SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

DEPARTMENT/UNIT   School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine

FACULTY/DIVISION  Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

CLASSIFICATION   Level C

WORK LOCATION    The Alfred Centre

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Monash is full of thinkers and doers who are looking for their next challenge. So if you’ve forged a rewarding career so far, this role provides the perfect platform to join us. You’ll have access to quality research facilities, infrastructure and teaching spaces to do exciting work, along with opportunities to collaborate internationally. You’ll be part of a university that’s made up of inspirational, challenging thinkers and doers – and continue doing work that makes a lasting impact. Discover more at www.monash.edu.

The Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, is the largest faculty at Monash University, and offers the most comprehensive suite of professional health training in Victoria. We consistently rank in the top 40 universities worldwide for clinical, pre-clinical and health sciences.

We want to improve the human condition. That is our vision – it has no expiration date. Through academic health centres, other translational models and by educating the healthcare workforce of the future, our staff, students and alumni directly improve quality of life.

Setting the global health care agenda, the Faculty aspires to lead in all areas of research activity and influence local, national and international policy to improve health and social outcomes and health inequalities. We’ve made a major impact in the world of medical research and become globally recognised for our quality education of over 41,000 doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals.

We are ambitious and aim to maintain our position as a leading international medical research university. We’re recognised for the breadth and depth of our research, for our commitment to translational research, for the quality and scale of our research capability, and as a thriving biotechnology hub.

To learn more about the faculty, please visit monash.edu/medicine.

Monash School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine is a teaching and research unit of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and is centred at the Alfred Hospital Campus. It plays a prominent role in public health medicine and works closely with the major Monash affiliated hospitals, research institutes and public health units within Victoria. It plays a prominent role in public health medicine in Australia and has a strong record for training individuals with the capacity and skills to assume leadership roles in Australia in this field. We work closely with the major Monash affiliated hospitals, research institutes and public health units within Victoria. Our skills provide a key resource underpinning translational research within our Faculty.
The ASPREE unit is a major research unit within the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine. With a network of clinics and collaborators covering 5 states, and with a staff of over 60, the unit manages the largest, most expensive and highest profile clinical research investigation ever undertaken in this country. A combined U.S. and Australian team of investigators have established a unique resource to advance the field of preventive medicine by continuing the follow-up of the bi-national ASPREE cohort, established originally to investigate the potential of aspirin to increase ‘disability free survival’ (DFS). The study is now entering an extension phase designed to maintain the follow-up of this cohort for a further 5 to address key questions about cancer, Alzheimer’s disease and physical disability relevant to an aging population.

**POSITION PURPOSE**

A Level C research-only academic is expected to make major original contributions to the research enterprise of the area in which they are appointed. The purpose of the position is to help ensure that the ASPREE study data is used most effectively to delay the onset of chronic disease and disability in ageing Australians. ASPREE has become a major part of the international research infrastructure available for the study of healthy ageing and will play a major role in improving care in this age group.

ASPREE was initially established as a clinical trial involving 16,700 Australian participants aged >70 years randomised to low dose aspirin or placebo. This dataset, by being embedded in a clinical trial, provides opportunities well beyond those of most clinical trials or cohort studied. It includes detailed clinical measures, adjudicated outcomes, low drop-out rates & biospecimen collections. Sub-studies have provided extensive genomic and imaging data coupled with regular questionnaires which have created a powerful information resource.

The essential purpose of the ongoing ASPREE cohort study is to identify new approaches to early diagnosis & prediction of aging-related diseases which may lead to earlier and more targeted intervention and improved outcomes. It will facilitate research into issues such as the impact of genomics, inflammation, resilience & lifestyle on health in the ageing. This data is coming available at a time when Australia has no greater health challenge than that of its rapidly expanding older population. The need to extend the time elderly people remain self-sufficient is amongst the highest medical research priorities. ASPREE is fundamental to this research effort but needs high level expertise to extract, analyse and publish relevant data to achieve its goals.

The Senior Research Fellow will play a major role by ensuring high level expertise is brought to the analysis, publication and presentation of data from the study and its dissemination to relevant audiences.

**Reporting Line:** The position reports to the Principal ASPREE investigator

**Supervisory Responsibilities:** Not applicable

**Financial Delegation:** Not applicable

**Budget Responsibilities:** Not applicable

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Specific duties required of the person filling this role are:

1. Design analytical approaches, under guidance from the principal investigator, to answer key research questions arising from ASPREE data

2. Extract, analyse and prepare data for presentation and publication

3. Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of research methodology and literature relevant to current research

4. Develop drafts of grant applications and papers for publication relevant to the ASPREE dataset and arrange submission when completed
5. Coordinate administrative processes relevant to ASPREE research proposals, arrange meetings, and integrate responses to feedback from co-authors and co-investigators

6. Develop and maintain strong links with all ASPREE partners, collaborators, funders and networks with academic and other staff, relevant research bodies and service providers

7. The conduct of research and the production of conference and seminar papers and publications from that research and the promotion of research links with outside bodies

8. Supervision, where appropriate, of the research of less senior research-only Academic staff including supervision of research-support and administrative staff involved in the staff member's research

9. Supervision of major honours or postgraduate research projects within the field of the staff member's area of research and various research-related administrative functions

10. Preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies and the responsibility for the oversight of financial management of grants received for research projects

11. Significant role in research projects including, where appropriate, leadership of research teams or management of projects

12. Involvement in professional activities including, subject to availability of funds, attendance at conferences and seminars in the field of expertise and occasional contributions to the teaching program within the field of the staff member's research

13. Attendance at meetings associated with research or the work of the organisational unit to which the research is connected and/or at departmental, school and/or faculty meetings and a major role in planning and committee work

**KEY SELECTION CRITERIA**

**Education/Qualifications**

1. The appointee will have:
   - A doctoral qualification in epidemiology, biostatistics or a related discipline

**Knowledge and Skills**

2. Substantial involvement in the analysis of health-related datasets including a strong record of publications, conference papers, reports in the relevant discipline area

3. Strong record of publications, conference papers, grant applications reports and/or professional and/or technical contributions in a relevant discipline area

4. Familiarity with various statistical, data-management and graphics packages

5. Strong project management skills with experience in establishing priorities

6. High level organisational skills, including the ability to plan and manage the use of research funds, with demonstrated capacity to establish and achieve goals

7. Familiarity with the NHMRC Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research

8. Experience in successfully supervising, mentoring and coaching to support the development of research staff and/or demonstrated evidence of leadership capability

9. Experience in supervising and working with major honours, postgraduate research projects and/or and the co-supervision of PhD students

10. The ability to work independently in a research environment and as part of an inter-disciplinary research team
11. Excellent written and oral communication skills including the ability to prepare and communicate the aims and outputs of research projects in a range of formats

12. Demonstrated capacity to work in a collegiate manner with other staff in the workplace with the ability to negotiate, influence and build consensus with stakeholders

OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

- 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
- A current valid Police Check is required

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Ensure you are aware of and adhere to legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including: Equal Employment Opportunity, supporting equity and fairness; Occupational Health and Safety, supporting a safe workplace; Conflict of Interest (including Conflict of Interest in Research); Paid Outside Work; Privacy; Research Conduct; and Staff/Student Relationships.