first ICSI live birth, first live birth following surgical sperm retrieval and first ISO certified unit in Scotland).

The advertised post therefore affords the successful candidate the opportunity to join a clinic with a long-standing history of excellence in both clinical services and research.
Job description

Main purpose of the role:
To contribute to the strategic direction of the Aberdeen Fertility Centre (AFC) Embryology and Andrology Laboratories, provide scientific support to the team and provide clinical embryology and andrology services within the legislation of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology (HFE) Act and the HFE Authority Code of Practice, whilst maintaining professional registration with the Association of Clinical Embryologists.

Key responsibilities:
Senior Clinical Embryologist

- To provide a clinical embryology service within the AFC for the treatment of patients with fertility problems ensuring safe and responsible handling and identification of gametes and embryos.
- To maintain accurate confidential laboratory and patient records including entering clinical data into a specialist database and to perform audits of all aspects of the service and undertake data analysis.
- To use expertise and knowledge and take responsibility for making decisions daily, of a complex, non-routine nature, which affect the outcome of clinical treatment.
- Communicate daily with patients conveying complicated information regarding their treatment in an easily understood format and obtaining informed consent for the use and storage of gametes and embryos.
- Liaise with a multi-disciplinary team, external professional bodies and other healthcare providers regarding all aspects of patient care and treatment.
- Take a leadership role in specific training tasks and support the needs of team members to meet standards set in the Centre.
- To work with the quality manager to ensure the ongoing development of the QMS and ensure appropriate Standard Operating Procedures are in place.
- To provide evidence to validate laboratory processes and Standard Operating Procedures by continually monitoring outcomes and participating in internal audits with Quality team.
- Take a supervisory or leadership role as delegated by the Lab/Deputy manager.
- To take an active role in maintaining the donor programme.
- Support ongoing research and take a leadership role in research projects, analysing data and presenting results at scientific meetings.

At a glance

Salary: £40,792 - £48,676 per annum

Hours of work: Full-time (37.5 hours per week)

Contract type: Substantive
Candidate background

Applicants must have current registration with the HCPC as a clinical scientist (Embryology), and have a life science degree and a PhD ideally with clinical and research experience. Laboratory experience must include ICSI and cryopreservation techniques including vitrification.

The post holder will also be expected to keep abreast of recent scientific and other developments in assisted reproduction techniques, including any new legislation that may affect laboratory operation, and ensure compliance with new legislation.

Active research programmes exist in reproductive medicine and as such you should have a demonstrable interest in research. All research will comply with Aberdeen University Guidelines on Research Governance.

Terms of appointment

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the salary scale (£40,792 - £48,676 per annum) and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and a 12 month probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

This post does not meet the minimum requirements as issued by UK Visas & Immigration (UKVI) to qualify for an employer-sponsored visa. We are therefore unable to consider applications from candidates for this post who require sponsorship to work in the UK.

Relocating to a new area can be a daunting experience for any new member of staff. To help you with relocating to Aberdeen to take up your new appointment, we have compiled information which we hope will help you to get started with some of the essentials when taking up your new post. The University will also reimburse relocation costs to a maximum of £8,000 for qualifying purposes. For more information, please visit: https://www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs/aberdeen-life/practical-information-112.php
# Person specification

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<th><strong>Education/Qualifications</strong></th>
<th><strong>Essential</strong></th>
<th><strong>Desirable</strong></th>
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| Academic, technical and professional education and training | - Association of Clinical Embryologists Certificate/Diploma (or equivalent experience).  
- HCPC registration as a clinical scientist (Embryology)  
- Several years of clinical experience after HCPC registration  
- PhD | - Research experience |

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<th><strong>Work and Other relevant experience (including training)</strong></th>
<th><strong>Essential</strong></th>
<th><strong>Desirable</strong></th>
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| eg Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research | - ICSI practitioner.  
- Cryopreservation including Vitrification experience.  
- Supervisory experience | |

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<th><strong>Personal qualities and abilities</strong></th>
<th><strong>Essential</strong></th>
<th><strong>Desirable</strong></th>
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| eg initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills | - Excellent communication skills, both written and oral.  
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.  
- Good Interpersonal and organisational skills  
- Able to maintain accurate records of work undertaken  
- Ability to work to a high level and unsupervised | - Experience in leadership role |

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<th><strong>Other</strong></th>
<th><strong>Essential</strong></th>
<th><strong>Desirable</strong></th>
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<td>eg special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.</td>
<td>- Flexible working pattern which includes weekends. Rota of 1:4 and on call for one week in four.</td>
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The University

Founded in 1495, Aberdeen is Scotland’s third oldest University and the fifth oldest in the UK. Ranked within the world top 140 in the recent QS global league table, Aberdeen is the ‘global University of the north’.

Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, which puts students at the head of everything it does. It has significant academic strengths and potential across a wide variety of disciplines. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas across the entire research spectrum, Aberdeen has also been credited for its international reach and its commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies.

The University has over 14,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 120 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges, inspires and helps every individual to reach their full potential.

The University combines a distinguished heritage with a forward looking attitude. In the past few years, the University has encouraged creativity in its academic staff, broken new ground with an innovative curriculum, and developed state-of-the-art facilities including the new Sir Duncan Rice Library and the Aberdeen Sports Village and Aquatics Centre. In looking to the future, the University seeks to enhance its reputation as one of the world’s leading Universities by moving forward with ever more ground breaking research; ensuring students have an intellectual and social experience second to none; and capitalising upon the dual role as one of the major institutions of the north and as a cornerstone of regional economic and cultural life.
The School was expanded in 2015 to include all of the disciplines that underpin today’s medicine and biomedical sciences and these are organised into four Institutes, the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS), the Rowett Institute and the Institute of Education in Medical and Dental Sciences (IEMDS) comprising all of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and our own graduate entry Dental School. Information can be found at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmsn/index.php

We are fortunate that all of these institutes have their own buildings built in the last ten years in close proximity on the Foresterhill site, the largest single site medical complex in Europe, adjacent to the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Maternity and Children’s hospitals. This allows close collaboration with clinical colleagues and a joined up approach, so that work in the laboratory can be developed for eventual patient benefit and, through health services projects, the effectiveness of the treatments and interventions can be measured.

The most recent building to open on the site is the Rowett Institute, occupied in March 2016, whose staff undertakes nutrition research to help improve people’s lives through the prevention of ill-health and disease. Their new £40M building has provided the University of Aberdeen with a facility with unique capabilities for human nutrition and metabolic research. Within the IMS, our scientists are working towards the creation of effective therapies for patients with a range of debilitating and life-threatening conditions. Current research areas include: arthritis and musculoskeletal medicine; cell developmental and cancer biology; immunity, infection and inflammation; metabolic and cardiovascular health; microbiology and translational neuroscience.

Within the IAHS, research is focussed on improving health and health care delivery. It is home to a multidisciplinary grouping of around 100 university academic staff who conduct population and clinically-orientated health research and hosts the Health Services Research Unit (HSRU) and Health Economics Research Unit (HERU), both funded by the Chief Scientist’s Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government.

As well as being the organisational home to the teaching scholarship staff and responsible for oversight of the UG and PGT programmes offered by the School, the IEMDS promotes and supports excellence in medical education through research and development, with a focus on conceptually and theoretically robust research and development which has strong potential for reaching international recognition.

We also have a number of specialist Centres, most notably the Medical Research Council Centre for Medical Mycology, led by Professor Gordon Brown, which is a world-leading centre tackling the global death toll from fungal disease.
The city and the region

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

Aberdeen is world renowned as the oil capital of Europe and the region is both the agricultural heartland of Scotland and a hub of the food and drink industry.

With the population approaching 230,000, Aberdeen is big enough to provide all the advantages of city life, yet compact enough to enjoy the more intimate atmosphere usually associated with small towns.

Aberdeenshire is one of Scotland’s most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire cater for a wide range of tastes in sporting and cultural activities.

To find out more about Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire go to www.VisitScotland.com

How to apply

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is 5 August 2019

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Mrs Alison McTavish, 01224 554482, a.r.mctavish@abdn.ac.uk
Or
Dr Elizabeth Ferguson, 01224 551973, e.ferguson@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Mrs McTavish Or Dr Ferguson.

Please quote reference number ARU012A on all correspondence

The University pursues a policy of equal opportunities in the appointment and promotion of staff.