POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
Organisation Unit: School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences  
Position Number: New  
Type of Employment: Fixed-term, Full-time for 3 years  
Classification: Academic Research Level A

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver knowledge leadership for a better world.

UQ ranks in the world’s top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (65). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index and our Life Sciences subject field ranking in the Academic Ranking of World Universities was the highest in Australia at 20.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience – the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland’s highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia’s Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.8 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city. The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.
UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of $11billion+ (see http://uniquest.com.au/our-track-record).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and this will be a strategic focus going forward.

Organisational Environment

Situated within the Faculty of Science, the School of Chemistry & Molecular Biosciences teaches and researches in the disciplines of Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Microbiology and Parasitology. The common thread in our discipline mix is the capacity of molecular-based approaches to create understanding and to lead to Discovery. The School has modern research laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment and research infrastructure. The School includes academic staff who are widely published internationally and have extensive research backgrounds. Information about the School may be found on the web site http://www.scmb.uq.edu.au.

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq

The University of Queensland Enterprise Agreement outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The primary purpose of this position is to conduct research investigating inflammasome formation and function, using biochemical techniques.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Conduct research relating to the formation of the inflammasome complex, aiming to understand the process of caspase activation.
- Co-supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Preparation of reports of experimental findings for publications and presentations.
- Participation in administrative activities associated with running the laboratory, such as preparation of risk assessments and maintenance of databases and records.
- Work with colleagues and postgraduates in the development of joint research projects.
- Any other duties as reasonably directed by your supervisor

Service and Engagement

- Foster the School's relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
- Any other duties as reasonably directed by your supervisor.
Other
Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including but not exclusive to:
- the University’s Code of Conduct
- requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related OH&S responsibilities and procedures developed by the University or Institute/School
- the adoption of sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University sustainability responsibilities and procedures
- requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related responsibilities and procedures developed by the University

Organisational Relationships
The position reports to Associate Professor Katryn Stacey.
SELECTION CRITERIA

**Essential**

- PhD, or near completion of PhD, in biochemistry or immunology.
- Demonstrated expert knowledge in inflammasome biology.
- Developing record of publishing in innate immunity, including on inflammasome function.
- Ability to work with high precision and reproducibility.
- Ability to take responsibility for early stage writing of manuscripts.
- Demonstrated ability to carefully document experimental procedures and results, according to university policies on record keeping for experimental work.
- Competence in the following techniques: flow cytometry, western blotting, assessment of inflammasome activity, ELISA, assessment of cell death, mouse handling, macrophage cell culture, cell electroporation, generation of stably transfected cell lines, use of retroviral or lentiviral vectors, DNA manipulation and basic molecular biology – e.g. PCR cloning and sequencing.

**Desirable**

- Experience in fluorescence and confocal microscopy
- Experience in cell fractionation techniques, including sucrose gradient ultracentrifugation
- Experience in mass spectrometry

**Qualification Verification**

An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion and actively encourages applications from those who bring diversity to the University. Please refer to the University’s Diversity and Inclusion webpage (http://www.uq.edu.au/equity) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.