Prof Wendy Noble

Research Group website: https://experts.exeter.ac.uk/40967-wendy-noble

How day-to-day research training and support is provided: You will initially be trained by the supervisors at Exeter alongside PhD students, research assistants and postdocs in our labs. Further day-to-day experimental support will be provided by team members of the supervisors with expertise in the appropriate skills. They and WN will be your main point of contact daily. The exact method of supervision will change over the course of your studentship as you become more independent and more fully trained in the required techniques.

Supervision style: Directive support: C / Training structure: 7

How often PhD students see you in a timetabled group meeting: At least once a fortnight

Other research groups that PhD students will have the opportunity to frequently interact with: WN has a joint 2-weekly lab meeting with members of other neurodegeneration-focused groups. CB has a 2-weekly lab meeting, as well as a joint monthly meeting with other groups centered on neurodevelopment. CB and RB participate in monthly meetings with other groups working on RNA. RB attends a fortnightly Complex Disease Epigenomics group meeting which covers multi-omics laboratory and bioinformatics topics related to neurodevelopment and neurodegeneration. RB is also a member of the UK Human Functional Genomics Initiative which provides symposium, small project funding and ECR opportunities. RWs lab works collaboratively within the Drug Targets, Cells and Developmental Bioscience group with a focus on the nervous system, model development and therapeutic target validation, with regular meetings and resource sharing. These meetings will build your network, and support you gaining complementary knowledge or expertise about emerging technologies/ideas that can be used to shape your project.

How often you meet with your PhD students 1-1 formally outside of group meetings (i.e. meetings of >30 minutes): Significantly varies depending on the student

Meeting format: All in person

Expected working pattern (based on a full-time student): Ideally with a significant presence during core hours early in the PhD in order to build relationships with colleagues, to integrate into the research team and to enable training. However, flexible working and personal time management is encouraged. Due to the nature of the research (working with cultured cells), there may be some weekend and evening working required.

How the second supervisor supports the PhD project: The student will spend the second rotation project in the group of the second supervisor (Bath) and is likely to continue project-related work over the course of the PhD. We plan on having monthly meetings with the entire supervisory team during the early phases of the PhD, including during the period of both rotations. The second supervisor brings knowledge in tau biology, particularly in relation to examine tau function using cell models.

Notice needed for feedback on work (based on a 5000 word report): 3-4 weeks

Communication: I am available for contact by e-mail, phone or Teams every day. My office is located close to the lab, and I am usually available for in-person support. In addition, there is excellent support via the other supervisors and their groups. Where possible I prefer meetings to be planned in advance (e.g. during times of extensive teaching), although I am always happy for students to pop into my office with questions. I may sometimes contact you by email outside working hours but do not expect a reply outside of your regular working hours.