

**Senior Scientific Researcher in Dementia/Neurodegeneration**

Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN)

Department of Neuroscience

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health

University of Sheffield



**Overview**

This is an outstanding opportunity for a senior scientist to join the Department of Neuroscience and make a contribution to the major themes of neurological research at The University of Sheffield. We are seeking a an academic to lead and enhance our translational research in the area of dementia/ neurodegeneration. This new post has arisen from a strategic initiative within The University of Sheffield to build on our successful translational neurodegeneration portfolio.

You will integrate into the Department of Neuroscience, which is one of the three constituent departments of The Medical School.

We are seeking a highly motivated person with a track record of conducting high quality translational research in the field of dementia. You should have a track record of securing significant research funding over a number of years and have experience of leading a team and successfully supervising doctoral students. You will be expected to have evidence of academic achievement, for instance in the form of high-quality publications and external grant funding awards and to have undertaken a programme of work leading to a PhD or equivalent. The appointment may be at lecturer, senior lecturer or professorial level.

The post will be supported by excellent facilities for research, office accommodation and access academic administration support.

**Person Specification**

You should provide evidence in your application that you meet the following criteria. We will use a range of selection methods to measure your abilities in these areas including reviewing your online application, seeking references, inviting shortlisted candidates to interview and other forms of assessment action relevant to the post.

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| **Criteria** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| PhD or MD in a relevant area of neurodegeneration | X |  |
| Significant leadership experience in research | X |  |
| Proven track record of producing high quality publications | X |  |
| Experience of teaching and lecturing | X |  |
| Proven ability to attract substantial research grants | X |  |
| Experience of formal/informal supervision of students, technical and research staff | X |  |
| Ability to lead a team | X |  |
| Experience of formal/informal supervision of students, technical and research staff | X |  |
| Effective communication skills, both written and verbal, report writing skills and experience of delivering presentations | X |  |
| Responsible for maintaining effective collaborations and liaising with collaborators both nationally and abroad |  | X |
| Experience of building and developing a team and aligning the day-to-day work and goals of the team with the organisation’s strategic vision. | X |  |
| Ability to motivate high performance in others. |  | X |
| Experience of reviewing individual and team progress and performance. |  | X |
| Excellent organisational skills and the ability to manage multiple projects | X |  |
| Ability to take responsibility for own progress and plan appropriate contingencies | X |  |
| Ability to assess and organise resources and plan and progress work activities |  | X |
| Experience of developing and maintaining a network of contacts throughout own work area | X |  |
| Ability to work accurately in order to meet tight deadlines | X |  |
| Experience of adapting own skills to new circumstances |  | X |

**About the Team**

**About the Faculty**

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health is one of the major UK centres for education and research in health and related subjects. With origins dating back to 1828, the Faculty has a long-standing tradition of excellence in clinical education and research. Over 2,500 students study in the Faculty each year on over 40 different courses. In addition, over 200 students are registered on research degrees, supporting a Faculty research portfolio in excess of £30M. Independent assessments of our teaching and research quality rate us as among the best in the UK.

With over 250 academic and clinical staff, and 250 research associates, the Faculty has the training and development of staff at the centre of its strategic priorities. A tailored training programme - Think Ahead - in line with the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers is available to all researchers in the Faculty. This includes an induction process; workshops linked to working-based learning opportunities; employer lead career days; and tailored support in preparation for the end of a contract. A newly developed career mentoring scheme with academic, industrial and alternative careers' strands gives practical support for career development in your chosen destination. The portfolio of transferable skills and career development courses is continuously updated and tailored to the researcher and the employer needs and to fit with the strategic aims of the Faculty. For more information on current opportunities see www.sheffield.ac.uk/faculty/medicine-dentistry-health/thinkahead or email Lucy Lee (L.Lee@sheffield.ac.uk).

For more information on the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health, please see [www.shef.ac.uk/faculty/medicine-dentistry-health/](http://www.shef.ac.uk/faculty/medicine-dentistry-health/)

**Department of Neuroscience (**[www.sheffield.ac.uk/neuroscience](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/neuroscience))

The Neuroscience Department comprises multidisciplinary groups from Neurology, Neuropathology, Neuropsychology, Neurogenetics, and Computational Biology and Bioinformatics working in both basic and clinical neuroscience. The major areas of research interest are in neurodegenerative diseases (diseases of the motor system, basal ganglia and dementia), stroke and neuroinflammation. The Neurodegenerative Disease group research portfolio includes genetic, cellular, molecular and clinical research into common disorders including motor neuron diseases, Parkinson’s disease, the ageing brain, and dementia. The research focus is strongly translational and is primarily located in a 2,800m2 research facility, the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN), officially opened by Her Majesty The Queen in November 2010 (http://sitran.org). In collaboration with the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Foundation NHS Trust, SITraN was awarded an NIHR Biomedical Research Centre in Translational Neuroscience in 2016 (sheffieldbrc.nihr.ac.uk) and the Queens Anniversary award for innovation in neuroscience in 2019. In 2020 new PET/MRI facilities opened with the expectation of significant translational research use in relation to dementia and neurodegenerative diseases.

