McMaster University
Clinician-Scientist

Applications are invited from an experienced individual for appointment as a clinician-scientist with special interest in the development of methods to overcome tumor-associated immune suppression. The position was created as a key component of a new and highly innovative collaborative cancer molecular imaging and therapy program in Hamilton. Funding for the position is provided by the Ontario Institute of Cancer Research (OICR).

The successful candidate will have substantial protected time for research and will serve as the link between a group of basic scientists working on novel immunotherapies for cancer in the Centre for Gene Therapeutics (http://fhs.mcmaster.ca/cgt/) and clinician scientists evaluating these immunotherapies in early phase clinical trials at the Juravinski Cancer Centre. The candidate will be expected to contribute to the development of novel strategies to augment anti-tumor immunity and subvert immunoevasion mechanisms within the tumor bed from basic concepts through to clinical practice.

Qualifications include:

- Clinical specialty certification from the Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Canada (or equivalent) in an appropriate sub-speciality.
- Track record of excellence in one or more of tumor immunology, assessment of novel immunotherapies, molecular biology, and/or running clinical trials involving novel therapeutics
- Experience in phase I and II developmental therapeutics trials preferred

As a researcher, the incumbent will be devoted to translational research in tumor immunotherapy and will be expected to develop a strong research program in tumor immunology. The successful candidate will be expected to write research proposals and seek external funding from peer-review agencies. It is expected that he/she will be competitive in the area of clinical investigations.

The incumbent will be directly involved in the Ontario Regional Biotherapeutics program sponsored by the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. This multi-institutional, province-wide program is focused on clinical application of oncolytic viruses, cancer vaccines and cellular immunotherapies. The successful candidate will also have access to a world class facility for conducting pre-clinical evaluation in relevant tumor models. Research in human immunology will also be supported by a dedicated immune monitoring facility that has been established at McMaster University through investments from the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

The Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Research and Innovation. OICR is bringing together multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional collaborations, which will allow complex questions to be pursued. The Institute is leveraging the current research excellence at universities, research hospitals and health research institutes across Ontario, leading to greater integration of cancer research efforts across institutions. A key component of this initiative is the implementation of innovation platforms, including: novel imaging technologies, a bio-specimen repository, genomics and high-throughput screens and medicinal chemistry. The incumbent will be directly linked into the OICR enterprise with access to this leading-edge technology.

The search for new knowledge is an essential element at McMaster University, and education is at the heart of the Mission of the Faculty of Health Sciences. As such, the appointee will have teaching responsibilities in both undergraduate and graduate (residency) programs. McMaster University is “research intensive” institution and perennially is rated as the most innovative university in Canada. As well as a university appointment, this position will have a hospital staff appointment at Hamilton Health Sciences or St. Joseph’s Healthcare. Applicants must have Canadian specialty certification or equivalent, and be eligible for medical licensure in Ontario. Salary and academic rank will be commensurate with experience.

Applicants are invited to submit a curriculum vitae, a statement of research interests and academic goals, along with the names of three referees to:

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