

TrIFIC 3

Antigen specific immune responses in Cystic Fibrosis Aspergillus related lung disease

Applications are invited for a Cystic Fibrosis Trust funded 3-year PhD studentship. This studentship is integral to a major Strategic Research Centre in Fungal Immunotherapy (TrIFIC) made to Imperial College London collaborating with the University of Manchester, University of Exeter, University of Massachusetts and Radboud University Nijmegen. The overall aim of the SRC is to systematically define the underlying mechanisms of inflammation in pulmonary aspergillosis in the context of cystic fibrosis. This will enable development of immuno-diagnostic tests to identify which patients will benefit from targeted immunotherapies that can be repurposed in CF-related fungal disease.

We are seeking a highly motivated student to join the group led by Dr Peter Kelleher in the Centre for Immunology and Vaccinology within the Faculty of Medicine at the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital Campus in collaboration with Dr Anand Shah, National Heart and Lung Institute Royal Brompton Campus and the Department of Respiratory Medicine at the Royal Brompton Hospital.

Protective immune responses to fungal pathogens are not well understood. Preliminary studies in the laboratory have shown that patients with Cystic Fibrosis (CF) have defective Th1/Th17 cytokine responses to fungal antigens. In some patients IFNG therapy has resulted in improved clinical outcomes. The aim of the project is to define the cellular basis of cytokine defects to fungal, bacterial and viral stimuli in patients with CF related lung disease and appropriate matched disease controls using to state-of-the-art flow cytometric and ELISPOT technologies.

Dr Peter Kelleher (<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/people/p.kelleher>) and Dr Anand Shah are the academic supervisors.

To apply: please send a single PDF document including a one-page cover letter discussing research interest and experiences, a two-page CV, a copy of transcripts, and contact information of two references to Dr Peter Kelleher (p.kelleher@imperial.ac.uk) with subject line "CF_PhD_App" before the **closing date of 31st July 2019**. Successful students will be expected to begin the PhD in October 2019.

The studentship is open to UK, EU and overseas nationals, includes payment of home/EU fees and a stipend for 3 years starting at £22,278 per annum in October 2019. Overseas students are expected to cover the difference between the home/EU and overseas fee.

Applicants must have a first or upper second-class BSc degree from a UK University, or the overseas equivalent, in a relevant area of immunology, microbiology, biochemistry or cell biology. A Master's degree in one of the above fields and/or experience in immunology would be advantageous.

Applicants are also required to meet Imperial College's English language requirements:

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/apply/requirements/english>