

Postdoctoral Researcher – Disc Biomaterials
Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials

Ref. No. NUIG-15-11

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the fixed term contract position of Postdoctoral Researcher within the Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) at the National University of Ireland, Galway. The project is funded through the AO Foundation's Collaborative Research Center under the AO Foundation Exploratory Research Programme.

Organisation: The Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) led by Prof. Abhay Pandit is a partnership of scientists, engineers and clinicians, who all share a common vision of developing the next generation of functionalised biomaterials as innovative and successful therapies that provide solutions for current clinical needs. The outputs of the Network are innovative biomaterials based therapeutic strategies for application to a wide variety of human diseases. The University provides a research-friendly social and cultural environment. Galway is also one of the key cities in Europe with a significant presence of the medical device industry sector. For more information on NFB please refer to www.nfb.ie

Job Description: The duration of the post will initially be for 12 months with the possibility of extension for another year starting in April. The position is designed for the development of a platform delivery technology for intervertebral disc regeneration amongst other clinical applications. The successful candidate will become part of a collaborative research program focusing on development of a platform delivery technology.

- Co-ordinate and manage project in an independent manner.
- Develop characterise and optimise the efficacy of antibody tethered nanostructures for therapeutic delivery of candidate genes of interest involved in up regulation or down regulation of IVD degeneration
- Develop, characterize, and optimize the use of biomaterials-based micro structured system which mimics a physiological stem cell niche to act as a reservoir system for candidate genes.
- Establish 'Proof of Concept' of the efficacy of both systems for gene transfection in AF cells in an organ culture system
- Development of hybrid material for remodeling of the AF.

Applicant's Specifications: Ideal candidate should have a track record in a research and development environment. Candidates must be highly motivated and passionate about developing new products and have **strong** documentation, oral and interpersonal skills. A postgraduate degree in a biomedical field with proven expertise in working with stem cells and biomaterials is necessary. Previous experience in the development of in vitro assays is also essential. Knowledge of disc/cartilage biology is not essential but will be looked upon favourably.

For Informal enquiries please contact Professor Abhay Pandit: abhay.pandit@nuigalway.ie

Start date: April 2011 **Salary:** €34,457 per annum

To Apply: Applicants are requested to submit 1) a covering letter, 2) a CV, 3) a statement of research goals, and 4) the contact details of **three** referees to Ms. Tara Cosgrave, Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB) by E-mail: (nfb@nuigalway.ie) Please put reference number **NUIG-15-11** in subject line of application.

Closing date for applications is 5pm Thursday 3rd March 2011

National University of Ireland, Galway is an equal opportunity employer

