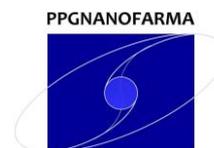




**RESEARCHER
LINKS**



UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL
PROGRAMA DE POS-GRADUAÇÃO EM NANONTECNOLOGIA FARMACÊUTICA

OPEN CALL

WORKSHOP ON DRUG DISCOVERY AND NANOMEDICINE

Coordinators:

Prof. Nicholas D Holliday, University of Nottingham, UK

Prof. Adriana R. Pohlmann, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, BRAZIL

DECEMBER 2015

Workshop on Drug Discovery and Nanomedicine

UK coordinator: Prof. Nicholas Holliday

Brazil coordinator: Prof. Adriana R. Pohlmann

Theme: Drug Discovery and Nanomedicine

Dates and venue: March 29th to 30th 2016.

The British Council, CNPq and CONFAP have launched a new five-year programme to encourage international research collaboration between ambitious young researchers from the UK and eighteen countries around the world.

The “Researcher Links” programme, now co-funded under Newton Fund, provides opportunities for early career researchers from the UK and Brazil to interact, to learn from each other and to explore opportunities for building long-lasting research collaborations.

As part of this programme, a ‘call to action’ was issued in October 2014 for leading researchers to propose themes for bilateral workshops to be held in one of these countries which will bring together early career researchers to discuss their research and start to build international relationships.

Successful applicant organisations from the UK and Brazil are now recruiting early career researchers and welcome applications to attend the above workshop.

The workshops will provide a unique opportunity for sharing research expertise and networking. During the workshops early career researchers will have the opportunity to present their research in the form of a short oral presentation and discuss this with established researchers from the UK and Brazil. There will be a focus on building up links for future collaborations and participants selected on the basis of their research potential and ability to build longer term links.

Newton Fund, through the British Council, will cover the costs related to the participation to the workshop, including: travel (both international and local), accommodation and meals. Costs for the visa will be covered; however participants will be responsible for making all the necessary arrangements. Participants must have travel and medical insurance.

Our goal is to bring together a UK and Brazilian cohort of early career researchers to take part in a workshop focusing on building links for future collaboration and enhancing the researchers’ career opportunities. The workshop content is centred on drug discovery and nanomedicine.

The workshop on Drug Discovery and Nanomedicine

The coordinators are responsible for organising the logistics of the workshop considering the venue, travel arrangements, the recruitment and selection of participants.

The workshop will be held in English and will take place on March 29th and 30th 2016, in the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Early career researchers will be selected based on their research interest, projects and results considering the themes:

- Structure-based drug design,
- Imaging approaches to receptor pharmacology
- Impact of binding kinetics on drug discovery
- Cheminformatics, bioinformatics and molecular modelling,
- Synthesis and biosynthesis of drug candidates
- Pharmaceutical nanotechnology and nanomedicine
- Drug delivery and drug targeting
- Surface functionalization of nanoparticles

The coordinators and mentors

Coordinators

Prof. Nicholas D Holliday, University of Nottingham, UK

Prof. Adriana R. Pohlmann, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, BRAZIL

Mentors

Prof. Steven Charlton, University of Nottingham, UK

Prof. Rafael Roesler, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, BRAZIL

Application and Deadline:

The full application must be completed and submitted between January 15th to January 31st 2015 to: Prof. Adriana R. Pohlmann and Prof. Nicholas Holliday, ppgnanofarma@ufrgs.br

The recruitment of participants

The recruitment of participants will be open and transparent. The selection will consider a numerical balance between Brazilian participants and UK participants. We will select 10 to 14 researchers, being 5 to 7 from each Country.

The process of selection will consider:

- participants must have links to UK and Brazil higher education or research institutions,
- early career researchers (ECR) recruited to participate in the workshop must have a PhD obtained less than 10 years before the start of the workshop,
- a maximum of 25% of the early career researchers from each country may be recruited from the institutions of the coordinators and mentors,
- early career researchers must come from at least 3 Brazilian geographical regions (regions are: South, Southeast, North, Northeast and West).
- open call for participants will be disseminated through various channels (British Council, CNPq and CONFAP will support the dissemination). The application form will be publicized at www.ufrgs.br/ppgnanofarma (in English), as well as delivered by email to all Coordinators of Pharmaceutical Sciences Post-Graduation Programs in Brazil,
- participants will need to demonstrate a sufficient standard of English to participate in the workshops,
- gender balance and ethnicity diversity will be considered,
- workshop coordinators will run the recruitment process in Brazil and in the United Kingdom, and submit the list of ECR selected, together with their CVs for approval with the British Council. A review will be done observing all criteria listed above.

Quality Assessment

Participants should be checked for eligibility (career stage and position at relevant institution) and then selected based on the following criteria:

- a) Experience and relevance of the applicant's research area to the workshop,
- b) Motivation and contribution to the aims of the workshop,
- c) Long term impact expected through the participation in the workshop
- d) Ability to disseminate workshop's outcomes.

The final number of participants will be restricted to the contingency considering the exchange variation and cost of flight tickets, alimentation and accommodations.

The workshop program and chronogram

The workshop coordinators will send logistic information, confirmation of travel plans, and a programme draft to all participants.

Presentations from the co-ordinators, mentors, and selected early career researchers, will be interspersed with pharmacology training sessions (“Pharmacology 101”) tailored to drug discovery. These sessions have been designed by Prof Charlton and Prof Hill (University of Nottingham), require no specialist pharmacology knowledge, and have been delivered to both academic ECRs and industry. The final group session will allow teams of mixed UK / Brazil researchers to interact and compete in a due diligence exercise. Each group will receive pharmacological data in differing formats (e.g. measurements of target affinity, binding kinetics, functional potency, pharmacokinetics) for the lead compounds from three “companies”. They will need to manipulate and interpret these data in order to make valid comparisons of their target activity and suitability. On this basis, each group will propose the most appropriate lead drug candidate and justify their choice in a pitch to the workshop as a whole.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Applications must be submitted using the Researcher Links application form below
- Application must be submitted before the above deadline
- Participants must be early career researchers: Early Career Researchers are defined as holding a PhD for less than 10 years on the starting date of the workshop.
- Participants must be affiliated to UK and Brazil higher education or research institutions at the time of the application.

Selection Procedure

- Eligibility check
- Quality assessment
- CV review

Notification of results

Applicants will be notified by email prior to the workshop.

Equal Opportunities

The British Council is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in all its activities and this includes the avoidance of any bias in the assessment of applications due to gender, disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or religious belief. Participants' selection undertaken by workshop organisers must not contravene this policy. Extra support to enable participation of early career researchers with special needs will be given.

Chronogram

December 2015 – contract CNPq coordinator

December 15th 2015 – open call publication at www.ufrgs.br/ppgnanofarma

January 15th to January 31st 2016– applications

February 1st to February 4th 2016 – selection of participants

February 4th 2016 – first program draft

February 2016 – traveling confirmations

March 28th 2016 – arriving in Porto Alegre

March 29th and 30th 2016– Workshop

March 31st 2016– return