



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Department of General Practice
Melbourne Medical School
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Research Assistant

POSITION NO	0056026
CLASSIFICATION	Level A
SALARY	\$ 77,171 - \$ 104,717 p.a.
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 17%
WORKING HOURS	Full-time (1.0 FTE)
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed term available for 2 years
OTHER BENEFITS	https://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/staff-benefits
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers , select the relevant option ('Current Opportunities' or 'Jobs available to current staff'), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Prof Jon Emery Email: jon.emery@unimelb.edu.au <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website:
about.unimelb.edu.au/careers

Position Summary

The Primary Care Cancer Research Group is a dynamic and collaborative team led by Prof Jon Emery in the Department of General Practice, within the University of Melbourne Centre for Cancer Research at the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre. The Primary Care Cancer Research team is focused on improving outcomes for cancer patients across the cancer continuum from cancer prevention through to survivorship. Key areas of the research program include bowel cancer screening, genomic testing, early diagnosis of melanoma and the potential of data-linkage to enable large-scale studies that help provide a better view of populations across our healthcare system.

The Research Assistant will primarily assist with The PRESIDE Trial and may also assist with the SCRIPT Trial. These are two randomised controlled trials (RCT) within the Primary Care Cancer Research Group. The PRESIDE Trial is a collaborative mental health study funded by a dedicated grant from the Medical Research Future Fund and is investigating DNA testing to inform selection and dose of antidepressants in people with moderate to severe depression in general practice. The SCRIPT Trial funded by Cancer Australia is testing the implementation of a novel polygenic risk score to tailor colorectal cancer screening in primary care addressing the implementation challenges of precision cancer screening.

This position will involve the recruitment and ongoing engagement of participating general practices, as well as the implementation of the trial protocols including patient recruitment. The Research Assistant will also be expected to undertake other administrative duties as required and participate in the Centre for Cancer Research events.

1. Key Responsibilities

1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

- ▶ Screen, recruit, consent, interview and randomise participants into the trials, and administer the intervention appropriately and consistently
- ▶ Recruit and consent General Practices and General Practitioners onto the trial.
- ▶ Work with a team of researchers or independently within the context of a general practice clinic.
- ▶ Data collection, input and analysis throughout trial focused on completion of research project aims.
- ▶ Maintain confidential, accurate and detailed records consistent with high quality research.
- ▶ Assist other members of the cancer team in carrying out research to work as a team and further the group's research output.
- ▶ Work closely with others within the Centre for Cancer Research, University of Melbourne and contribute to research project development.
- ▶ Prepare manuscripts for submission to refereed journals.
- ▶ Present findings regularly to the research group and collaborators, and at conferences

1.2 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- ▶ Contribute to the research administration relevant to the project, including the preparation of ethics applications and related grant applications.
 - ▶ Evaluate and report results to the Principal Investigators and collaborators.
 - ▶ Actively participate in Department of General Practice and Centre for Cancer Research seminars and meetings.
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- ▶ Undertake an involvement in professional activities, including, subject to the availability of funds, attendance at and contribution to conferences and seminars in the relevant field of expertise as directed.
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 6.

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ Minimum of an undergraduate qualification in nursing, science, health science or related discipline with subsequent relevant experience or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or research experience.
 - ▶ Experience in primary care or clinical research including demonstrated knowledge of research trial methodology and Good Clinical Practice.
 - ▶ Proficiency in accurate recording and analysis of data generated from research undertaken
 - ▶ Demonstrated capacity to develop expertise in research to undertake tasks and problem solve with increased autonomy.
 - ▶ Excellent interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills and ability to work effectively with general practice patients and as part of a team.
 - ▶ Highly developed organisational skills, attention to detail and demonstrated ability to meet deadlines and manage competing demands.
- Demonstrated high level of computing skills including competency with word processing, spreadsheets, databases, internet, and email.

