Research Assistant in Occupational Therapy (Falls prevention and Stroke research)

POSITION NO 0044384

CLASSIFICATION Research Assistant, Level A

WORK FOCUS CATEGORY Research Focused

SALARY $44.87/hour

SUPERANNUATION Employer contribution of 9.5%

WORKING HOURS Casual (Maximum of 15h/week)

BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT Casual for 12 months

OTHER BENEFITS http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits

HOW TO APPLY Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers, under ‘Job Search and Job Alerts’, select the relevant option (‘Current Staff’ or ‘Prospective Staff’), then find the position by title or number.

CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY Dr Ayan Dasvarma
Tel +61 0416 842 825
Email ayand@unimelb.edu.au

Please do not send your application to this contact

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our websites: about.unimelb.edu.au/careers
**Position Summary**

A rare and exciting opportunity has arisen for an experienced Occupational Therapist to join the Research Team at The Australian Institute for Musculoskeletal Science (AIMSS). AIMSS is the leading research institute on musculoskeletal diseases in Australia. AIMSS brings clinicians, epidemiologists and biomedical researchers together from Western Health, Victoria University and The University of Melbourne, with an aim to improve the health and wellbeing of the communities in which we live and work through innovative and integrative musculoskeletal research and advocacy. Our mission is to undertake focused, high quality, innovative research; foster collaborations with the research and general community; and promote healthy and active living in the communities we serve.

AIMSS is leading the way in basic, translational and clinical research, providing an environment that is cohesive, inclusive and inspiring to attract and retain a high-calibre workforce. We are continually developing interactions between clinicians, researchers and the community to promote healthy ageing and to improve the understanding, treatment and prevention of musculoskeletal disease.

You will join a growing research team, based at AIMSS. You will undertake and disseminate research into practices of rehabilitation with an emphasis on occupational therapy which impact on post-stroke patients and falls prevention in older persons, working across multiple clinical trials and clinical research projects.

You will have the opportunity to develop your own research skills, while supporting practitioners to become involved in clinically relevant projects. You will need to have gained related qualifications, such as a degree in Occupational Therapy, be interested in further academic study and conduct clinical audit, service evaluation and research to contribute to the evidence base for AIMSS and the Department of Medicine-Western Health. A honorary appointment with Western Health is also attached to this position.

This position reports to the Chair of Medicine and Director of AIMSS.

1. **Key Responsibilities**

1.1 **RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING**

- Participate in research independently and as a member of a research team
- Contribute to data collection and analysis, using specialised programs for qualitative/quantitative data assessment such as SPSS
- The co-production of conference and seminar papers and publications and attendance and presentations at conferences and seminars where appropriate
- Steady development of an academic research profile in stroke rehabilitation and falls prevention
- Contribute to publications arising from scholarship and research, such as publication of books and in peer reviewed journals
- Active participation in the communication and dissemination of research where appropriate
- Occasional contributions to teaching within the research field where appropriate

1.2 **LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**
Actively participate at School and/or Faculty meetings and with guidance, contribute to planning activities or committee work to support capacity-building in the School/discipline.

Identify sources of funding to support individual or collaborative projects, relating to teaching, research and engagement practice in the discipline

Effective training of research support staff where required

Participate in community and professional activities related to the relevant disciplinary area

Effective demonstration and promotion of University values including diversity and inclusion and high standards of ethics and integrity

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 5

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- Qualified Occupational Therapist
- Strong evidence of ability and desire to build an academic career trajectory
- Demonstrated ability to apply research methodologies and quantitative/qualitative data analysis
- Demonstrated ability to contribute to independent and team based research in AIMSS.
- Demonstrated ability to articulate scholarly research through public presentations or University level forums
- Demonstrated excellent verbal and written communication skills for effective research collaboration and engagement

2.2 DESIRABLE

- Demonstrated potential to supervise or co-supervise and mentor undergraduate, honours and graduate diploma stage postgraduate students where appropriate.
- Demonstrated experience in clinical trials (industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated)
- Demonstrated experience with seniors and/or post-stroke patients

3. Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation. The University makes decisions on employment, promotion and reward on the basis of merit.