The flagship cross-faculty Neuroscience Institute directed by Professor Dame Pam Shaw involves more than 100 PIs across the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Health; Science and Engineering. Since inauguration in April 2019, we have further increased the critical mass of Neuroscience researchers at the UoS attracting high quality researchers from the Universities of Cambridge, Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester, Dresden and IST, Austria) as well as expressions of interest to relocate to Sheffield from high quality overseas candidates. We have promoted and established an expanding portfolio of cross-faculty interdisciplinary projects which are attracting major funding streams (*eg* EU Innovative Medicines Initiative) led from Sheffield and involving collaboration with 15 European HEIs, 10 SMEs and 9 major Pharma companies. Our cross-faculty partnerships in Advanced Therapies, dementia and basal ganglia disease are expected to prove fruitful and are already attracting industry and philanthropic investment. Our individual talented researchers and interdisciplinary research teams have received multiple national and international awards.

The Department of Neuroscience currently delivers four face to face MSc programmes and one distance learning course. The MSc Clinical Neurology has the largest cohort of students, many of whom are intercalating Medical Students. The curriculum covers a broad range of neurological disorders and offers neuroanatomy experience in the dissection room as well as practical clinical exposure, alongside lectures and tutorials. The other PGT programmes, Translational Neuroscience, Translational Neuropathology and a new MSc in Advanced Cell and Gene Therapies provide additional distinctive courses. The distance learning Neuroscience & Neurodegeneration (NND) programme covers elements from each of the three face to face Neuroscience-based courses.

Research activity within the Department is supported through a broad portfolio of research funding. This includes project and programme grant support from major UK funding organizations such as the Medical Research Council, NIHR, EU, Wellcome Trust and multiple neurological disease related charities. Substantial funding from biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies supports our translational and clinical research programmes. The Department of Neuroscience attaches great importance to career development. We have an excellent track record of attracting prestigious external fellowship awards and six of these fellows have recently progressed to faculty positions within the Department. SITraN benefits from a highly developed philanthropic funding strand supported through a network of Patrons.

**Job Description**

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

You will make a full and active contribution to the principles of the ‘Sheffield Academic’. These include the achievement of excellence in applied teaching and research, and scholarly pursuits to make a genuine difference in the subject area and to the University’s achievements as a whole. Further information on the underpinning values of the Sheffield Academic can be found at: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/hr/sheffieldacademic>.

You will contribute fully as teacher, researcher and leader, in fulfilment of the ideals of the ‘Sheffield Academic’ (http://www.shef.ac.uk/hr/sheffieldacademic/statement.html).

Excellent research facilities are available within the University Department of Neuroscience. Junior medical staff are available to support the post-holder and these include NIHR-funded posts at both Academic Clinical Fellow and Clinical Lecturer levels.

**Research**

* Lead a dementia research team that conducts innovative and high-quality research and scholarship that is recognised internationally in terms of originality, significance and rigor.
* Disseminate research findings through conference presentations and publications in recognised high-quality/peer-reviewed journals. Ensure research activities align with REF, outputs, impact and environment.
* Develop funding strategies, pursue income generation and secure research grants from national and international competitive funders.
* Contribute to the research profile of SITraN and the Department and it’s standing nationally and internationally.
* Contribute to the development of an interdisciplinary strategy for translational research.

**Teaching**This is a research focused role however a small contribution to teaching will be expected.

* Contribute to the postgraduate MSc teaching provided by the Department of Neuroscience.
* Reflect on own teaching design and delivery and implementing ideas for improving performance.
* Carry out pastoral and supervisory roles for undergraduate and postgraduate. If necessary, refer them to the appropriate authority for guidance.

**Leadership and Management**

* Provide effective leadership that supports staff development and motivation.
* Increase the external recognition of the Department, Hospital and the University through academic achievement and involvement in external professional activities such as refereeing papers, editing major journals, refereeing research grants, external examining, organising or contributing to international conferences, advising on national and international boards and groups or on policy, or being elected to national or international societies.

You will also be required to undertake any other duties commensurate with the grade of the post.

**Support**

Academic administrative support is available.

###### Library Facilities

The University Clinical Library is housed on ‘C’ Floor of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. The Medical Library is in the main University Library which is within half a mile of the Royal Hallamshire Hospital and offers excellent lending reference and national lending (Boston Spa) facilities.

