RESEARCH OFFICER

DEPARTMENT/UNIT  Physiology/Monash Biomedicine Discovery

FACULTY/DIVISION  Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences

CLASSIFICATION  HEW Level 5

WORK 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, 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.

The School of Biomedical Sciences and Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute is one of the largest and most dynamic biomedical research and teaching environments in Australia. The School and its cognate Departments of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Pharmacology and Physiology, comprise over 120 research groups and deliver discipline-focused teaching into our flagship Biomedical Science Degree, the Bachelor of Science Degree, as well as the Medical School and various Health-related Degree Programs. We pride ourselves on an excellent and evolving teaching curriculum and our teaching space is about to be transformed by a new $80 million dollar biomedical teaching building. Opening in 2019, the new building will provide world-class teaching and learning space for Biomedical Sciences.
All research staff in the School are also a member of the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute (BDI). The BDI comprises six inter-disciplinary health-focused research Programs, each led by a research leader in the field. The BDI Programs include, Infection and Immunity, Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, Development and Stem Cells, Metabolic Disease and Obesity and Neuroscience. The BDI works closely with clinical and drug development precincts at Monash and has a number of major industry partnerships to facilitate the translation of our research. The focus of the BDI Neuroscience program is to pursue excellence in discovery research and on high-impact studies of the organisation and function of the nervous system, with potential for translation through collaborations with clinical and engineering partners. The excellence of Neuroscience research at Monash has been recognised by award of the highest ranking classification (5; “well above world standard”) by the Australian Government, in three successive cycles of the ERA (Excellence in Research) assessment.

POSITION PURPOSE

The Research Officer provides a variety of high-quality research services to support the operations of the Pain Research Lab. Our group investigates neuronal signaling changes that happen within pain circuits during the development of chronic pain. Our goal is to understand why and how these pathological adaptations occur in order to discover new therapeutic targets and more effective analgesics.

Reporting Line: The position reports to Senior Research Fellow, Department of Physiology, under general direction

Supervisory Responsibilities: Not applicable

Financial Delegation: Not applicable

Budget Responsibilities: Not applicable

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Support the achievement of research outcomes by undertaking a range of research and administrative support tasks that include running experiments, data collection, analysis and 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 and seminars

3. Assist in preparing documentation reports and other documentation, including undertaking literature reviews and data analysis

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

5. Participate in 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

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

5. Ability to work as an effective member of a team as well as independently under general supervision

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

7. Well-developed communication skills, including the ability to draft a range of documentation

8. A high-level of computer literacy

9. Strong interest in neuroscience research and enthusiasm to learn new techniques

10. Demonstrated experience in physiology and/or molecular biology

OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

- There may be a requirement to work additional hours from time to time

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.