

**PhD Studentship in the Department of Chemistry:  
Structural Biology of Protein Arginine Methyltransferases  
Code: CY020**



**Starting date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**Duration: 4 years**

**A full award covers tuition fees at the UK/EU rate and an annual stipend at RCUK rate: (£13,863 2014/15).**

**Sponsor: AstraZeneca and SAge Faculty, Newcastle University**

**Supervisors: Professor Mike Waring (PI), Professor Jane Endicott (co-supervisor)**

### **Project Overview**

Protein arginine methyltransferases (PRMTs) represent an emerging target class within the topical field of epigenetic drug discovery. This studentship is to form part of a wider project focused on finding selective chemical probes for PRMTs to act as tools for target validation and potential start points for drug discovery. It is recognised that there is a clear need for selective, cell permeable chemical probes for PRMTs and we intend to address this by developing chemistry, assays and structural biology followed by cellular validation studies, with a focus on oncology, for each protein of interest within the class. This project will focus on developing biological assays and obtaining x-ray crystal structures of selected PRMTs. The student will work closely with a second student focusing on chemical synthesis of inhibitors. The two will work together to optimise the compounds to obtain potent cellular probes. The studentship will provide a wealth of experience in molecular and structural biology and biophysics, which would be ideal training for someone wishing to pursue a career in these disciplines in the biotech industry or academia.

### **Person Specification and Eligibility Criteria**

The successful candidate will have an excellent first degree in biological sciences or a related subject (e.g. pharmacy). They will demonstrate strong theoretical and practical skills in protein sciences. Previous experience of structural biology is an advantage but not essential.

### **How to Apply**

The candidate must apply through the University's online postgraduate application form selecting 'Master of Research/Doctor of Philosophy as the programme of study. Only mandatory fields need to be completed (no personal statement required) and a covering letter, CV and (if English is not your first language) a copy of your English language qualifications must be attached. The covering letter must state the title of the studentship, and state how your interests and experience relate to the project.

### **Closing Date for Applications**

The closing date for applications will be Tuesday July 7th.

Interviews for the studentship will be held at the NICR, Paul O'Gorman Building, Newcastle on Thursday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Further Information**

For further details, please contact: Mike Waring, [mike.j.waring@gmail.com](mailto:mike.j.waring@gmail.com); or Jane Endicott, [jane.endicott@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:jane.endicott@ncl.ac.uk)