

FULL-TIME RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Position Description

The Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research (LDI) is seeking applicants for a full-time **research assistant** position in the Montreal Immune-Related Adverse Events (MIRAE) team.

The purpose of the MIRAE study is to facilitate research on immune-related adverse events (irAEs) secondary to immunotherapy with immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI), and traditional autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases. Immunotherapy refers to various treatments that enhance the power of immune cells to seek out and destroy cancer cells. These treatments can lead to remarkable cancer remissions, but their use is sometimes limited by significant autoimmune toxicities or irAEs. The goal of the MIRAE study is to identify predictors and mechanisms of irAEs secondary to ICI cancer therapy, to develop optimal treatment strategies for irAEs, and to gain novel insights into primary autoimmune and autoinflammatory diseases.

The MIRAE team is a multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional group of clinical and translational scientists in the fields of oncology and immunology. Currently the MIRAE study is using multi-omic single cell technologies, and other high-throughput assays, to profile immune cells in the blood and tissue lesions of ICI-treated cancer patients, as well as to identify clinically relevant soluble immune factors in their plasma.

The LDI is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion within its community. The LDI has an equal opportunity employment program and welcomes applications from all qualified candidates, regardless of their characteristics, with the skills and knowledge to productively engage with diverse communities. Accommodation for any part of the application process may be provided to persons with disabilities who request it.

Responsibilities and duties:

As part of his/her functions, the research assistant will have the following responsibilities:

1. Identifying eligible participants for the MIRAE study among the cancer patients treated with ICI-therapy in the JGH.
2. Obtaining informed consent for the biobanking of biological specimens including blood and tissues, and the accessing of patient's clinical data under the Health Canada GCP guidelines.
3. Blood processing for plasma separation, PBMC isolation, and subsequent storage and documentation in the ATiM database.
4. Preparing samples for the different MIRAE projects (e.g., gDNA and RNA isolation, PBMC stimulation assays).
5. Designing and performing experiments to test different sample processing and storage conditions adapted to specific downstream applications.
6. Collecting and analyzing relevant clinical parameters.

Qualifications:

Applicants must:

1. Hold a minimum of a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree.
2. 2 years' experience working in a research lab.
3. Experience working under BSL-2 conditions, tissue and cell culture, and basic molecular biology techniques (e.g., PCR/RT-PCR, isolation of DNA/RNA) are preferred.
4. Excellent knowledge of English and working knowledge of French.
5. Sense of organization, loving to work harmoniously and efficiently in a team, and good adaptability are qualities sought in the candidate.
6. Experience with electronic data capturing systems and Biobanking software such as RedCap and ATIM are a bonus but not required.

Other relevant information:

1. Onsite job.
2. 35 hours per week.
3. A competitive salary is guaranteed based on the LDI salary scale for research assistants and would be proposed taking into account the candidate experience and qualifications.
4. Start date: Immediately.
5. Closing Date - Will remain open until filled.

To apply:**Interested applicants should submit:**

1. Curriculum vitae.
2. Cover letter.
3. References, the names and contact information for two referees.

Applications should be addressed to:

Manuel Flores (coordinator of MIRAE) and submitted electronically to the following email address: manuel.flores.molina.ccomtl@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Only successful candidates will be contacted for an interview.

The Scientific Advisory Committee of MIRAE is comprised of:

Dr. Marie Hudson (Director, JGH)

Dr. Wilson Miller (JGH)

Dr. Khashayar Esfahani (St. Mary's Hospital/JGH)

Dr. Nathalie Johnson (JGH)

Dr. Sonia del Rincón (LDI)

Dr. Réjean Lapointe (CRCHUM)