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Demonstrated ability working within general practice and interacting in a courteous and effective manner with clinical, academic and administrative staff.

2.3 SPECIAL

- ▶ We encourage a flexible working environment focused on outcomes rather than strict adherence to schedules. Therefore, the possibility exists that the incumbent will occasionally be required to work outside of normal working hours.

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 Advancing Melbourne strategy that addresses 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 Advancing Melbourne.

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:

<https://safety.unimelb.edu.au/people/community/responsibilities-of-personnel>

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

5. Other Information

5.1 THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE

www.gp.unimelb.edu.au

The Department of General Practice originated as a unit within the Department of Community Medicine in 1977. It was established as a separate department within the School of Medicine in 2001 and established the Primary Care Research Unit (PCRU) as a centre of excellence in primary care research, research training and knowledge exchange in 2006. The Department has 68 (full time equivalent) staff supported by an operating budget of \$7 million and research income of approximately \$11 million annually.

With an increased profile within the Melbourne Medical School, the Department has utilised its growing network of general practitioners (GPs) and primary health care providers in the community to ensure that University of Melbourne medical students are provided with quality community-based medical education. The Department delivers postgraduate training for primary care nurses, and research training for medical, honours, masters (4) and PhD students (18). For more than 20 years, the Department has run a very successful General Practice academic registrar program where doctors who are training to be GPs (GP registrars) undertake a half time special skills post in academic medicine to experience an introduction to research and university teaching. We average around three academic registrars per year.

The Department has a successful Primary Care Research Unit (PCRU), including a Trials Unit with a practice-based research and education network (VicREN), which comprises our community-based general practices (600+) and other primary care providers who contribute to and drive teaching and research. A proportion of our VicREN members are a part of our Data for Decisions (D4D) Community of Practice. In this D4D program general practices have an agreement with the Department to share their electronic medical record (EMR) data for research and policy advocacy; participating practices have also undertaken a process with their patients to opt out if they do not want their data shared. The EMR data is de-identified before it leaves the practice and is stored in a secure data repository managed by the Department, called Patron. Patron has a management group and an independent governance group with representatives who are consumers, GPs, practice managers, researchers, IT technical, and legal experts.

Our cross-cutting research themes include clinical biostatistics, implementation science, clinical informatics, co-design, and health services research. Central to our work is understanding the patient and practitioner experience and through co-production methodologies involving them in identifying the challenges and designing and testing solutions. Using clinical data analytics, we explore patient pathways through health care and describe the epidemiology of health and disease in primary care. With a focus on primary care innovation, we develop, test and implement simple and complex interventions including digital technologies, such as a range of risk stratification and point-of-care decision making tools. The Department also has successful research programs in specialised areas in Cancer; Children and Young People's Health; Clinical Data Informatics, Data Driven Quality Improvement, Integrated Mental Health; Sexual Health, and Abuse and Violence.

5.2 MELBOURNE MEDICAL SCHOOL

<http://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/>

Established in 1862, Melbourne Medical School (MMS) in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at The University of Melbourne is the oldest medical school in Australia. It is internationally renowned for global leadership in teaching and training, health research, policy and practice. MMS is ranked 14th in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 for clinical, pre-clinical and health), has strong academic partnerships and ground-breaking collaborative research programs with leading public and private hospitals, as well as leading medical research institutes and centres in Australia and internationally.

Under the leadership of Professor John Prins, MMS spans all major fields of medicine and is comprised of thirteen clinical departments:

- Baker Department of Cardiometabolic Health;
- Clinical Pathology;
- Critical Care;
- General Practice;
- Medical Education;
- Infectious Diseases;
- Medicine;
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology;
- Paediatrics;
- Psychiatry;
- Radiology;
- Rural Health; and
- Surgery.

MMS has more than 1,000 academic and professional staff members located at the Parkville campus or embedded within health services throughout metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria. Staff are privileged to work alongside more than 2,725 honorary appointees from the health sector who generously contribute their time, knowledge, research and clinical expertise.

