Peripheral contributions to the development and maintenance of chronic OA pain.

Schools of Medicine and Life Science
Arthritis Research UK Pain Centre

PhD Studentship

Applications are invited for a 4-year PhD studentship within the Arthritis Research UK Pain Centre at the University of Nottingham.

The Arthritis Research UK Pain Centre was created at The University of Nottingham in 2010 to investigate the mechanisms that lead to the chronic pain experienced by people with arthritis, and to improve the treatment of arthritis pain. Following the recent renewal of the Centre for a further 5 years we are now recruiting new PhD students to join our vibrant research community.

This studentship will be directed by a supervisory team of established pain researchers (Prof David Walsh, Dr Lucy Donaldson). The project will address key events in the joint and peripheral nervous system that lead to the changing characteristics of pain during the development of osteoarthritis. The student will concentrate on determining the contribution of peripheral mechanisms to the generation on slowly progressing joint pain. The project will concentrate on the potential sites of expression, and contributions to pain of splice variants of vascular endothelial growth factor. Experimental techniques may include study of isolated primary sensory neurons in culture, ex vivo analysis of protein expression/localisation in animal and human tissues, pharmacological and cell biological approaches to determine cellular responses, in vivo neurophysiological approaches and in vivo behavioural assays. The supervisory team has a strong track-record in PhD supervision, and the successful candidate will be part of our Centre for Doctoral Training in Musculoskeletal Health and Pain in Ageing and Wellbeing, which will provide both generic and specific training skills relevant to this project.

Further details of the Centre and this project are available at: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/paincentre.

Students must have a UK 2.1 degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject.

The studentship will include the payment of tuition fees at the Home/EU rate and a maintenance stipend of approximately £14 000 per annum, in the first instance. Non-EU students are welcome, but they would have to self fund the difference between the Home/EU and international fee. Opportunities exist in the University for scholarships for international students; please see information at http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/international-applicants/scholarships-fees-and-finance/scholarships/index.aspx

Informal enquiries may be addressed to Dr Donaldson, tel: 0115 823 0158, Email: Lucy.Donaldson@nottingham.ac.uk or Prof Walsh, Email : David.walsh@nottingham.ac.uk

Applications with a detailed CV, the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to Dr L Donaldson, School of Life Sciences, E Floor Medical School, University of Nottingham NG7 2QY, or by email. Closing date: 17th March 2017. Interviews are likely to be held in early April.