The University is committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, students, contractors, honorary appointees, volunteers and visitors with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation. This commitment is set out in the University’s People Strategy 2015-2020 and policies that address diversity and inclusion, equal employment opportunity, discrimination, sexual
harassment, bullying and appropriate workplace behaviour. All staff are required to comply with all University policies.

The University values diversity because we recognise that the differences in our people’s age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability and background bring richness to our work environment. Consequently, the People Strategy sets out the strategic aim to drive diversity and inclusion across the University to create an environment where the compounding benefits of a diverse workforce are recognised as vital in our continuous desire to strive for excellence and reach the targets of Growing Esteem.

4. **Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)**

All staff are required to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other personnel who may be affected by their conduct.

OHS responsibilities applicable to positions are published at:

http://safety.unimelb.edu.au/topics/responsibilities/

These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for Managers and Supervisors and other Personnel.

5. **Other Information**

5.1 **DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE, WESTERN HEALTH**


The Department of Medicine and Radiology is a large and diverse department in the Melbourne Medical School that undertakes research, postgraduate and undergraduate teaching within the University of Melbourne teaching hospitals. The Department of Medicine, Western Health is a rapidly growing node of the Department with strengths in musculoskeletal research, ageing, cardiology and other areas. In addition, there is a strong focus on clinical trials research as well as innovative interfaces between tertiary healthcare and cutting-edge research. The Department is based within the Western Centre for Health Research and Education (WCHRE).

The Centre is the operational hub of a diversified campus which incorporates the University of Melbourne activities involving staff from the Melbourne Medical School and other Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences Schools. A collaborative approach enables us to deliver a community focused medical education experience for students enrolled in the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree across Western Health. Medical Research at WCHRE has a major focus on high quality research into musculoskeletal disorders and chronic disease common in the Western suburbs of Melbourne. Current academic staff forms a multidisciplinary group comprising a paediatric endocrinologist, exercise scientists, a nutritionist, biomechanists, PhD, Masters and Honours students who have extensive experience in the design and conduct of large-scale clinical randomised controlled trials and public health and translational research. Appointments in other fields also include General Practice, Cardiovascular disease, Maternal Foetal Medicine and Aged Care: [http://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/research/summaries/nwac](http://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/research/summaries/nwac)
The University of Melbourne through collaboration with Western Health and Victoria University have formed the Australian Institute of Musculoskeletal Science (AIMSS) which is a national reference centre for research into disorders of bone, muscle and joint. AIMSS provides an innovative and collaborative environment for clinicians and researchers to translate basic research into direct health outcomes. The Institute also promotes disease prevention with the establishment of community-based programs based on disease-specific intervention, including exercise and nutrition. http://aimss.org.au/

5.2 MELBOURNE MEDICAL SCHOOL

www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au

The Melbourne Medical School (MMS) was established in 1862 and has a substantial international reputation for its leadership in teaching and training, health research, policy and practice. The MMS is committed to working with the communities we serve to improve health and advance health care. We will do this through our teaching, learning, research, clinical care and advocacy.

The MMS is composed of eight clinical departments (General Practice, Medical Education, Medicine and Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Rural Health and Surgery) which are embedded within clinical health services throughout metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria.

The MMS delivers a suite of health related graduate programs including the Doctor of Medicine (MD), the first professional entry Masters level medical program in Australia. The Melbourne MD delivers a fresh approach to medical training and creates a new benchmark in 21st century medical education.

The MMS is committed to improving the wellbeing of the community through the discovery and application of new knowledge. The research effort of the school is highly collaborative and spans basic to translational research and involves over 800 graduate researchers and 1000 academic staff.

The MMS also actively participates in the public debate and advocacy around key health issues and policy based on our values of commitment, integrity, compassion, respect and service.

