RESEARCH OFFICER (DIAGNOSTICS)

<table>
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<th>DEPARTMENT/UNIT</th>
<th>Institute of Vector-Borne Disease</th>
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<td>FACULTY/DIVISION</td>
<td>Provost &amp; Senior Vice-President</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLASSIFICATION</td>
<td>HEW Level 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESIGNATED CAMPUS OR LOCATION</td>
<td>Clayton campus</td>
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ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Monash is a university of transformation, progress and optimism. Our people are our most valued asset, with our academics among the best in the world and our professional staff revolutionising the way we operate as an organisation. For more information about our University and our exciting future, please visit www.monash.edu.

The Provost and Senior Vice-President is the Chief Academic Officer of the University and is responsible for: setting the University’s academic strategy and priorities with a view to improving the education and research performance of the University; oversight of faculties, academic related portfolios and University-wide centres and institutes, oversight of academic staffing including recruitment, development, reward and recognition, policies and procedures; strategic leadership for the delivery of academic programs; identifying and cultivating interdisciplinary areas of excellence and collaboration.

The Institute of Vector-Borne Disease (IVBD) falls within the Office of the Provost and Senior Vice-President. The primary purpose of the Institute is to spearhead the University’s research efforts in eliminating diseases such as dengue fever and Zika virus. The Institute is home to dedicated laboratory facilities, including a large BSL2 and BSL3 insectary. The Institute houses the World Mosquito Program (WMP) within Monash University, an international collaborative research program designed to prevent the transmission of arboviral diseases threatening the health of people living in tropical and subtropical regions and aims to improve global health whilst significantly reducing the financial burden on local health systems in these regions.

The World Mosquito Program (WMP) is a not-for-profit initiative that works to protect the global community from mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, Zika and chikungunya. Previously known as the Eliminate Dengue Program, the World Mosquito Program uses naturally occurring bacteria called Wolbachia to reduce the ability of mosquitoes to transmit these disease causing viruses.

A growing body of evidence to support the efficacy of the method includes a randomised trial in Indonesia showing a 77% reduction in dengue incidence in areas treated with Wolbachia. Dengue has effectively been eliminated as a public health concern in north Queensland in the decade since implementation began there. Meanwhile, ongoing projects in Asia and the Americas continue to show promising results.
Following years of laboratory research, independent risk analysis and field trials, WMP has undertaken deployments in 12 countries around the world and has widespread support from communities, governments and regulators. We are undergoing rapid organizational growth. In addition, scale-up plans for national deployments in existing countries are in preparation.

WMP is funded through major grants, government departments and philanthropic supporters from all over the world. You can find out more by visiting www.worldmosquitoprogram.org/.

**POSITION PURPOSE**

The Research Officer (Diagnostics) provides a variety of high-quality services to support the operations of the World Mosquito Program. This includes routine high-throughput screening, assay development, training of staff and providing diagnostic services to both internal and external clients, while maintaining a compliant and safe research environment.

The Research Officer operates with a focus on excellence in process and delivery while providing support to members of the Diagnostics Team and the WMP as a whole.

**Reporting Line:** The position reports to the Diagnostic Manager under routine supervision

**Supervisory Responsibilities:** Not applicable

**Financial Delegation:** Not applicable

**Budgetary Responsibilities:** Not applicable

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Support the achievement of research outcomes by undertaking a breath of diagnostic and administrative support tasks including weekly high-throughput screening, data analysis and QA in accordance with established protocols and to provide support to internal and external collaborators

2. Envisage, develop, optimise and validate novel diagnostic tools

3. Remain informed of developments, activities and protocols in area of expertise through staff and peers, relevant literature, meetings and seminars

4. Assist in preparing reports and other documentation, including routine data reporting and establishing or updating SOPs

5. Comply with established research methodology, policy, protocols, OHS and regulatory requirements

6. Participate and implement continuous improvement activities relating to project, research or technical procedures and assist in the maintenance of ISO 9001:2015 accreditation

7. Maintain open and effective channels of communication with colleagues, research collaborators and other stakeholders to support and facilitate research objectives

8. Other duties as directed from time to time

**KEY SELECTION CRITERIA**

**Education/Qualifications**

1. The appointee will have:
   - a tertiary qualification in a relevant field; or
   - substantial relevant skills and work experience; or
   - an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training
Knowledge and Skills

2. Sound analytical, technical and data analysis skills and a demonstrated capacity to perform molecular techniques, processes and systems

3. Strong organisational skills, including the ability to set priorities, manage time and plan work to meet deadlines

4. Demonstrated project administration skills with the ability to support research projects accordance with agreed standards and timeframes

5. Ability to work both as an effective team member and independently under general supervision

6. Strong attention to detail and an understanding of confidentiality, information handling and privacy policies

7. Well-developed written communication skills, including the ability to draft technical documentation

8. Experience and/or understanding the theories of NGS and/or bioinformatics.

OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

● Travel to other campuses of the University may be required
● There may be a requirement to work additional hours from time to time
● There may be peak periods of work during which taking of leave may be restricted

GOVERNANCE

Monash University expects staff to appropriately balance risk and reward in a manner that is sustainable to its long-term future, contribute to a culture of honesty and integrity, and provide an environment that is safe, secure and inclusive. Ensure you are aware of and adhere to University policies relevant to the duties undertaken and the values of the University. This is a standard which the University sees as the benchmark for all of its activities in Australia and internationally.