Melbourne Dental School
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Research Assistant – Human oral tissue model of oral Gonorrhoeae infection

POSITION NO 0059173

CLASSIFICATION Level A

SALARY $80,258 - $108,906 per annum (pro rata for part-time)

SUPERANNUATION Employer contribution of 17%

WORKING HOURS Full time

BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT Fixed Term for 12 months

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.

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Please do not send your application to this contact

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

**Position Summary**

The Research Assistant will primarily conduct laboratory-based research in the Melbourne Dental School and at the Bio21 Institute under the supervision of A/Prof. Antonio Celentano. You will conduct research on this competitively funded project *(ARC Research Hub to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance)* as part of collaboration between the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health (Dr Fabian Kong and Prof Jane Hocking) and the WHO (Prof Magnus Unemo). [Click here for more information about the project.](#)

The successful candidate will be enthusiastic with a strong interest in microbiology and human disease. You must have exceptional organisational skills, possess the ability to work within a team atmosphere and be self-motivated.

In addition, to this position we are also advertising an opportunity for a PhD candidate to join our team, to work on “Development of a Novel Human Oral Tissue Model of Gonorrhoea infection”. [For further please click here to view details of the project.](#)

**1. Key Responsibilities**

**1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING**

- Establish 3D oral mucosa equivalent models, co-culturing NG with oral cells (e.g. keratinocytes/fibroblasts).
- Assess NG viability and invasion using a range of cell culture, microbiology, immunohistochemistry and microscopy techniques.
- Assess cellular toxicity of compounds screened in the model.
- Plan and carry out experiments focused on completion of research project aims.
- Carry out experiments related to the project ethically, accurately and productively.
Maintain accurate and detailed records of all experiments conducted and the research project.

Preparing reports, undertaking quantitative analysis and providing input into the interpretation of results.

Independently plan and carry out experiments/analyses focused on completion of research project aims to meet agreed timelines and milestones, including maintaining detailed records of all analyses conducted. Assist other researchers in carrying out experiments in order to work as a team and further the laboratory's research output.

Assist with the development of ethics applications and reports to the relevant committee.

Contribute towards publications arising from scholarships and research in peer-reviewed journals.

Contribute to the day-to-day organisation of the laboratory including ordering reagents, maintenance of equipment, maintain stocks of reagents and liaison with relevant suppliers, lab or occupational, health and Safety representatives as required.

Undertake other duties as requested by the supervisor and the Head of the Department

Contribute to training, scientific mentoring and supervision of students, other researchers and laboratory staff as required.

Supervision or co-supervision of honours or postgraduate research projects within research area, (subject to completion of a PhD).

Perform other duties as requested by the appointee's immediate supervisor (consistent with responsibilities of this position)

1.2 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Attend and actively contribute to laboratory meetings, as well as departmental seminars, meetings and/or committees.

Assist with administrative duties such as submission of ethics approvals, writing of risk assessments and SOPs and with general laboratory duties including ordering of supplies.

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

1.3 COMPLIANCE AND OH&S

Maintain a sound knowledge of current University Policy and Procedures, and reliably follow these or provide compliant advice to others.

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in Section 3 and 4.

Behavioural Expectations - All staff are expected to maintain the following behaviours:

- Treat everyone equitably; act fairly with staff and demonstrate respect for diversity.
- Be an effective team player who is cooperative and gains the trust and support of staff, peers and clients through collaboration.
2. **Selection Criteria**

2.1 **ESSENTIAL**

- A completed degree in a relevant field (e.g., biomedical sciences, microbiology, or related disciplines).
- Strong research background with experience in cell culture, microbiology or infectious diseases.
- Quantitative research experience including writing research proposals, conducting literature reviews, conducting research and writing manuscripts.

2.2 **DESIRABLE**

- Laboratory experience in a PC2 Lab.
- Prior experience with in-vitro models and/or antimicrobial resistance research is highly desirable.

2.3 **OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION**

- This position requires the incumbent to hold a current and valid Working with Children Check.
- This position may require weekend work due to equipment accessibility and experimental timing, and the successful candidate may also be required to travel between different laboratories to gain access to equipment.
- Occasional work out of ordinary hours, travel, and time sensitive experimental procedures.
- This position requires the incumbent to hold a current and valid Working with Children Check.

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 **ORGANISATION UNIT**

www.dental.unimelb.edu.au

The Melbourne Dental School has a strong tradition in dental research and an established international reputation in several research areas. Research in the School is an integral component of staff and student activities underpinning both the undergraduate and graduate curricula. The major research activities of the School are conducted via three Divisions and four major research groups, which range translational biomedical science to clinical studies, pedagogical research. The Head of School joined the University of Melbourne in 2020 and is leading a programme of change within the School focusing on strategic reviews of education, research and organisational structure, known as MDS’25.

5.2 **FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) is Australia’s pre-eminent medical, health sciences and biomedical faculty and is recognised for its research, teaching, training, and policy leadership across all these fields.

The Faculty employs more than 3,000 staff, attracts more than 8,300 students each year and comprises six schools; 37 departments, centres and institutes; and 160 courses.

A large portion of our workforce work in hospital-based departments. We also have over 5,000 honorary staff including hospital-based staff and those in partner research institutes. Our people publish more than 10,000 peer reviewed publications every year and more than 50% of these include an international co-author.

In 2021 our research income was approximately 400M, comprising over 62% of research income for the University of Melbourne and conducting approximately 47% of all research across the University.

We are Australia’s overall leader in clinical and health, ranked 14th globally in 2022 by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The 2023 Academic Ranking of World Universities ranks the University of Melbourne as first in Australia in clinical medicine (14th
internationally), public health (12th internationally), human biological sciences and medical technology.

The University educates more health professionals, graduates, research and higher degree students and attracts more national competitive funding than any other Australian university. The Faculty offers a suite of professional entry masters level graduate programs, including the Doctor of Medicine (MD), the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), and the Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT) in addition to a range of graduate level programs such as the Master of Public Health, Master of Primary Health Care, Master of Social Work, Master of Clinical Audiology, Master of Speech Pathology, Master of Clinical Optometry, and many more in nursing, social work, health sciences and psychology.

Over 1,400 graduate research students conduct research supervised by over 2,300 staff and honoraries across the Faculty’s six schools and in affiliated health services and research institutes. University departments are embedded in a range of health services including the Austin Hospital, Northern Hospital, Royal Melbourne Hospital, St Vincent’s Hospital, The Royal Women’s Hospital, Royal Children’s Hospital, Western Hospital, Mercy Hospital and rural partners such as Goulburn Valley Health.

Our strategic plan, Advancing Health 2030, sets out a unifying vision for the Faculty to meet the challenges of a changing world and continue to make an impact on the health and wellbeing of our communities. The strategy has been designed to support and bring to life the University’s overall Advancing Melbourne strategy. Read more at: https://mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/advancing-health-2030

5.3 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

5.4 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.

5.5 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