POST: **Education & Outreach Programme - Postdoctoral Researchers, Research Assistants & Postgraduate Students**

LOCATION: **Biomedical Diagnostics Institute, DCU**

NATURE: **Full-time Temporary**

The Biomedical Diagnostics Institute (BDI) was established in October 2005 at Dublin City University, through an award of €16.5M from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) under its Centres for Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) programme, in addition to a €6.5M contribution from industry partners.

The BDI will carry out cutting-edge research programmes focussed on the development of next-generation biomedical diagnostic devices. These devices, which will directly affect the quality of people's lives, will be used in Point of Care applications as well as for self-test, home use. The availability of innovative diagnostic devices measuring indicators of chronic disease (e.g. cancer, cardiovascular disease) will allow for life-threatening events to be detected long before a critical stage is reached.

Realisation of our vision requires substantial breakthroughs in the fundamental science and technology underpinning diagnostic devices. In order to meet this ambitious challenge, we are currently assembling a team of world-class research scientists to partner with cutting-edge research teams from our industry partners (Analog Devices, Åmic, Enfer, Hospira, Becton Dickinson & Inverness Medical Innovations) and collaborating institutions (The Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI) in Dublin, the National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES) at NUI, Galway, and the Tyndall National Institute (TNI) in Cork). The combined team will carry out a coordinated research programme over a 5-year period that began on October 1, 2005. The BDI team will be based primarily in DCU, with some researchers located in our collaborating institutions.

The Education Mission of the BDI is to stimulate an enduring interest in science and technology in students of all ages, and to educate a new generation of scientists operating at the interface of biology, physics and chemistry. To achieve this mission the BDI has developed an ambitious and comprehensive Education and Outreach Programme, with five main objectives:

1. To use the facilities and research focus of the Institute to convey the excitement of Science to students at all levels, but especially to younger age groups. The motivation for this derives from a critical national problem. There is a dramatic fall-off in the number of Irish students pursuing sciences at secondary (high-school) level and at university. If this trend is not addressed and at least partially halted, it will have a serious negative impact on the future competitiveness of the Irish economy. There are many facets to this problem, but one major contributory factor is the fact that the excitement and discovery aspects of science are not being communicated properly to children.

2. To develop and provide multidisciplinary training programmes in the area of diagnostics. Through our Programme, we will implement strategies to recruit and train the diagnostic workforce of the future. There is a growing need for researchers

with cross-disciplinary research skills and experience, especially related to the biotechnological and biomedical areas in this 'post-genome' era.

3. Encourage teachers to actively participate in research and design curriculum activities which encompass the field of biomedical diagnostics and to include these in their teaching programmes.

4. Inform the public, by sharing the discoveries of the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute and addressing ethical, legal and social implications of our research.

5. Address societal and economic impacts of BDI research by engaging with politicians, key members of government agencies and the media.

The E&O research staff and students will report to the E&O Leader.

REQUIREMENTS:

Postdoctoral Researchers and Research Assistants are now required for the development and delivery of this programme from primary through to postgraduate level. Specifically, we are seeking candidates with expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Science Education or Science Communication
- Lecturing experience in Biomedical Diagnostics
- Development & co-ordination of Masters Degree programmes

Postgraduate students with an interest in one or more of the above areas are also encouraged to apply.

For informal discussions contact the E&O Leader, Prof Richard O'Kennedy (richard.okennedy@dcu.ie), tel: 700 5319.

CLOSING DATE: 25th November 2005

Postgraduate Students should consult the Registry section on www.dcu.ie for application procedures. In the first instance, please contact the E&O Leader, Prof Richard O'Kennedy, on richard.okennedy@dcu.ie or on 700 5319.