Chair and Reader in Neural Regeneration and Repair
Institute of Medical Sciences
School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

Closing date: 22 October 2019
Interview date: 11 November 2019
Reference number: IMS179A
Introduction

Chair and Reader in Neural Regeneration and Repair

We are seeking to appoint two senior staff at Chair/Reader level in the area of neural generation, regeneration and repair, with a track record of high-impact published research, ability to provide leadership in innovation and collaboration across the medical sciences, and current competitively won grant income. The successful appointees will have the capacity to synergise with several existing areas of research interest across the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition, and be able to evidence a record of multidisciplinary approaches and collaboration.

The successful candidate will be based within the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) (http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/), where we have internationally recognised strengths through research in microbial host-pathogen interactions, antimicrobial resistance, immunology, regenerative medicine in musculo-skeletal science and arthritis, cardiovascular and metabolic health, cell and developmental biology, genome biology and cancer, and translational neuroscience including neurodegeneration.

Located adjacent to the IMS on the health science campus, the Rowett Institute has internationally recognised strengths in obesity and metabolic health, gut health including immunology and the microbiome, life course and population health. The appointee will be able to demonstrate an ability and potential to apply their research at the interface with one or more of these areas of strength and focus across the IMS and Rowett.

The IMS https://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/ provides modern laboratory space with access to excellent Core Facilities (next-generation sequencing, imaging, cytometry, proteomics and analytical chemistry) and a modern animal facility to support outstanding research. Located on one of the largest integrated healthcare campuses in Europe and adjacent to a large teaching hospital and associated specialist academic and clinical facilities, the IMS is an ideal base from which to carry out translational research. The appointees to these positions will benefit from the staffing and infrastructure associated with the IMS and will be ideally positioned to collaborate with colleagues from the NHS and from our world-leading Institute of Applied Health Sciences.

The Foresterhill health sciences campus is planning a major expansion of its already significant knowledge transfer incubator space, with a new Bio-Therapeutics Hub for Innovation, funded by the Aberdeen City Region Deal and led by the development body Opportunity North East. These facilities will be attractive to candidates with interests in knowledge transfer and commercialisation of their research.

The appointees will bring expertise and innovation to create bridges across our internationally renowned laboratory-based discovery science in the IMS and the Rowett Institute, and the world-leading population studies in the Institute of Applied Health Sciences.

Collaborations with colleagues in NHS Grampian are made easier by being on the same healthcare site. These clinical links provide significant depth to our research and ensures patient-centred relevance and clinical translation through the state-of-the art clinical research facilities.

An attractive package, commensurate with appointment grade, is available.
Main purpose of the role:

To complement our current research strengths in neural development, degeneration and repair, we wish to recruit two individuals at Chair/Reader level with well-established international track records in studying neuronal regeneration and repair.

Applicants should have a well-established international research profile, a sustained record of recent high-quality publications and obtaining major grant funding, a strong REF submission and ability to generate new grant income. Growth in grant income to come through continuation of ongoing activities by the individuals as well as establishment of new collaborations across the school.

A contribution to the research-led teaching portfolio within the School is required and candidates should demonstrate a capacity to deliver excellence in education at undergraduate and postgraduate levels evidenced by previous experience in teaching delivery.

Appointment to the Reader post will include creating and leading a new MSc in Neuroscience. Our BSc in Neuroscience is one of the School’s largest and most successful undergraduate programmes and we wish to build on this by adding a new MSc to our existing portfolio that includes Cardiovascular Science and Diabetes, Microbiology, Industrial Biotechnology, Molecular Medicine, Immunology and Immunotherapy, Biotechnology, Bioinformatics and Bio-business.

Public engagement with research is embedded within the IMS and appointees will be expected to contribute and expand the current portfolio. A part-time flexible appointment will be considered.

Key responsibilities:

Chair/Reader in Neural Regeneration and Repair

- Take to Aberdeen or build here a research group with an international reputation.
- Publish research in high quality, high impact journals.
- Win external, peer reviewed grants.
- Provide research leadership to own research group, and collaborate across the School portfolio of research.
- Act as supervisor to research students and undertake UG and PG teaching as required.
- Establish links with colleagues in the IMS, the Rowett Institute and across the School.
- Establish links with NHS clinicians to promote new research collaborations
- Build other external research collaborations
- Carry out public engagement, contribute to the scholarly reputation internally and externally of the University.
- Plan, design, develop and deliver teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels as appropriate.
- The chair post in particular will contribute to management and strategic development of the Institute of Medical Sciences.

At a glance

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<th>Salary:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reader: Grade 8 (£52,559 - £59,135 per annum)</td>
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<td>Chair: Grade 9 (competitive)</td>
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<th>Hours of work:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full-Time (37.5 hours per week)</td>
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<th>Contract type:</th>
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<td>Substantive</td>
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Candidate background

We seek outstanding research scientists working at international level who wish to relocate their research programme to the collaborative and vibrant environment of the IMS

The vision for these posts is to welcome into the IMS two appointees who use a multidisciplinary approach that spans across all of the IMS Research Programmes – Translational Neuroscience (Dementia and Neurodegeneration; spinal cord repair; Nutrition, ageing and brain health; Neuroimaging); Molecular Medicine (Regenerative Medicine, Tissue engineering; Stem Cells; Developmental Neuroscience); Infection and Immunity (Immune system activation) and Systems Physiology (Genetic and environmental factors in embryogenesis).

