



RESEARCH OFFICER

DEPARTMENT/UNIT	School of Psychological Sciences
FACULTY/DIVISION	Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences
CLASSIFICATION	HEW Level 5
DESIGNATED CAMPUS OR LOCATION	Clayton campus

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 **Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences** is the largest faculty at Monash University, a global university with campuses across Victoria and international locations in Indonesia, Malaysia, China, India and Italy. Our Faculty 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. In 2022, our Nursing and Midwifery climbed to the rank of 14th in the world and 1st in Victoria in the QS World University Rankings.

We want to improve the human condition. That is our vision - it has no expiration date. By educating the current and future healthcare workforce, and undertaking medical research, both discovery and clinical, our students, staff and alumni all work to directly improve people's quality of life.

Contributing to the global health care agenda, the Faculty aspires to lead in all areas of its research and education activity, collaborating to influence local, national and international policy to improve health and social outcomes, and reduce health inequity.

We've made a major impact in the world of medical research and are globally recognised for our quality education of over 63,000 doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals and health researchers. The future health of our communities is underpinned by the sustained excellence of our education and research capabilities.

We are ambitious and committed to maintaining our position as a leading international medical research and teaching university. We're recognised for the quality of our graduates, the scale and depth of our research, our commitment to translational research, and as a thriving biotechnology hub.

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

The **Monash School of Psychological Sciences** is ranked among the best in the world. Its mission is to develop students and research outcomes that will make significant contributions to improving the lives of others both locally and globally. The School will make significant and long-lasting impacts that change the world around us, beginning in infancy and across the lifespan. Drawing on the expertise of our staff and the University's unique research platforms and technology, we will sustain and build on Monash's position with world-class research and training in Psychology.

For more information about us and the work we do, please visit www.monash.edu/medicine/psych.

The **Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health** is making a difference to the lives of vulnerable populations across Australia and beyond. Housed within the School of Psychological Sciences, the Turner is responding to the grand challenge of mental health by creating a world of mentally healthy communities. We take an inclusive, lifespan and community-based approach to empower all members of society to live well and productively, for longer.

We are the home to world-leading researchers and clinicians who have exceptional capabilities in both discovery science and translation. Our Turner Clinics represent our translational arm and provide psychological services to over 2000 clients across Victoria with a focus on trauma, sleep health, concussion, lifestyle interventions, neurorehabilitation and neurodevelopment. Over the next five years we aim to be the nation's top Institute for preventative mental and brain health.

To learn more, please visit www.monash.edu/turner-institute/research.

Our research team within Experimental Neuropsychology Research Unit (ENRU) focus on rare neurodegenerative disorders, such as Huntington's disease (HD) and Friedreich ataxia (FA). With respect to FA, we have established research collaborations across the Melbourne network, including with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Monash Health, and Monash Biomedical Imaging. We have a strong focus on utilising neuroimaging to map brain, spinal cord and cognitive dysfunction in FA, in an effort to improve early detection of disease and to uncover sensitive biomarkers of disease progression. Findings from this research will provide researchers and pharmaceutical companies with a suite of neuroimaging tools that will improve the sensitivity of outcome measures in clinical trials and thus enhance the development of therapeutic intervention.

FA is a progressive neurodegenerative genetic disorder that results in a range of symptoms including incoordination, muscle weakness, speech problems and heart disease. The affected person becomes increasingly affected by symptoms and eventually loses their capacity to walk. There is currently a large international push to identify a compound or an intervention that could at least halt, or optimistically cure this life shortening condition. As part of this push large-scale, comprehensive natural history neuroimaging studies are lacking in FA and are urgently needed.

Monash University is the lead partner in a global study (TRACK-FA) to track brain and spinal cord changes in people with FA, with a view to identify early markers of disease progression that can be incorporated into future clinical trials as soon as possible. TRACK-FA aims to improve understanding of the natural history of FA (specifically related to changes in the brain and spinal cord), validate neuroimaging markers in FA to deliver a set of trial-ready biomarkers and to develop a comprehensive database to facilitate ongoing community research and discovery. TRACK-FA is a collaboration between six international sites, including Monash University (Australia), University of Minnesota (USA), Aachen University (Germany), University of Campinas (Brazil), University of Florida (USA), the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (USA), and McGill University, sponsored by the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) in the USA, as well as leading industry partners globally. Participant enrolment in TRACK-FA commenced in early 2021, with the Melbourne site testing its first participant in April.

POSITION PURPOSE

The Research Officer provides a variety of high-quality research services to support the operations of the TRACK-FA study. In addition, the Research Officer performs a range of research activities to support the delivery of the TRACK-FA program outcomes. This includes undertaking recruitment and screening of participants with FA and age and sex matched healthy controls; arranging research appointment sessions/room bookings/managing travel and accommodation (for interstate participants); administering and scoring cognitive assessments, recording, scoring and data entry; coordinating clinical appointments; coordinating blood collections, processing

of bloods, as well as shipping blood samples overseas; overseeing imaging assessment sessions at the Monash Biomedical Imaging facility; managing participant stipends; and participating in general research administration duties, while ensuring a compliant and safe research environment. Because TRACK-FA is a longitudinal study, assessments will be undertaken at baseline and at two further timepoints with a 12-month interval. Baseline visit recruitment is still ongoing.

The Research Officer operates with a focus on excellence in process and judgment and provision of sound and timely advice and support to research participants, research staff as well as supporting the efforts of the TRACK-FA neuroimaging consortium more broadly.

Reporting Line: The position reports to Professor Nellie Georgiou-Karistianis (Coordinating Principal Investigator of TRACK-FA)

Supervisory Responsibilities: Not applicable

Financial Delegation: Not applicable

Budgetary Responsibilities: Not applicable

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Support the achievement of research outcomes by undertaking a range of research and administrative support tasks, including scheduling bookings, administering cognitive assessments, overseeing imaging assessment procedures, data collection, input and analysis and if required preparing results in accordance with established research objectives, timeframes and protocols
2. Keep abreast of developments, activities and protocols in area of expertise through liaison with staff and peers, reading relevant literature and attending meetings
3. Assist in preparing documentation reports and other documentation, including undertaking literature reviews and data analysis (if and when required)
4. Comply with established research methodology, policy, protocols, OHS and regulatory requirements
5. Participate in training sessions and implement continuous improvement activities relating to project, research or technical procedures and quality assurance standards
6. Maintain open and effective channels of communication with colleagues, research collaborators and other stakeholders to support and facilitate research objectives
7. 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 in clinical research.

Knowledge and Skills

2. Sound analytical, technical and data analysis skills and a demonstrated capacity to apply effective technical methods, processes and systems
3. Strong organisational skills, including the ability to set priorities, manage time and plan work to meet deadlines
4. Ability to work as an effective member of a team as well as independently under general supervision
5. Strong attention to detail and accuracy and an understanding of confidentiality, privacy and information handling principles

6. Well-developed communication skills, including the ability to draft a range of documentation
7. A high level of computer literacy, including demonstrated experience in learning and adopting new software packages as required
8. Ability to learn and administer a range of cognitive assessments in a standardised manner
9. Ability to be flexible and adaptable when managing competing priorities during participant research sessions

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
- A current satisfactory Working With Children Check is required
- Must have completed Good Clinical Practice (GCP) (or this can be arranged when appointed)

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.