Postdoctoral Fellowship in Next-Generation RNA Therapeutics at UBC

The Michael Smith Laboratories at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, invites applications for **The Iris and George Brown Postdoctoral Fellow in Next-Generation RNA Therapeutics**.

The successful Postdoctoral Fellow (PDF) candidate will join a dynamic and multidisciplinary team under the supervision of Dr. Anna Blakney. The successful candidate will work on a project to develop self-amplifying RNA therapies encoding monoclonal antibodies. The Blakney Lab at UBC ([blakneylab.msl.ubc.ca](http://blakneylab.msl.ubc.ca)) develops next-generation RNA vaccines and therapies based on self-amplifying RNA and using interdisciplinary approaches including bioengineering, immunology, molecular biology and bioinformatics.

**Project:** Monoclonal antibodies are highly potent and specific biologic drugs that have revolutionized treatment of cancer and rare diseases. However, they generally require intravenous administration and are costly, which prohibits widespread global use for applications such as prevention of infectious disease. Our goal is to develop self-amplifying RNA formulations that are able to achieve systemic, therapeutically relevant levels of monoclonal antibodies that are able to be injected intramuscularly. We anticipate that this technology will expand global access to antibody therapies that are more equitable.

**Candidate:** We are hiring post-doctoral bioengineers with a background in antibody design, molecular biology, RNA gene therapies and/or biomaterials. Candidates must have a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering, chemical engineering, molecular biology, chemistry, or similar fields. The candidate must be able to work well on a team, even in situations where an opportunity is more exciting and time-sensitive than normal. We are seeking a creative individual with great interpersonal skills and excellent communication, both written and verbal.

**Opportunity:** This is a unique opportunity for several reasons. First, you will be a member of a fun, diverse and interdisciplinary group. Second, you will learn about RNA gene therapies. Third, you will be actively involved in projects that are intended for clinical translation. Finally, the University of British Columbia is located in Vancouver, which is world-renowned for its scenery and quality of living. UBC is a center of excellence for growing your career in nanomedicine and gene delivery technologies, and you will have opportunities to collaborate with world-class leaders in the field, such as the Cullis Laboratory, through the Nanomedicine Innovation Network.

**Application Process:** Interested applicants should submit a CV and cover letter that details their experience and contact details for 3 references. Applications should be submitted to anna.blakney@msl.ubc.ca with ‘PDF saRNA mAbs’ in the email subject line. Applicants for the position will be evaluated in the order they are received.

This posting will remain open until the position is filled. The proposed start date for this position is March 2022 and is negotiable. The appointment will initially be for one year and is extendable depending on funding availability. Applicants are encouraged to apply for competitive fellowship awards. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications, experience and awards secured.

*Equity and diversity are essential to academic excellence. An open and diverse community fosters the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented or discouraged. We encourage applications from members of groups that have been marginalized on any grounds enumerated under the B.C. Human Rights Act.*
Code, including sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, racialization, disability, political belief, religion, marital or family status, age, and/or status as a First Nation, Metis, Inuit, or Indigenous person.