**University of Leicester**

**MRC AIM Studentship Project 2025-6 entry.**

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This is an iCASE studentship with Abcam Ltd,

Hannah Cable, Oversight of iCASE industry placement

**Section 2 – *Project Information***

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| **Project Title** | iCase: Exploration of markers of fibrotic and inflammatory signalling, and associated clinical phenotypes, in patients with Interstitial Lung Diseases (ILDs) |
| **Project Summary** | |
| Interstitial Lung Diseases (ILDs) are a family of lung conditions associated with inflammation and/or fibrosis (scarring). Many ILDs can result in progressive fibrosis and rapid patient deterioration, associated with a large symptom burden and short life expectancy. The available treatments include drugs to reduce inflammation, or slow down progressive scarring (anti-fibrotics). The process for working out which treatment approach(es) a patient will benefit from is slow, expensive and rely on subjective judgements. Cheaper, faster and more robust tests to identify the most suitable treatment approach, or clinical trial, for each patient, are urgently needed.  The project will address this need by using bioinformatics, in-vitro models, and preliminary clinical approaches (blood test development), to identify key molecules that predict ILD progression and response to different treatments. This PhD project is part of an exciting collaboration with Abcam Ltd. (Cambridge) and the University of Nottingham, with the student spending up to 6 months with our collaborating partners. Abcam Ltd. will fund the costs of the placement, including travel and accommodation, and support research costs.  The vision is to enable better patient outcomes by improving utilisation of existing treatments, and better patient selection for clinical trials, by creating robustly validated commercial diagnostic tests. | |
| **References** | |
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