

## **Job Opportunity**

### **Role: Parasitologist Research Scientist**

Location: Glasgow, UK

Apply to: [recruitment@kelticpharmatherapeutics.com](mailto:recruitment@kelticpharmatherapeutics.com)

Closing Date: Dec 1st 2021

## **The Role**

We have an exciting new opportunity for a highly motivated Research Scientist to build their career in our Discovery Team based in Glasgow. The successful candidate will be responsible for completing *P. falciparum* culture assays to deliver robust data packages that characterise compounds and peptides. The role will provide opportunity to develop skills associated with running, developing and improving medium through-put parasite assays whilst establishing the applicant in a dynamic and diverse industry setting.

## **Primary Responsibilities and Duties**

- Generate robust and reproducible data in routine parasite sexual and asexual stage assays to enable efficient project progression
- Run medium throughput parasite assays to characterise the curative and transmission blocking potential of molecules and peptides
- Analyse data via electronic lab notebook or alternate data analysis software
- Record experiments accurately and diligently in electronic lab notebook and databases to facilitate efficient query, retrieval and decision making
- Interpret data and conclusions of independently conducted research
- Present interpreted data effectively in oral or written form to the team and external collaborators, including possible next steps to drive projects forward
- Work to existing standard operating procedures and risk assessments and contribute to generating new ones as appropriate

- To undertake ordering of project specific reagents and track usage to enable project progression
- Working as part of a team, ensure high quality, platform ready protein is available to the phage team

## Key Skills and Competencies

- A BSc and PhD in Biochemistry or a related discipline with a focus on biophysics, protein science, and molecular biology
- Extensive experience in *P. falciparum* blood stage cultures
- Strong interpersonal skills, confident and experienced in presenting data internally and externally
- Good computing skills in MS Office suite software
- Experience in using data analysis software packages, databases
- Diligent in documenting work and adherence to data integrity requirements

## Desirable Capabilities

- Experience with drug discovery projects and a robust understanding of the wider drug discovery process
- Industrial experience

## Why join Keltic Pharma Therapeutics?

- Be part of a new and exciting funded start up with founders who have extensive industrial experience and collaboration with biotech and pharma companies
- Use your experience and capabilities to make a difference
- State-of-the-art campus environment. The Advanced Research Centre will be a creative and collaborative heart of research at the University of Glasgow
- Competitive performance rewards including annual company bonus
- 25 days annual leave in addition to bank holidays
- Eligibility for an option grant to subscribe to shares in Keltic Pharma Therapeutics plc.

## The Company

Keltic Pharma Therapeutics is an innovative drug discovery company with headquarters located in Dublin and discovery activities located in Glasgow in the state-of-the-art Advanced Research Centre built at a cost of £113 million at Glasgow University. The ARC will be a creative and collaborative heart of

research at the University of Glasgow.

As well as providing collaboration facilities for the entire University research community, it will be home to academics working on global challenges across five broad themes: Creative Economies & Cultural Transformation, Digital Chemistry, International Development, Quantum and Nanotechnology, and Technologies Touching Life.

The Tobin laboratory at the University of Glasgow made a major scientific breakthrough with the discovery of PfCLK3 as a target in malaria: discovered that the essential malaria protein kinase, PfCLK3, which plays a key role in parasite RNA splicing, is a target that when inhibited results in the killing of Plasmodium falciparum blood and liver stage parasites and prevents development of sexual stages. PfCLK3 is a target with curative, prophylactic and transmission blocking potential. A drug discovery program has been established to rapidly advance potential new medicines to clinical testing.

Our aim is to deliver a first-in-class anti-malarial drug that will be curative, transmission blocking and prophylactic. The Founders of Keltic Pharma Therapeutics have decades of research experience in a class of cell surface receptor called G protein coupled receptors (GPCRs). This class of receptor are the world's most successful drug targets.

Keltic Pharma Therapeutics have invented a novel drug discovery platform called PEP-SMOL that is specifically designed to generate small drug-like molecule hits against shallow binding pockets. By deploying PEP-SMOL – will pursue drug discovery programs against high value GPCR targets that previously have been considered either 'hard to target' or even 'un-druggable'. Using this platform, the company is progressing an exciting portfolio to provide new medicines to address unmet medical need in a number of poorly treated diseases, these include severe asthma and neuropsychiatric disorders.

## The Team

The academic team based at the University of Glasgow together with the Business Team based in the headquarters in Dublin have the combined innovation, deep target knowledge and corporate drug discovery expertise to deliver new receptor-based medicines and a novel anti-malarial treatment.

### **Dr Elaine Sullivan – CEO**

Previously a member of the top senior R&D management teams in Lilly and AstraZeneca with a successful track record in science, investment, business development and start-ups. Co-founder of Carrick Therapeutics raised Series A of \$95 million. Established 14 new companies, including Tensha Therapeutics (acquired for circa \$500 million) via the Capital fund initiative of Lilly where she led Lilly's Global External R&D function. Accountable for the creation and management of Lilly's external

R&D portfolio. Holds external board positions with Evotec, IP Group, Active Biotech, and Open Orphan.

### **Prof Andrew Tobin - CSO**

Andrew Tobin is a leader in malaria biology and target validation (see; appendix I for grant funding). He has developed unique genetic approaches to defining the role and therapeutic potential of protein kinases in malaria. He has also a long-standing international reputation in the GPCR field particularly in the validation of receptor-targets that can treat memory loss in neurodegenerative disease. Prior to joining the University of Glasgow, Andrew led a group at the University of Leicester investigating GPCR biology and generated novel genetic/chemical genetic mouse models and used such mouse models to define the action of GPCR targeted drugs to modulate human diseases. He has a number of collaborations with Biotech and Pharmaceutical companies.

### **Andrew Jamieson - Chief Innovation Officer**

Andrew Jamieson is a Reader in Chemical Biology at the University of Glasgow. He has sixteen years' experience of peptide chemical biology and medicinal chemistry. He currently leads a research group, funded by EPSRC, BBSRC, MRC and DSTL, focused on peptides and peptidomimetics that can be used to probe the biological mechanisms underpinning disease.

### **Prof Graeme Milligan- Senior Research Advisor**

Prof Milligan is a leading expert on the molecular pharmacology of GPCRs with >550 publications in the field (h-index >91, >32,000 citations). He has received several awards including the Ariens Award for Pharmacology, and the Vane Medal for Pharmacology and is a Thompson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher. Graeme has extensive experience in working with industry (and in addition has licensed platform technologies developed in his group to GPCR-focused drug discovery companies Arena Pharmaceuticals (NASDAQ ARNA), Cara Therapeutics. He is a co-founder and director of the Calden Therapeutics. In addition, he has several collaborations with Biotech and large pharmaceutical companies.

**Keltic Pharma Therapeutics is committed to building a diverse workforce that is representative of the communities we serve. We recognize that diverse and inclusive teams build a stronger and more innovative company. Therefore, all qualified applicants will be considered for employment, and we do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, colour, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability status, marital status, or veteran status.**