



RCSI

**Research Lecturer
RCSI Strategic Academic
Recruitment (StAR) Programme**

Respiratory Diseases

CLOSING DATE: 16th September 2016

1. Job Description

Post Title – Research Lecturer – Respiratory Diseases

Reports to – Head of Department or nominee

Location - Dublin

Salary and package - The salary for these positions is €63,125 until the posts are tenured as permanent academic lectureships (3-5 years).

In addition, RCSI will make an investment of up to €150,000 in your research, including a 4 year PhD studentship and career development investment.

Term of office: Tenure track appointment up to 5 years (pending performance review). Applicants will receive a yearly progress review, and at the end of year 3, a major review will be undertaken to determine whether the position will be converted to a permanent post. The review will be overseen by a committee that is external to the Research Lecturer's academic department.

1.1. Respiratory Diseases

RCSI research in respiratory diseases focuses on cystic fibrosis (CF), alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD).

Major research interests include pulmonary innate immunity, airway fluid dynamics in Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, protease/anti protease interactions in the lung, signal transduction and gene regulation in bronchial epithelium, the role of the neutrophil in inflammatory lung disease, the role of estrogen and the CF gender gap, microRNA profiling in CF, pro-resolution and ion transport effects of lipoxins in CF, endoplasmic reticulum stress responses and anti-inflammatory and gene therapeutics.

A significant strength of RCSI research in respiratory diseases is its interactions with pharmaceutical companies interested in translational research. This synergy has led to clinical trials for emerging therapeutics for cystic fibrosis and alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency and medical devices for monitoring COPD.

To find out more about RCSI research please review:

https://www.rcsi.ie/files/research/docs/20141104024721_RCSI_Strategy_For_Excellence_1.pdf

2. Objective

The principal objective of the Research Lecturer post is to participate in the continued development of teaching and world-class research programmes at RCSI. These positions aim to support up-and-coming research leaders to establish world-leading research teams in RCSI. Candidates must already have demonstrated scientific excellence with clear potential of becoming independent research leaders evident by high impact factor publications, fellowships and awards received.

The successful applicant will be expected to obtain significant research funding, such as a Science Foundation Ireland Career Development Award or a European Research Council Starting Grant. In addition, the applicant is expected to publish in leading high impact journals in their discipline, to supervise PhD students and to participate in undergraduate student teaching and training.

2.1. Specifics of the Post

Individuals will initially enter the programme with a 5 year contract and will be linked with a senior academic to provide mentorship. Each Research Lecturer may be provided funding for a PhD student that may be jointly supervised by

their senior academic advisor, along with some funding for consumables (in total, four years of start-up funding). All Research Lecturers will receive considerable evaluation and feedback every year from both their academic advisor and a Research Institute evaluation committee that monitors their progress. At the end of the 3rd year, the Research Lecturer will receive a major evaluation, and those that have had outstanding performance with regard to quality publications and success in obtaining research income that will ensure independent investigator status may be made permanent. During the non-tenure phase of their contract, Research Lecturers will also have the opportunity to provide dedicated contact teaching hours in a supportive environment per semester so that they might begin to develop their teaching skills in advance of a permanent position.

Upon appointment, the Research Lecturer and their academic sponsor will devise a 5 year plan for both research and teaching at RCSI. It is generally expected that in year 1 the Research Lecturer will have protected time to establish their research programme at RCSI, with contribution to teaching within their academic department commencing in year 2, as coordinated and approved by their Head of Department. Support for a 4 year PhD studentship and research including costs (consumables and travel) is provided with the Research Lectureship, and a description of the PhD thesis project should be provided in the 5 year plan. The senior academic advisor may where appropriate jointly supervise the PhD student's thesis.

The 5 year plan will address the following points:

- The research questions and why they are significant and complement/differ from current state of the art research and competitors worldwide;
- The research project of the PhD student;
- Plan for winning leading grants;
- The mechanism by which the academic advisor will assist in achieving success;
- Plan for teaching, commencing in year 2, coordinated and approved by the relevant HoD.

The purpose of the career planning exercise is to agree longer term goals (i.e. 5 years) and will be monitored through RCSI's annual Professional Development Planning (PDP) process.

2.2. Profile

The Research Lecturer must possess an exceptional track record, demonstrated research leadership, a higher degree in a relevant health-related discipline and must come highly recommended by their peers as a candidate of outstanding ability.

2.3. Specific Responsibilities include:

- Establishing a research programme complementary to ongoing research themes aligned with the RCSI Research Strategy;
- Participating in the administration and delivery of current teaching programmes, teaching modalities and assessment of undergraduate students;
- Contributing to the development and introduction of new teaching programmes, teaching modalities and modes of assessment;
- Securing funding so as to sustain a research group of postgraduate students and other research staff, with resultant publications in journals of high quality/impact;
- Liaising with colleagues across RCSI international campuses in the facilitation of teaching and research activities;
- Undergoing programmes of training and development as may be required;
- Undertaking overseas assignments as may be required from time to time;
- Performing such other related duties as may be required;

- Representing the best interests of RCSI at all times.

2.4. Person Specification:

- Doctoral degree e.g. PhD or equivalent;
- Internationally competitive research record, as evidenced by peer-reviewed publications in journals of high quality/impact, grant support, fellowships and awards received and supervision of postgraduate students;
- Evidence of international reputation through leadership of international societies, editorial boards and conferences would strengthen applications;
- Effective communication style appropriate to audience and situation;
- Strong commitment to own personal and professional development.

3. Application Process:

Applications should be submitted via www.rcsi.ie/star and should include the following:

- Current CV/resume;
- Completion of the online application form including the contact details of a minimum of two referees.

3.1. Interview and presentation

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a formal panel based interview and presentation at our main campus at RCSI Dublin. Please note the closing date for applications is **5pm on September 16th 2016**.

Interviews will take place in the month of November.

3.2. Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries are invited in the first instance through Deirdre Fahy, Human Resources Department on +353 (1) 4022442 or email star@rcsi.ie. Further information is available from www.rcsi.ie/star