



Job Description Sonraí Poist

College Management Unit:	UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences
School Unit:	UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science
Post Title & Subject Area: (if relevant)	UCD Post-doctoral Research Fellow Level 1
Project:	POI2 Precision Nutrition, Obesity and Cancer
Post Duration:	Temporary 3 Years
Salary Scale:	€47,273 - €53,925
Line Manager:	Helen Roche
Competition Ref. N°:	020059
HR Administrator:	Arianna Eady
For Applications and Closing Date:	https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/jobs/
Eligible for Work Permit:	YES

Position Summary:

Applications are invited for a very dynamic post-doctoral scientist to lead our Precision Nutrition, Obesity and Cancer Project within the **Precision Oncology Ireland Programme** (POI; <https://www.precisiononcology.ie/>) with Prof Helen Roche's Nutrigenomics Team at UCD Conway Institute <https://people.ucd.ie/helen.roche>; in collaboration with Dr Martina Wallace and Dr Fiona McGillicuddy. POI, now in its second phase POI2, is a pioneering Irish consortium that brings together Irish universities, cancer charities, industry partners and healthcare providers to advance personalised cancer treatment.

Obesity is a significant risk factor for many cancers. Our **Precision Nutrition, Obesity and Cancer Project** seeks to investigate if / how obesity related nutritional status and incretin biology may interact to attenuate the risk of obesity related cancer(s). We are specifically interested in the role of innate immune function in anti-tumor immunity with a view to enhancing our understanding of potential preventative strategies. This project will build on recent insights relating to the impact of different dietary elements on cellular metabolism and inflammation, particularly focusing on myeloid function within the tumor microenvironment in obesity related cancers. Incretin biology may provide an opportunity to prevent obesity, however the direct versus indirect impact of incretins on obesity related innate immune function, specifically anti-tumor immunity, and the tumor microenvironment is largely unknown.

The programme of work will determine whether incretins can attenuate diet-induced metabolic dysfunction associated with obesity to restore anti-tumour immunity.

Specific knowledge in relation to innate immune biology and obesity related cancer biology is essential. A blend of in vitro, ex vivo and in vivo experiments will be completed to define the interactions between obesogenic diets and incretins on cancer risk. The intention is to extend our knowledge underpinning the immuno-metabolic phenotypes of obesity related cancer risk, combining deep cellular phenotyping with extensive systems biology perspectives to underpin precision nutrition and personalised cancer prevention. Specific expertise in ex vivo immune cell characterisation and tumour microenvironment biology, flow cytometry, cellular metabolism, deep immuno-phenotyping, single cell RNAseq and proteomics is required.

This is a research focused role, where you will conduct a specified programme of research supported by research training and development under the supervision and direction of a Principal Investigator.

The primary purpose of the role is to further develop your research skills and competences, including the processes of publication in peer-reviewed academic publications, the development of funding proposals, the mentorship of graduate students along with the opportunity to develop your skills in research led teaching.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct a specified programme of research and scholarship under the supervision and direction of your Principal Investigator.
- Engage in appropriate training and professional development opportunities as required by your Principal Investigator, your School or Institute, or the University.
- Engage in the dissemination of the results of the research in which you are engaged as directed by and with the support of and under the supervision of your Principal Investigator.
- Engage in the wider research and scholarly activities of your research group, School and Institute.
- Mentor and assist, as appropriate and as directed, the research graduate students in your group, School and Institute.
- Carry out administrative work associated with your programme of research.

Salary Range: €47,273 - €53,925 Per Annum

Appointment on the above range will be dependent on qualifications and experience

Details on eligibility to compete and pension information is available at

<https://www.ucd.ie/hr/resourcing/eligibilitytocompete/>

About University College Dublin

University College Dublin (UCD) is one of Europe's leading research-intensive universities and Ireland's largest university, with a vibrant community of over 39,000 students and 4,000 staff from more than 152 countries. UCD combines a rich academic heritage with a global outlook, fostering innovation, creativity, and excellence across teaching, research, and public engagement.

Situated on a beautiful, parkland campus at Belfield, UCD offers a dynamic and inclusive environment where ideas flourish and collaboration thrives. As a world top-1% university, UCD is recognised for its impact on society - from groundbreaking research and sustainable innovation to nurturing future leaders across all disciplines.

Joining UCD means becoming part of a community that values excellence, integrity, diversity, and collaboration. Staff enjoy exceptional professional development opportunities, a supportive and flexible working culture, and the chance to contribute to meaningful work that shapes the future locally and globally.

UCD is committed to creating an inclusive environment where diversity is celebrated and everyone is afforded equality of opportunity. We welcome applications from applicants from all backgrounds, including those who identify with any of the protected characteristics that are set out in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy. Learn more about Diversity at <https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/diversity/>

Reasonable accommodations will be provided to any applicant during the interview process who discloses they have a disability or are neurodiverse.



Benefits of Working at University College Dublin

Working at University College Dublin offers a wide range of benefits designed to support staff wellbeing, professional growth, and work-life balance. Employees enjoy flexible and family-friendly working arrangements, including hybrid work options, job sharing, and generous leave policies. UCD provides a strong pension scheme, income protection, and travel-related savings such as tax-efficient commuter and cycle-to-work plans. Staff have access to professional development opportunities through LinkedIn Learning, study leave, and structured career progression frameworks. The university fosters an inclusive and supportive community, offering wellbeing programs and employee assistance services, while the Belfield campus provides excellent facilities, discounts, and sports amenities. Overall, UCD promotes a positive, balanced, and development-focused working environment.

More details can be found here: [Benefits - Work at UCD](#)

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria outline the qualifications, skills, knowledge and/or experience that the successful candidate would need to demonstrate for successful discharge of the responsibilities of the post. Applications will be assessed on the basis of how well candidates satisfy these criteria.

Mandatory:

- PhD in Immunology, Cancer Biology and/or related discipline
- Innate immune biology expertise, ideally within the obesity related cancer realm.
- A demonstrated commitment to research and publications
- An understanding of the operational requirements for a successful research project
- Evidence of research activity (publications, conference presentations, awards) and future scholarly output (working papers, research proposals, and ability to outline a research project).
- Excellent Communication Skills (Oral, Written , Presentation etc).
- Excellent Organisational and Administrative skills including a proven ability to work to deadlines.
- Candidates must demonstrate an awareness of equality, diversity and inclusion agenda.

The PD1 position is intended for early stage researchers, either just after completion of a PhD or for someone entering a new area for the first time. If you have already completed your PD1 stage in UCD or will soon complete a PD1, or you are an external applicant whose total Postdoctoral experience, inclusive of the duration of the advertised post, would exceed 4 years, you should not apply and should refer to PD2 posts instead.

Desirable:

- Experience in setting own research agenda

Supplementary information:

The University:	https://www.ucd.ie/
UCD Strategy 2030: Breaking Boundaries	https://strategy.ucd.ie/
The College/Management Unit:	https://www.ucd.ie/chas/
The School/Programme Office/Unit:	https://www.ucd.ie/phpss/
Equality Diversity and Inclusion at UCD	https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/diversity/
Moving to Ireland Guidelines	https://www.ucd.ie/workatucd/locationculture/movingtoireland/

UCD offers a comprehensive **Research Careers Framework** in line with the Advisory Science Council Report '*Towards a Framework for Researcher Careers*'. This model provides a structured and supportive **Career and Skills Development** system designed to ensure that Post-docs in UCD are able to plan their careers and prepare for future opportunities in academia, industry or the public sector. For more information, please [click here](#)

Informal Enquiries ONLY to:

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