



CUMMING
GLOBAL CENTRE
FOR PANDEMIC
THERAPEUTICS

A centre of the Doherty Institute

Major supporting partner



Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics Faculty Recruitment

Candidate information pack

Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Melbourne acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses) and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.

In making this Acknowledgment of Country we commit to respectful and responsible conduct towards all others according to the Traditional lores of this land, particularly at times of formal ceremony.



Join the Cumming Global Centre to shape the future of pandemic response

Are you an exceptional researcher with an outstanding track record of research excellence? Or, are you a rising star with strong collaborative skills and leadership potential?

This is your opportunity to contribute to a legacy of innovation, education, and positive social impact – by anchoring and driving the Cumming Global Centre's mission to develop novel technologies to deliver therapeutics at speed for pathogens of pandemic potential.

Established within the world-leading Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute) – a joint venture of the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital – the Centre invites you to join a community of world-class thinkers who drive transformative global change and shape our future.

We are looking to recruit emerging, established and pre-eminent investigators with expertise in the following areas of research priority, aligned with the Centre's mission:

- / Bioinformatics, artificial intelligence and computational biology
- / Structural biology and small molecule drug development
- / Pathogens of pandemic potential: Virology and bacteriology
- / Immunology and immunotherapies, including antibodies and nanobodies
- / Nucleic acid targeting and mRNA technology
- / Model systems: Organoids and animal models for therapeutic development

These roles will be positioned within multiple departments and faculties across the University of Melbourne aligned to the research priorities, including departments at the [Doherty Institute](#), [Faculty of Science](#), [Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences](#), and the [Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology](#).

To give you the opportunity to deliver the most impact, we are offering seven-year research packages, with scope to extend. With researchers reporting that they spend 40% of their time on grant applications – we want to help you focus on the work that matters most.

You will also have the chance to think big and experiment with new ideas. We adopt a higher risk tolerance than most, allowing for some failures along the way. We know it's the only way to achieve critical breakthroughs.

Strategically located within Melbourne's world-leading biomedical precinct while globally connected through our international network, you will have access to a rich and diverse ecosystem of collaborative partners and mentors.

If this unique opportunity excites you, we would love to hear from you.



"Research positions at the Cumming Global Centre offer a once-in-a-generation opportunity to solve one of humanity's biggest challenges; advancing the science behind therapeutics will save lives in the inevitable event of the next pandemic."

Professor Sharon Lewin AO
Director, Cumming Global Centre
for Pandemic Therapeutics

About the Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics

The Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics is a mission-driven, globally connected research initiative, dedicated to the rapid design and development of treatments for pathogens of pandemic potential.

Established within the world-leading Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute)—a joint venture of the University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital—the Cumming Global Centre aims to save millions of human lives by identifying new disease treatments within exponentially shorter timeframes than currently possible.

The Centre mission goes far beyond creating new treatments for singular viruses; as a global collective, we are developing entirely new ‘plug and play’ platform technologies to underpin novel therapeutic development, enabling researchers to readily pivot to new pathogens as outbreaks occur.

Effective and timely delivery of therapeutics has the power to transform the international response to future pandemics. However, global investment in therapeutics has lagged significantly behind that of vaccines and diagnostics. Now is the time for significant investment in therapeutic research and development, trials and manufacturing—equal to resources devoted to vaccines and diagnostics.

In just three short years, the Centre has funded 32 Foundation Grant projects totalling \$22 million, brokered two international research partnerships with the University of Bonn and the University of Calgary with a collective value of more than \$50 million, expanded its Interim Scientific Advisory Board to nine global experts, and held its inaugural annual scientific symposium – bringing together leading scientists from around the world to share learnings and strengthen collaboration opportunities.

Our impact



35

projects funded



150+

researchers working to
advance the science behind
pandemic therapeutics



\$75m+

invested in therapeutic
research to date



30+

collaborations with
institutions worldwide



10

collaborating countries

Our research focus

Cumming Global Centre research will focus on developing platform technologies which can rapidly give rise to new therapeutics candidates.

