



Job title	Senior Research Technician	Job family and level	Technical Services Level 3
School/ Department	School of Medicine	Location	University of Nottingham Medical School at Derby

Purpose of role

You will provide senior technical support to enable the delivery of excellent research by the Centre of Metabolism, Ageing & Physiology (COMAP) in the School of Medicine's Academic Unit of Injury, Recovery & Inflammation Sciences (IRIS). COMAP laboratories include a high-profile mass spectrometry facility, which will be the predominant work area for this role. You will plan and oversee aspects of the day-to-day running of the COMAP laboratories, allocating resources and providing technical supervision and training in the use of equipment and techniques to relevant staff and students to ensure objectives are met. You will use knowledge, experience, and skills in the development of laboratory techniques and processes to provide support and guidance for COMAP research projects, with specific focus on a Medical Research Council (MRC) funded project looking at exercise prehabilitation in colorectal cancer patients.

Working alongside a team of clinical and non-clinical academics and technical staff to deliver an efficient and effective technical service in COMAP, you will contribute to the upkeep of research laboratories, including the maintenance of equipment. You will be required to work independently, be pro-active, show initiative to manage processes and projects, and be able to react to changing priorities and work circumstances. You will liaise with senior staff and external companies and provide training for undergraduate and postgraduate research students, fellows and visiting academics. Additionally, you may at times be required to provide support to metabolic studies in human volunteers and patients, collecting and preparing samples for subsequent laboratory analysis.

The duties and percentage time allocation provides an indication and framework for the role and should not be regarded as a definitive list or allocation. Other reasonable duties commensurate with the grade, spirit and purpose of the post may be requested. This role will be based in Derby at the University of Nottingham Medical School at Derby (Royal Derby Hospital site), although occasional travel to the universities other UK campuses may be required.

The School of Medicine recognises the importance of continuous professional development and therefore, the importance of providing opportunities, structured support and encouragement to engage in professional development each year.

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% Time per year
1	Technical Research Support	65%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical application of technical skills to measure metabolism and associated molecular endpoints in humans in situations of health and disease. This will include supporting volunteer/patient studies of metabolism as required. • Overseeing aspects of research projects and contributing to associated outputs. • Development and implementation of policies and procedures to ensure the quality and accuracy of research data, ensuring the associated requirements of the school are met, both now and in the future. • Representing, where appropriate, technical services staff and/or COMAP on committees and groups. 	
2	Equipment Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide quality and timely advice and direction to staff and students in the development of new or improved methods, techniques, and equipment. • Utilise knowledge and expertise to aid equipment troubleshooting and problem solving. • Undertake further training to develop skills and techniques, including using new equipment. 	15%
3	Training and Development of Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support technical training requirements for students, staff and visiting researchers within COMAP in areas of own expertise. 	10%
	Health and Safety and Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure sample collection and storage is compliant with health and safety and other regulatory issues (e.g., human tissue authority (HTA)) by all researchers (from undergraduate students to clinical researchers) involved in the aforementioned MRC-funded project. ▪ Maintain local health and safety documentation in line with the school's local safety arrangements for activities included in the aforementioned MRC-funded project. ▪ Assist the delivery of health and safety activities and training across the research group, as required, to ensure compliance. ▪ Assist with housekeeping, inspections and audit preparation, and the correction of any identified issues. 	10%
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other duties appropriate to the grade and level of the role 	N/A

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven experience in relevant techniques and equipment (including, but not limited to Western blotting, RT-PCR, ELISA) • Ability to analyse and interpret data. • Excellent problem-solving skills. • Ability to work accurately to maintain high standards, with the ability to work effectively under pressure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proven experience in Mass Spectrometry. • Experience of handling biological samples (e.g., blood and human tissue). • Proven report writing skills. • 'Drive for results' – including the ability to coach and motivate others to meet and exceed set objectives. • Ability to deal with change.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to identify and manage risks to enable effective goal delivery. • Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others internally and externally. • Capability to organise activities to meet set deadlines. • Flexible team player willing to do what it takes to get the job done; adaptable and enjoys a challenge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the processes underpinning growth and loss of human skeletal muscle.
Knowledge and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of regulations and procedures governing laboratory work (i.e., Health and Safety). • Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate complex information effectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of additional regulations including the Human Tissue Act (HTA) and principles of research ethics. • Practical appreciation and experience of lab-based hazards and risks. • Training or mentorship of staff or students in a technical environment.
Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of HNC in relevant subject <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equivalent qualifications plus considerable work experience in relevant role, <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial work experience in relevant role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A laboratory-based degree (BSc, MSc). • Additional qualifications or training in mass-spectrometry. • Additional qualifications in laboratory skills e.g., Health and Safety. • Professional registration of RSciTech or equivalent.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willingness to adopt the vision and values of the School of Medicine. • Adopting and delivering to the School of Medicine's Professional Services Service Excellence Standards. 	



Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University's strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

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| Valuing people | Is friendly, engaging and receptive, putting others at ease. Actively listens to others and goes out of way to ensure people feel valued, developed and supported. |
| Taking ownership | Is clear on what needs to be done encouraging others to take ownership. Takes action when required, being mindful of important aspects such as Health & Safety, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and other considerations. |
| Forward thinking | Drives the development, sharing and implementation of new ideas and improvements to support strategic objectives. Engages others in the improvement process. |
| Professional pride | Is professional in approach and style, setting an example to others; strives to demonstrate excellence through development of self, others and effective working practices. |
| Always inclusive | Builds effective working relationships, recognising and including the contribution of others; promotes inclusion and inclusive practices within own work area. |

Key relationships with others

