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| **\*Title of studentship** | Investigating the role of USP17 in EMT |
| **Value / what is covered?**  |  |
| **Awarding body** |  |
| **Number of studentships** | 1 |
| **\*Summary descriptive text / Example of research project**  | USP17 is over-expressed in a range of primary tumours (NSCLC, breast, colorectal, cervical, ovarian, osteosarcoma) and its depletion blocks the growth, and migration, of cells from all of these cancer types. As a result, USP17 represents a potential therapeutic target in these cancers. Our lab has been working to explore the physiological function of USP17 to help us understand why it is important in these cancers, and how targeting this deubiquitinase will impact upon cancer and normal cells. We, and others, have shown that USP17 can impact upon molecules involved in epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT), a cellular program that can contribute to cancer progression, as well as to normal functions such as wound repair. Therefore, in this project we will further investigate the regulation of EMT by USP17 in both normal and cancer cells, to determine what this tells us about the normal function of USP17, and how this might contribute to cancer progression. The student will be part of a cross-disciplinary team based in the School of Pharmacy with Dr Burrows. The student will have the opportunity to learn a broad range of molecular and cell biology techniques. This project will also allow the student to gain skills in written and verbal scientific presentation skills. |
| **\*Supervisor(s)** |  Dr James Burrows |
| **\*Eligibility / residence Status** |  |
| **Country** | Northern Ireland |
| **\*Start date and duration**  | 1st October 2023 |
| **\*Faculty** | MHLS |
| **\*Research centre / School** | Pharmacy |
| **Subject area** | Proteases in Disease |
| **Candidate requirements / Key skills required for the post**  | Applicants should have a 1st or 2.1 honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject. Relevant subjects include Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biochemistry, Biological/Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering, or a closely related discipline. Students who have a 2.2 honours degree and a Master’s degree may also be considered, but the School reserves the right to shortlist for interview only those applicants who have demonstrated high academic attainment to date. |
| **\*Deadline for applications** | 30th January 2023 (DfE Applications) – Open year round for International applicants |
| **\*How to apply / contacts** | Postgraduate Research applicants must have applied to Queen’s, via the Direct Applications Portal.<https://dap.qub.ac.uk/portal/user/u_login.php>  |
| **Relevant links / more information**  | <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/PostgraduatePositions/><http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/> |
| **Keywords for search filters** | Protease, ubiquitin, deubiquitinase, USP17 |
| **Training provided through the research project** | The student will have the opportunity to learn a range of molecular biology, protein biochemistry and cell biology related techniques as well as developing transferable skills such as written and verbal scientific presentation skills. |
| **Expected impact activities** |  |