Once established, these platform technologies can be adapted at speed to respond to new pandemic pathogens. This approach sets the Centre apart from many other research initiatives, which are more commonly focussed on small molecules that target specific viruses or single targets.

A number of platforms will be investigated for potential advancement within the Centre, including nucleic acid targeting including CRISPR and RNA silencing strategies, immunotherapies including antibodies and nanobodies and host cell targets. The types of platform technologies are summarised below:



**Antibodies and
nanobodies**



**Small molecules
(panviral)**



**Host targets
(Innate immune
activators)**



**Nucleic acid
targeting**



Where you will be located

Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics research faculty positions will be located within multiple departments and faculties across the University of Melbourne aligned to the research priorities, including the Doherty Institute, the Faculty of Science, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, and the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology.

The Doherty Institute

Finding solutions to prevent, treat and cure infectious diseases and understanding the complexities of microbes and the immune system requires innovative approaches and concentrated effort. This is why the University of Melbourne – a world leader in education, teaching and research excellence – and The Royal Melbourne Hospital – an internationally renowned institution providing outstanding care, research and learning – partnered to create the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute); a centre of excellence where leading scientists and clinicians collaborate to improve human health globally.

The Doherty Institute has more than 800 staff who work on infection and immunity through a broad spectrum of activities. This includes discovery research; diagnosis, surveillance and investigation of infectious disease outbreaks; and the development of ways to prevent, treat and eliminate infectious diseases.

The Faculty of Science

With more than 160 years' experience in pioneering scientific thinking and analysis, the Faculty of Science is recognised internationally for its role in expanding the frontiers of knowledge for the advancement of society. As Australia's most comprehensive Science faculty, it offers 43 research disciplines.

Faculty of Science researchers explore the world around us – from the smallest scale to the widest expanses of our universes and everything in between. Through strong industry collaboration and state-of-the-art facilities, the faculty prides itself on training the next generation of scientists and finding solutions to the issues that matter most.

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) is positioned as the largest and most impactful aggregation of health researchers in Australia.

Its research covers a broad spectrum of health from fundamental biomedical science through to community health and well-being, and global health.

MDHS' reputation is strong, and has been enhanced by the substantial role its researchers played in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which stretches from fundamental viral biology and immunology through to societal well-being in the face of the health and economic consequences of the pandemic.

The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology

The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology's (FEIT) researchers lead the way in engineering and information technology to build a more sustainable future.

Its research spans a vast range of blue-sky discovery and exploration, and is complemented by a range of targeted industry-focussed innovation and problem-solving programs.



Position summary and selection criteria

Cumming Global Centre Emerging (Assistant Professor), Established (Associate Professor) and Pre-Eminent (Professor) Researchers

Salary

A generous research package will be negotiated.

Superannuation

Employer contribution of 17%

Working hours

Full-time (1.0 FTE)

Basis of employment

Continuing (Research Contingent)

Position Summary

The Cumming Global Centre Researcher will establish and lead a high-quality active research program in one of the key areas of research focus in support of the scientific outputs of the Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics (the "Centre"). Collaborating with other Centre researchers and Centre national and international research partner institutions, it is anticipated that researchers will actively pursue impactful research and identify new directions in the field and identify novel scientific opportunities that will enhance the outputs of the Centre.

The Centre will provide researchers with core funding, and expert teams and laboratories will be established to address specific research missions. Focussed on a broad range of disciplines, it is anticipated that the researchers would be recruited in fields beyond medical research, such as engineering, biosciences, computational sciences, and biochemistry.

The Centre will provide fully-funded seven (7) year research packages, including salary in line with University of Melbourne policy, and ensure the recruited faculty are part of an active, engaged and collaborative broader research environment. The length of the Centre's support packages is unique compared to other top global research funding initiatives, and takes a long-term view to guide and support the longer term aspirations of world-class researchers.

