Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund (PCRF) funded PhD in Pancreatic Cancer Research

**Location**
Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland

**Description**
Pancreatic cancer tumour-initiating cell targeted delivery of 5-FU

A fully funded PhD position is available in DCU under the supervision of Dr. Naomi Walsh, Prof Tia Keyes and Associate Prof Anne Parle-McDermott. Pancreatic cancer (PDAC) is a lethal disease, with one of the lowest survival rates of all cancers. This is mainly due to the late diagnosis of the cancer, which in most cases has already spread to other organs. Once spread, pancreatic cancer is very difficult to treat. Few treatment regimens are available at this stage, and are only suitable in some patients due to the high toxicity associated with these multi-drug combinations. Furthermore, pancreatic cancer does not respond well, relapses quickly and develops resistance to these treatments, leaving little or no viable second-line therapy option. This research project aims to challenge the unmet need of advanced pancreatic cancer. We aim to identify cells within the pancreatic tumour known as tumour-initiating cells (TICs) which are responsible for drug resistance and relapse in pancreatic cancer. Specific peptide 5-FU prodrugs will be designed that will precisely target the cellular organelles of these TICs, resulting in improved drug uptake, enabling lower concentration to be administered, thus reducing the prospect of toxicity/side-effects, potentially allowing patients intolerant to 5-FU multi-chemo regimens to receive treatment.

**Qualifications**
Minimum educational requirements: Bachelor or Master’s degree (minimum grade 2.1 or above) in biological/chemical or science related subjects.

Desirable: Prior experience of working in a research laboratory with cell culture, FACs and/or peptide conjugates is an advantage, but not essential.

The successful candidate should be enthusiastic, self-motivated and should be able to interact well within a large multi-disciplinary research team.

**Further Details – closing date 31st May 2019**
Funding includes a stipend of €18,000/annum plus university registration fees at EU rates. Informal enquires and full application (curriculum vitae, cover letter and contact details of two referees) to: Dr. Naomi Walsh, National Institute for Cellular Biotechnology, Dublin City University, Dublin 9, Ireland. Email: naomi.walsh@dcu.ie; T:+353 (0)1 7005912.