MMS is committed to improving community wellbeing through the discovery and application of new knowledge. With annual research income of \$165 million, the School's research effort is highly collaborative, spanning research programs from basic to translational. The School has research collaborations across the 47 partner organisations in the vibrant Melbourne

Biomedical Precinct, as well as nationally and internationally. These partnerships enable medical advances to impact healthcare delivery as rapidly and seamlessly as possible.

The School's flagship Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree was the first Masters level entry-to-practice qualification of its kind developed in Australia, setting a new benchmark in medical education. Now, the new curriculum launched in 2022 has created more responsive, modular, technology-enhanced learning for state-of-the-art curriculum delivery. Continuous research and discovery options, and an ability to tailor the degree, allows each student to gain deeper experience in areas of greatest interest. The MD Rural Pathway offers students the opportunity to undertake their entire program in rural Victoria, with a \$6.5 million expansion of facilities in Shepparton to accommodate this. There is also an expanded range of joint degree pathways on offer. The School utilises the Department of General Practice's continually expanding network of general practitioners and primary healthcare providers in the community to ensure that MD students are also provided with quality community-based medical education.

In addition to the MD, MMS has an ever-expanding portfolio of other vocationally oriented programs. These teach research skills, leadership and continuing professional development in specific disciplines. An emphasis on the clinician-scientist career trajectory – with training, support and ongoing career pathways at graduate and postgraduate levels – is central to the School's development of future leaders in all aspects of healthcare, education, research and policy. MMS has over 600 higher degree by research candidates located both within Departments and across its network of partners.

School staff and honorary appointees lead and participate in public debate and advocacy around key health issues and policy based on the MMS values of commitment, integrity, compassion, respect and service. The School also offers a range of initiatives and programs in support of its diverse and inclusive culture:

<https://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/about/diversity-and-inclusion> MMS is always looking to recruit talented individuals across a wide range of medical disciplines which include leadership roles. This presents a wonderful opportunity for appointees to help drive the strategy, growth and continued excellence of Australia's leading medical school.

5.3 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences has an enviable research record and is the University of Melbourne's largest faculty in terms of management of financial resources, employment of academic and professional staff, teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate (including research higher degree) students and the conduct of basic and applied research. The Faculty's annual revenue is \$630M with approximately 55% of this income related to research activities.

The Faculty has a student teaching load in excess of 8,500 equivalent full-time students including more than 1,300 research higher degree students. The Faculty has approximately 2,195 staff comprising 642 professional staff and 1,553 research and teaching staff.

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 ADVANCING MELBOURNE

The University's strategic direction is grounded in its purpose. While its expression may change, our purpose is enduring: to benefit society through the transformative impact of education and research. Together, the vision and purpose inform the focus and scale of our aspirations for the coming decade.

Advancing Melbourne reflects the University's commitment to its people, its place, and its partners. Our aspiration for 2030 is to be known as a world-leading and globally connected Australian university, with our students at the heart of everything we do.

- We will offer students a distinctive and outstanding education and experience, preparing them for success as leaders, change agents and global citizens.
- We will be recognised locally and globally for our leadership on matters of national and global importance, through outstanding research and scholarship and a commitment to collaboration.
- We will be empowered by our sense of place and connections with communities. We will take opportunities to advance both the University and the City of Melbourne in close collaboration and synergy.
- We will deliver this through building a brilliant, diverse and vibrant University community, with strong connections to those we serve.

The means for achieving these goals include the development of the University of Melbourne's academic and professional staff and the capabilities needed to support a modern, world-class university. Those means require a commitment to ongoing financial sustainability and an ambitious infrastructure program which will reshape the campus and our contribution to the communities we engage with. This strategy, and the priorities proposed, is centred around five intersecting themes: place, community, education, discovery and global.

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 <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/governance>