These appointments are intended to strengthen medical biosciences research and teaching, bring new ideas and collaborations through interdisciplinary working across our core research areas including host-pathogen interactions, metabolic health, diabetes, obesity, cardio-vascular research, neuroscience and regenerative medicine.

Candidates must have an international research profile with a proven ability to attract funding from Research Councils and Charities, to regularly publish high-impact papers in quality journals, make collaborative research links across disciplines and evidence research excellence and leadership commensurate with their stage of career. Experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level including research student supervision and a commitment to interdisciplinary working and innovation are required. Commercial experience is desirable.

Terms of appointment

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Professorial and Grade 8 salary scale and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and a 3 year 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.
## Person specification

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<th>Education/Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic, technical and professional education and training</td>
<td>• PhD in a medical or biological science</td>
<td>• A Higher Education teaching qualification commensurate with stage of career</td>
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<th>Work and Other relevant experience (including training)</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>eg Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research</td>
<td>• International research experience and profile in Neural Development, Regeneration and Repair</td>
<td>• Evidence of industrial partnership</td>
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<td>• An established reputation in field of research commensurate with career stage</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• A record in attracting research funding from Research Councils, Charities, industry and other sources</td>
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<td>• Ability to make collaborative research links including with NHS colleagues</td>
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<td>• Ability to provide research leadership and to develop excellence in own research team</td>
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<td>• Evidence of research output in the form of high-quality peer reviewed publications</td>
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<td>• Experience of teaching Undergraduate and Postgraduate students</td>
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<td>• Experience of supervision of higher degrees</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• For Reader, ability to design and deliver a new MSc in Neuroscience that fits with the existing School portfolio</td>
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<td>• For Chair, evidence of providing leadership in research and more widely</td>
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<th>Personal qualities and abilities</th>
<th>Essential</th>
<th>Desirable</th>
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<td>eg initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills</td>
<td>• Evidence of research innovation.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Have a high level of analytical capability and an enquiring, critical approach to work</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Strong teaching record</td>
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- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills with the ability to interact constructively with a wide range of colleagues
- Proven organisational abilities, including evidence of effective time-management and negotiating skills.
- Ability to work as part of a team as well as on own
- Ability to think creatively and innovatively and impart enthusiasm for subject

Other
eg special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.
The University

Founded in 1495, Aberdeen is Scotland’s third oldest University and the fifth oldest in the UK. Ranked within the world top 160 in the recent Times Higher Education Rankings 2019 and named Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, Aberdeen is ‘open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others’, the ‘global University of the north’, and has been named Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019.

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 130 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 (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmssn/index.php) encompasses all of the disciplines that underpin today’s medicine, including biomedical sciences, health sciences, nutrition and medical, medical science and dental education and these are organised into five Institutes. The largest school in the University, the SMMSN has five Institutes: the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS), the Rowett Institute, the Institute of Education in Medical, Dental Sciences (IEMDS), and the Institute of Dentistry, comprising all of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and our own graduate entry Dental School.

Staff are line managed and research opportunities are supported through our institutes which work together in an integrated and coordinated way to deliver research and teaching across the School, details of which can be found on their websites as below.

- The Institute of Medical Sciences http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/
- The Rowett Institute http://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett/
- The Institute of Applied Health Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/
- The Institute of Education for Medical and Dental Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iemds/
- The Institute of Dentistry https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/

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 focused 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.

The Dental Institute runs an undergraduate BDS programme and a growing suite of master’s programmes for professional development.

We have a number of specialist Centres representing areas of particular research strength and capacity within the School all of which are willing to support colleagues on projects in their areas. More information is available at the following websites.

- The Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acdc/)
- The Centre for Health Data Science (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/achds/)
- The Aberdeen Cardiovascular & Diabetes Centre (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acdc/)
- The Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acamh/)
The School is home to over 800 staff and 2000 fte students. It is located on the Foresterhill site, shared with our main clinical partner, NHS Grampian, with whom we work in close collaboration at primary and secondary care levels. This is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery, training and research sites in Europe and has rich assets including state-of-the-art academic (research and teaching) and clinical buildings. Excellent infrastructure is also provided through core facilities for biomedical science including flow cytometry, proteomics, microscopy and genome sequencing, support for data health science projects and clinical trials.

The last major academic capital development was the opening of 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. Currently, the NHSG is carrying out an exciting £164 million building development creating The Baird Family Hospital and The Aberdeen and North Centre for Haematology, Oncology and Radiotherapy (ANCHOR) Centre Project, scheduled for completion in 2021.
The city and the region

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

Aberdeen is world renowned for the key part it plays in Europe’s energy industry 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.visitabdn.com
How to apply

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

The closing date for receipt of applications is 22 October 2019

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya, Head of School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition
s.bhattacharya@abdn.ac.uk
01224 439765

or

Professor Paul Fowler, Director of the Institute of Medical Sciences
p.a.fowler@abdn.ac.uk
01224 437086

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Professors Bhattacharya or Fowler.

Please quote reference number IMS179A on all correspondence

The School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition welcomes a diverse working environment and recognises the benefits this can bring. The School is keen to receive applications from individuals from across all of the equality protected characteristics (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, sexual orientation, religion/belief, pregnancy/maternity, marriage/civil partnership).

The University supports opportunities for flexible working for a range of reasons and has policies in place to facilitate this. The policies can be found here:

https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php

The University’s commitment to gender equality has been recognised through the achievement of an Athena SWAN Bronze award. The University is also a Stonewall Diversity Champion to further LGBT equality and a Disability Committed Employer recognising our commitment to supporting disabled staff and students.

https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277.php