5.3 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) plays a vital role in the delivery of the University of Melbourne’s Strategic Plan 2015-2020: Growing Esteem by providing current and future generations with education and research equal to the best in the world. It is Australia’s largest and leading biomedical research faculty. It employs more than 1,700 members of staff, has more than 8,000 students, and total revenue of $607 million for 2015. Reflecting the complexity of today’s global health landscape, the Faculty is made up of six different Schools and four Strategic Research Initiatives, and draws together all areas of human health, ranging from the most basic to the most applied areas of research. The Faculty contributes close to 50 per cent of research conducted at the University.

The Faculty has appointed Australia’s first Associate Dean (Indigenous Development) to lead the development and implementation of the Faculty’s Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which will be aligned with the broader University-wide plan. To enable the Faculty to improve its Indigenous expertise knowledge base, the Faculty’s RAP will address
Indigenous employment, Indigenous student recruitment and retention, Indigenous cultural recognition and building partnerships with the Indigenous community as key areas of development.

5.4 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. The main campus in Parkville is recognised as the hub of Australia’s premier knowledge precinct comprising eight hospitals, many leading research institutes and a wide-range of knowledge-based industries. With outstanding performance in international rankings, the University is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

The University employs people of outstanding calibre and offers a unique environment where staff are valued and rewarded.

Further information about working at The University of Melbourne is available at http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers.

5.5 GROWING ESTEEM, THE MELBOURNE CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH AT MELBOURNE: ENSURING EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT TO 2025

Growing Esteem describes Melbourne’s strategy to achieve its aspiration to be a public-spirited and internationally-engaged institution, highly regarded for making distinctive contributions to society in research and research training, learning and teaching, and engagement. http://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy-and-leadership

The University is at the forefront of Australia’s changing higher education system and offers a distinctive model of education known collectively as the Melbourne Curriculum. The new educational model, designed for an outstanding experience for all students, is based on six broad undergraduate programs followed by a graduate professional degree, research higher degree or entry directly into employment. The emphasis on academic breadth as well as disciplinary depth in the new degrees ensures that graduates will have the capacity to succeed in a world where knowledge boundaries are shifting and reforming to create new frontiers and challenges. In moving to the new model, the University is also aligning itself with the best of emerging European and Asian practice and well-established North American traditions.

The University’s global aspirations seek to make significant contributions to major social, economic and environmental challenges. Accordingly, the University’s research strategy Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025 aspires to a significant advancement in the excellence and impact of its research outputs. http://research.unimelb.edu.au/our-research/research-at-melbourne

The strategy recognises that as a public-spirited, research-intensive institution of the future, the University must strive to make a tangible impact in Australia and the world, working across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries and building deeper and more substantive engagement with industry, collaborators and partners. While cultivating the fundamental enabling disciplines through investigator-driven research, the University has adopted three grand challenges aspiring to solve some of the most difficult problems facing our world in the next century. These Grand Challenges include:

Understanding our place and purpose – The place and purpose grand challenge centres on understanding all aspects of our national identity, with a focus on
Australia’s ‘place’ in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and on our ‘purpose’ or mission to improve all dimensions of the human condition through our research.

Fostering health and wellbeing – The health and wellbeing grand challenge focuses on building the scale and breadth of our capabilities in population and global health; on harnessing our contribution to the ‘convergence revolution’ of biomedical and health research, bringing together the life sciences, engineering and the physical sciences; and on addressing the physical, mental and social aspects of wellbeing by looking beyond the traditional boundaries of biomedicine.

Supporting sustainability and resilience – The sustainability and resilience grand challenge addresses the critical issues of climate change, water and food security, sustainable energy and designing resilient cities and regions. In addition to the technical aspects, this grand challenge considers the physical and social functioning of cities, connecting physical phenomena with lessons from our past, and the implications of the technical solutions for economies, living patterns and behaviours.

Essential to tackling these challenges, an outstanding faculty, high performing students, wide collaboration including internationally and deep partnerships with external parties form central components of Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025.

5.6 **GOVERNANCE**

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and responsible to Council for the good management of the University.

Comprehensive information about the University of Melbourne and its governance structure is available at [http://www.unimelb.edu.au/governance](http://www.unimelb.edu.au/governance)