As part of the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health’s Medical School redevelopment, the Health Sciences Library (HSL) at RHH was reconfigured and refurbished during 2012. More information can be found at [www.shef.ac.uk/library/libnews/rhhrefurb](http://www.shef.ac.uk/library/libnews/rhhrefurb)

**Reward Package**

**Terms and conditions of employment:**

**Salary for this grade:** Will be at the appropriate level for the appointed individual.

**This post is** **open ended, tenable immediately.**

**This post is full-time:**

This role has been identified as a full-time post, but we are committed to exploring flexible working opportunities with our staff which benefit both the individual and the University (See [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/flexible/arrangements](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/flexible/arrangements)). Therefore, we would consider flexible delivery of the role subject to meeting the business needs of the post. If you wish to explore flexible working opportunities in relation to this post, we encourage you to call or email the departmental contact listed below.

If you join the University you will have access to a Total Reward Package that includes a competitive salary, a generous Pension Scheme and annual leave entitlement, as well as access to a range of learning and development courses to support your personal and professional development. You will have access to your own personalised portal where you can also access a comprehensive selection of benefits and offers to suit your changing lifestyle needs, for example financial wellbeing, travel options, shopping and cinema discounts.

To find out more visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/thedeal](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/thedeal)

The University is committed to tackling the global climate emergency. Our sustainability strategy forms an integral part of all we do. We strive to embed this in all areas of university life, from our students’ education, the globally impacting international research we contribute, to campus life.

We aim to empower staff to work sustainably by giving them the knowledge to make ethical decisions at work and home. Staff have the opportunity to be involved in impactful sustainability projects through the nationally recognised Green Impact scheme.

Staff have access to excellent green benefits including the cycle to work scheme with discounts and free secure bike storage, as well as many greener choices across campus.

If you have an interest in this area, the university will strive to passionately support you in these commitments. Check out [www.sheffield.ac.uk/sustainability](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/sustainability) for more information.

We are committed to making the University a remarkable place to work and we support this through a number of sector leading services such as Juice.

Our innovative Health and Wellbeing service, Juice, encourages and supports staff to maintain their own positive health and wellbeing through a broad range of inclusive services and activities.

To find out more visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/juice](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/juice)

Our leadership development has been designed to ensure that our leaders have the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed by the University.

To find out more visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/sld/impact](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/sld/sheffieldleader)



Inclusion at Sheffield is everyone's responsibility. Our vision is to build a University community that actively attracts, engages and develops talented individuals from many different backgrounds.

We are proud of our award-winning equality, diversity and inclusion action, and 90% of staff tell us they are treated with fairness and respect (staff survey 2018). We continue working to create a fully inclusive environment where everyone can flourish.

To find out more visit [www.sheffield.ac.uk/inclusion](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/inclusion)

We are the only university to feature in the Sunday Times 100 Best Not-for-Profit organisations to work for 2018. In our staff survey (2018) 92% of staff said they were proud to work for the University and 83% of our staff would recommend the University as an excellent place to work. To find out more about what it’s like to work here visit [remarkable.group.shef.ac.uk](http://remarkable.group.shef.ac.uk/)

**Selection – Next Steps**

**Informal enquiries**

For informal enquiries about this job and the recruiting department, contact:

* Professor Dame Pam J Shaw, Director of Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience  
  [pamela.shaw@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:pamela.shaw@sheffield.ac.uk) or (0114) 222 2295
* Professor Christopher McDermott, Head of Department of Neuroscience [C.J.Mcdermott@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:C.J.Mcdermott@sheffield.ac.uk) or (0114) 222 2295

**Criminal records check**

Please note that as this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service Disclosure will be required for the appointee. If you have a spent criminal record and are invited to interview for this post, you are required to provide details of your convictions in confidence, with the job reference number/ title of post/recruiting department, in advance of the interview to the Deputy Director of HR, Human Resources, The University of Sheffield, The Arts Tower, Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TN (mark the envelope PERSONAL). This information will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be considered if you are invited to interview for the post.

If you have been barred from working with children or vulnerable adults by the Disclosure and Barring Service it is a criminal offence to apply for a post involving regulated activity with children or vulnerable adults. Regulated activity involves contact of a specified nature. If you are unsure if you may apply for this post for this reason then please contact Rhiannon Hammond-Jones [r.hammond-jones@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:r.hammond-jones@sheffield.ac.uk) in Human Resources for further information.

Appointment to the post will be subject to a security check, which will be carried out for the preferred candidate.

**Creating a remarkable place to work**

We build teams of people from different heritages and lifestyles from across the world, whose talent and contributions complement each other to greatest effect. We believe diversity in all its forms delivers greater impact through research, teaching and student experience.

We are consistently ranked in the top 100 of the world’s universities, but there’s so much more to us than that. By joining the University, you will be joining award-winning teams and departments who are all working together to make the University of Sheffield a remarkable place to work.

Learn more [here](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/uni/award-winning).