An annual KPI focussed performance review supplemented by a 5-year review process by an eminent external review panel will also be implemented to ensure research productivity and outcomes remain exceptional and are aligned with the vision of the Centre. Pending a successful review, and with mutual agreement, the role may be extended

The Centre will appoint established researchers across a range of disciplines with strong track records in their fields. Recruitment will target roles across six key categories, aligned to the Centre's mission:

- / Bioinformatics, artificial intelligence and computational biology
- / Structural biology and small molecule drug development
- / Pathogens of pandemic potential: Virology and bacteriology
- / Immunology and immunotherapies, including antibodies and nanobodies
- / Nucleic acid targeting and mRNA technology
- / Model systems: Organoids and animal models for therapeutic development

For more information, visit: go.unimelb.edu.au/4trp

Position summary and selection criteria

Key Responsibilities for Emerging (Assistant Professor) Researchers

Research and research Training

- / Participate in research independently and as a member of a research team
- / Support preparation of research outputs such as manuscripts, abstracts, presentations
- / Foster collaborations with other scientists and clinicians to develop a multidisciplinary approach to research
- / Contribute to the preparation of proposals for internal and external research grant opportunities
- / Contribute to research and communication activities in the Cumming Global Centre including seminar series, work in progress meetings, research training and other symposia
- / Disseminate findings via national and international academic conferences, scholarly publications, as well as through other media and active networking with key stakeholders
- / Contribute towards the development of research strategy within the section and the department as a whole

Leadership and service

- / Actively contribute to the Cumming Global Centre and host department research culture
- / Undertake other academic and service duties as requested by the supervisor and the Director, Cumming Global Centre, or Head of School
- / Expand the knowledge of the discipline which impacts the field
- / Engage with relevant professional and industry bodies and stakeholders to foster collaborative partnerships
- / Contribute to, or present research to the public to elevate public awareness of research developments and promote critical enquiry and public debate within the community where appropriate
- / Build collaborative inclusive research within and outside the Cumming Global Centre and University of Melbourne

Additionally, for Established (Associate Professor) Researchers:

- / Recruit, supervise, nurture and train research students at the graduate and postgraduate level
- / Lead research and preparation of research outputs
- / Identify sources of research funding
- / Play a significant role in research projects including, where appropriate, leadership of a research team

Specific KPIs for each researcher will be developed with the host department and the Centre Director, and reviewed each year within the performance development framework in consultation with the candidate, and would cover key areas of research and research training, leadership, and engagement.

Additionally, for Pre-eminent (Professor) Researchers

- / Provide high level academic leadership in the discipline across the University
- / Contribute to strategic planning and policy decision making processes
- / Provide leadership in advancing the research agenda, profile and reputation of the University
- / Develop linkages and research opportunities within the University, nationally and internationally to promote research collaborations
- / Foster a culture of excellence in research and scholarship
- / Lead and facilitate collaborations in relation to research, teaching and knowledge exchange within the Cumming Global Centre, Host Department, and, with the relevant affiliated Research Institutes and partner organisations
- / Identify new opportunities for additional competitive research grants, to ensure optimal leverage of the foundation gift. Provide appropriate educational and collaborative opportunities for junior researchers
- / Play a lead role in mentoring and supporting the development of research skills of staff

Selection Criteria for Emerging (Assistant Professor) Researchers

Essential

- / A PhD or equivalent professional qualification
- / Evidence of significant contribution to independent and team-based research
- / Strong research track record commensurate with opportunity including impactful publications in key journals and presentations at national and international conferences.
- / Significant ability to attract competitive external funding for research and scholarship commensurate with opportunity.
- / Demonstrated depth of knowledge of the research field and ability to articulate vision for progress.
- / Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with an ability to build and maintain relationships with key stakeholders (internal and external) and work collaboratively
- / Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively in a team to meet agreed deadlines and achieve project goals.

Desirable

- / Demonstrated ability to work in multidisciplinary teams
- / Demonstrated leadership in research including research training and supervision
- / Strong commitment to teamwork and a proven capacity to work effectively, win support and make outstanding contributions in collaborative teams, with the capacity to nurture a collegial research culture based on shared values and priorities
- / Exceptional written and verbal English language communication, negotiation and presentation skills
- / An exceptional record of integrity.

