



## *School of Pharmacy PhD Projects 2014*

- Project Title** The role of USP17 in EGFR signaling and as a potential novel target for therapy in colorectal cancer
- Supervisors** Dr James Burrows, Dr Sandra Van Schaeybroeck
- Description** Recently, the introduction of therapies targeted against the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) has improved overall survival for patients with colorectal and Non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). However, the occurrence of resistance mechanisms, such as secondary EGFR mutations, has limited their success in the clinic and there is a clear need for the development of novel therapies for EGFR-dependent tumours.
- We have discovered that the deubiquitinating enzyme USP17 is crucial for EGFR internalisation and signaling. Hence, targeting USP17 may represent a novel treatment strategy for these EGFR dependent tumours which could potentially overcome these resistance mechanisms. Therefore this project will aim to further validate USP17 as a target in EGFR dependent tumours.
- The student will be part of a cross-disciplinary team based in the School of Pharmacy with Dr. J. Burrows and in the drug resistance group (CCRCB) with Dr. S. Van Schaeybroeck (CR-UK Clinician Scientist). Thus, the student will have the opportunity to learn a broad range of molecular/cell biology techniques.
- Start Date** September 2014
- Keywords** USP17, EGFR, Cancer

### **Contact Details**

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### **How to Apply**

Postgraduate applications should be made using Queen's Online:

<http://go.qub.ac.uk/pgapply>

Please note that there are two application processes: one for admission to the university and another for postgraduate awards.

### **Further Information**

Additional information for prospective postgraduate students can be found on the School of Pharmacy website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/pha>

and the Queen's Postgraduate website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/home/ProspectiveStudents/PostgraduateStudents/>