



<b>Job title</b>	Research Fellow (title would be “Research Associate” where an appointment is made before the PhD is completed)	<b>Job family and level</b>	Research Level 4 (Appointment will be Level 4 career training grade where an appointment is made before PhD has been completed)
<b>School/ Department</b>	School of Medicine, Academic Unit of Translational Medical Sciences	<b>Location</b>	The East Midlands Campuses of the University of Nottingham

## Purpose of role

This project offers a unique opportunity to collaborate with a diverse team of biologists, modelers, and clinicians from AstraZeneca and the University of Nottingham, working together to address critical questions in the biology of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). The primary aim is to advance our understanding of the molecular pathology of IBD and facilitate the development of effective therapies by integrating preclinical and clinical data with specifically tailored modelling approaches

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) poses a significant healthcare challenge, affecting an estimated 6–8 million people globally. Over the past decade, the prevalence of IBD has risen by 85%, particularly in newly industrialized countries. This project aims to advance our understanding of IBD by developing and evaluating preclinical models in conjunction with clinical data from ongoing IBD studies and computational translational strategies. The objectives are to: i) deepen insights into the mechanisms of IBD, ii) identify and explore novel therapeutic targets, and iii) predict disease progression and responses to treatments.

The AZ-UoN team is actively engaged in developing preclinical, clinical, and computational platforms to test hypotheses and advance the biological understanding of IBD. The candidate’s primary focus will be on preclinical models, with regular opportunities to present findings to diverse academic and industry audiences. They will also be expected to contribute to high-quality publications in peer-reviewed journals and present their work at relevant scientific conferences, subject to the quality and novelty of the research.

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

To find out more about the School of Medicine, its values, vision, teaching and research, please see our [further information leaflet](#).

---



	<b>Main responsibilities</b> (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	<b>% time per year</b>
1	<p><b>Research Responsibilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To manage, plan and conduct own research activity using recognised approaches, methodologies and techniques within the research area.</li> <li>To resolve problems, in meeting research objectives and deadlines in collaboration with others.</li> <li>To identify opportunities and assist in writing bids for research grant applications. Prepare proposals and applications to both external and/or internal bodies for funding, contractual or accreditation purposes.</li> <li>The post holder will work with primary intestinal tissue biopsy and culture intestinal organoids in a 3D culture system.</li> </ul>	70%
2	<p><b>Engagement, Communication and Continuation Responsibilities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To write up research work for publication and/or contribute to the dissemination at national/international conferences, resulting in successful research outputs.</li> <li>To collaborate with academic and industry colleagues on areas of shared interest for example, collaborative or joint research projects.</li> </ul>	20%
3	<p><b>Teaching:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are expected to make a contribution to student projects that is in balance with wider contributions to research and other activities.</li> </ul>	10%
	<p><b>Other:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any duties as required in accordance with the nature and grade of the post.</li> </ul>	N/A

## Person specification

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information.</li> <li>Problem solving skills.</li> <li>High analytical ability to analyse and illuminate data, interprets reports, evaluate and criticize texts and bring new insights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience in working with computational modellers</li> <li>Knowledge of pharmacology principles</li> <li>Broad interests to contribute to innovation and discovery in the context of both academia and industry.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods.</li> <li>▪ Ability to work accurately in order to maintain high standards, with the ability to work effectively under pressure.</li> <li>▪ Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others internally and externally.</li> <li>▪ Ability to assess and organise resource requirements and deploy effectively.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capability to organise own and other's activities to meet set deadlines.</li> <li>▪ Ability to foster a research culture, and commitment to learn in others.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Knowledge and experience</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Experience with qPCR, cell culture, confocal microscopy and histology.</li> <li>▪ Experience in bioinformatics approaches.</li> <li>▪ Background in gut biology, in vitro systems including intestinal organoids</li> <li>▪ Ability to work independently and in a team across disciplines</li> <li>▪ A proven track record of communicating research in an efficient and timely manner via publications and conference presentations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Knowledge of Inflammatory bowel disease mechanisms.</li> <li>▪ Previous success in gaining support for externally funded research projects.</li> <li>▪ Experience of developing new approaches, models, techniques or methods in research area.</li> <li>▪ Experience working in a containment level 3 (CL3) research laboratory and/or an excellent understanding of CL3 working requirements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)</b></p>	<p>PhD (or equivalent) in gastrointestinal biology and/or chronic inflammation or the equivalent in professional qualifications and experience in research area OR near to completion of a PhD.</p>	
<p><b>Other</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness to adopt the <a href="#">vision and values</a> of the School of Medicine</li> </ul>	



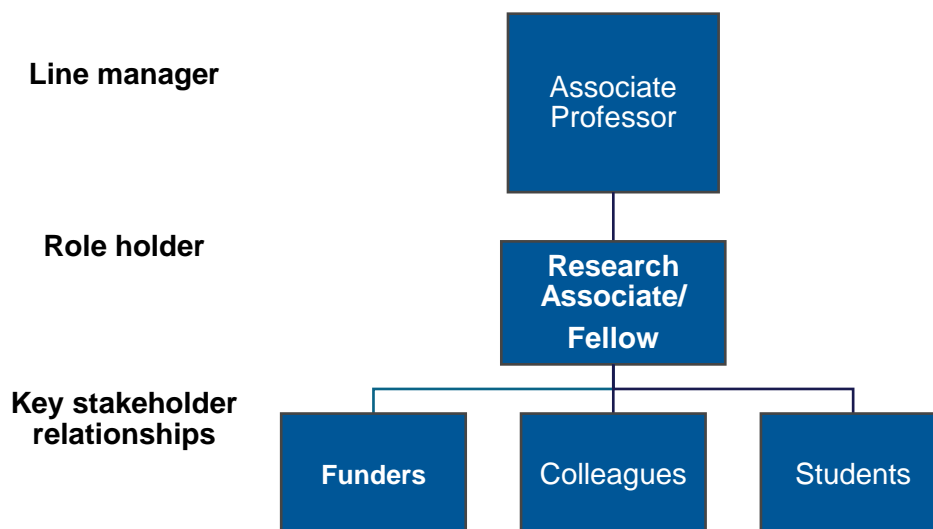


## Expectations and behaviours

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:

- Valuing people** Is always equitable and fair and works with integrity. Proactively looks for ways to develop the team and is comfortable providing clarity by explaining the rationale behind decisions.
- Taking ownership** Is highly self-aware, looking for ways to improve, both taking on board and offering constructive feedback. Inspires others to take accountability for their own areas..
- Forward thinking** Driven to question the status quo and explore new ideas, supporting the team to "lead the way" in terms of know-how and learning.
- Professional pride** Sets the bar high with quality systems and control measures in place. Demands high standards of others identifying and addressing any gaps to enhance the overall performance.
- Always inclusive** Ensures accessibility to the wider community, actively encouraging inclusion and seeking to involve others. Ensures others always consider the wider context when sharing information making full use of networks and connections.

## Key relationships with others





For job levelling/benchmarking purposes only – please remove before publishing

## Decision making

### Taken independently by the role holder

- Manage own workload.
- To advise and solve routine queries.
- The organisation and prioritisation of the workload in the laboratory

### Taken in collaboration with others

- Co-ordination and delivery of support and materials for teaching requirements
- Use judgement to seek appropriate help / assistance on non-routine and/or complex matters

### Referred to the appropriate line manager (please name) by the role holder

- Resolution of complex problems