Additionally, for Established (Associate Professor) Researchers:

- / Demonstrated leadership in research, including research training and supervision and demonstrable success in leading research teams
- / Demonstrated ability to build collaborative research teams.
- / Sustained success in acquisition of competitive research funding from independent government and/or commercial sources

Additionally, for Pre-eminent (Professor) Researchers

- / A doctorate in a relevant discipline, with high-level experience in virology, bacteriology, immunology, drug development or therapeutics.
- / Recognition as a leading authority with an international reputation within the discipline.
- / An outstanding research publication track record.
- / A capacity to manage complexity and multiple stakeholders in a highly collaborative environment involving multiple institutions.
- / Experience in impactful, collaborative research to support and enable a large number of senior investigators to leading innovative research programs with clear translational outcomes.
- / A deep understanding of the role of discovery science in the development of ground-breaking inventions for the treatment of infectious diseases.
- / A strong track record of success in obtaining national competitive research grants and directing research programs.
- / Proven contribution to academic, institutional and public life through active participation in professional associations.

Equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion

The University of Melbourne 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.

This commitment is set out in the University's Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2030 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 differences in 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. This will help 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 the University's Advancing Melbourne strategy.

Excellence comes in many forms. Diversity of thought, perspective and disciplines is essential to deliver globally leading science. Our faculty's focus on equity, inclusion and belonging is grounded in our endeavour to ensure we are best placed to advance research, education and serve diverse national and global communities.

We are committed to providing a supportive, inclusive, and equitable environment for all staff, students and visitors. That is why we are increasing the diversity of our researchers and leaders through proactive, inclusive, and equitable recruitment and career-long support.

An important element of our education and learning is to acknowledge Indigenous connections to Country. We are committed to empowering Indigenous communities and making The Centre of Science a more inclusive place for Indigenous people through robust research partnerships and engagement with communities.

The Centre 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 Centre makes decisions on employment, promotion and reward on the basis of merit. We are 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.

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Occupational health and safety

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

The OHS (Occupational Health and Safety) responsibilities applicable to positions are published at: safety.unimelb.edu.au/health-and-safety-contacts/responsibilities-of-personnel These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply to managers, supervisors and other personnel.



Working at the University of Melbourne

Our University

The University of Melbourne is a friendly, diverse community of students, academics and staff. We are world-renowned for the excellence of our research and for the warmth of our community. Established in 1853, we are a global leader in higher education and bring together the world's best minds to solve globally significant problems.

Our vision is to equip our students with a distinctive, future-facing education personalised around their ambitions and needs, enriched by global perspectives and embedded in a richly collaborative research culture.

Information about our strategic direction, Advancing Melbourne 2020 – 2030, can be found at: about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/advancing-melbourne.

Our city

Melbourne is the capital city of Victoria and is the second largest city in Australia with a population of more than 5 million people. The Economist Intelligence Unit has rated Melbourne one of the world's most liveable cities based on its education, entertainment, health care, research and development, tourism and sport.

The City of Melbourne municipality, in which the University's main Parkville campus is based, covers 37.7 km² and has a population of more than 159,000 people. It includes the city centre and a number of attractive inner suburbs with thriving communities and businesses.

The City of Melbourne is recognised as Australia's cultural capital with a number of world-class galleries and museums, internationally renowned food and wine regions, and an impressive year-round calendar of events catering for all tastes.

Parkville campus

The Parkville campus provides easy access to cafes, shops and services, libraries with extensive collections, and cultural and sporting facilities. Nearby Lygon Street is home to a huge variety of restaurants and shops while the northern end of the University is adjacent to the popular Princes Park, hosting a range of outdoor activities.

The University is accessible by car, tram and train, with a new on-campus train station (Parkville) currently being built and expected to open in 2025.



How to Apply

If you have any queries about the role, please email the Senior Academic Talent Acquisition team at snr-talentacq@unimelb.edu.au

Please submit your application, including your resume, cover letter and responses to the key search criteria via the University's website: jobs.unimelb.edu.au/caw/en/listing/

Alternatively, you can apply from the job site you visited.

Thank you
for your
consideration

