

Four-Year PhD Studentship – iPS Cells, Tissue Engineering and Gene Editing for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Applications are invited for a four-year PhD studentship at **University College London** (UCL, London, United Kingdom) to work on an exciting **translational research** project aimed at developing a new platform to study and develop therapies for **Duchenne muscular dystrophy**¹ (DMD) based upon the combination of **induced pluripotent stem cells**^{2,3}, **skeletal muscle tissue engineering** and **gene editing**. This post will be based in the laboratory of Dr Francesco Saverio Tedesco^{4,5} (UCL Department of Cell and Developmental Biology), located in UCL's Bloomsbury campus, in the heart of central London. Dr Tedesco will be the primary supervisor of the student and Prof. Francesco Muntoni, a leading expert in DMD translational research, will be the secondary supervisor. The student will be enrolled with and have access to the academic activities of UCL Doctoral School. The project will be highly collaborative, interacting with colleagues within UCL Department of Cell and Developmental Biology (e.g. Prof. Michael Duchen), UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health and across a number of other British and European institutions. This is an exciting opportunity to join a **multidisciplinary project** in a **top-ranking university** with excellent core facilities and well-defined graduate training programmes. Candidates must be highly motivated and, ideally, have a background in muscle biology/physiology, tissue engineering and gene editing. Experience of cell culture, molecular biology and possession of a UK Home Office Personal Licence would be advantageous. The studentship is funded by **Muscular Dystrophy UK**⁶ and includes a starting stipend of £16,553/year (with annual increments) plus UK/EU student fees. Overseas applicants will be considered if they have funding for the difference in fees and other associated costs (please see UCL Graduate Degrees website for additional information⁷).

Send applications (cover letter and CV, including contact details of 2 referees) and/or enquiries to Dr Francesco Saverio Tedesco (f.s.tedesco@ucl.ac.uk).

Closing date for applications: 20th September 2017.

Interviews (provisional date): week commencing 25th September 2017.

Start date: October – December 2017.

Useful references and websites:

1. Benedetti S et al., FEBS J 2013 Sep;280(17):4263-80
2. Tedesco FS et al., Sci Transl Med 2012 Jun 27;4(140):140ra89
3. Maffioletti SM et al., Nat Protoc 2015 Jun 4; 10, 941–958
4. <https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=STEDE04>
5. www.ucl.ac.uk/biosciences/departments/cdb/people/saverio-tedesco
6. www.muscular dystrophyuk.org
7. <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/research/fees-funding>