POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Senior Research Officer
Organisation Unit: Queensland Brain Institute
Position Number: 3042086
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed Term for 12 months
Classification: Academic Research Level B

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

The Queensland Brain Institute works to understand the development, organisation and function of the brain. We aim to understand the neural circuits in the brain, how their function results in behavioural outcomes, and how dysfunction of these circuits leads to disorders such as dementia, Parkinson’s disease and schizophrenia. We aim to (1) Develop novel therapeutic approaches to treat disorders of neural function and (2) Use our understanding of brain function to improve learning in classrooms and in the workplace.

Established in 2003, QBI is housed on the St Lucia campus of UQ. It is home to more than 450 staff and students, including 41 group leaders.

Over the past decade QBI has become known as one of the world's leading neuroscience research institutes. It played a key role in contributing to UQ attaining the highest possible score of 5 for neuroscience, in both the 2010, 2012, and 2015 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) reviews, one of only two universities in Australia to achieve this.

Information about the Institute may be accessed on the Institute’s web site at www.qbi.uq.edu.au

Clem Jones Centre for Ageing and Dementia Research (CJCADR)

In 2011 the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) established the Clem Jones Centre for Ageing Dementia Research (CJCADR), focusing on understanding pathogenic mechanisms at a molecular and cellular level and using this insight to develop therapeutic strategies for the prevention and treatment of ageing dementia as well as better diagnostic tools.

Working with Animals

Working with laboratory animals is an inherent requirement of some positions. Appointment to these positions may therefore be subject to, and conditional upon, satisfactory medical clearance(s) (including disclosure of relevant medical history) to undertake such work without unreasonable risk to your health and to fully comply with necessary ongoing health monitoring procedures and control measures associated with the position.

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 Queensland Brain Institute in partnership with UniQuest Pty Ltd, (the main commercialisation company of The University of Queensland) has developed a diverse intellectual property portfolio. One such development has occurred with Researchers in the team of the Director of The Clem Jones Centre for Ageing Dementia Research (CJCADR) within QBI where a medical device is under development for the treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease. The Senior Research Officer will draw upon his or her strong history of translational development to proactively drive the project towards a commercial endpoint.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Delivery of the translational development objectives in line with the commercial strategy and framework;
- Work with the Director of CJCADR and the Ultrasound Product Development Manager to develop, implement, monitor and undertake the research activities within an agreed annual budget and delivery of agreed milestones;
- Ensuring the project meets its translational aims within budget and on time;
- Oversee a skilled research team to solve challenging technical problems;
- Oversee and contribute to pre-clinical animal studies and other procedures as required;
- Review the translational outcomes/success and make recommendations to QBI regarding the strategic research direction;
- Identify, report and address any quality or compliance concerns as required;
- Ensure accurate interpretation of data by auditing results and providing routine feedback and development to the team;
- Undertake regular progress reporting as requested;
- Liaise with the Ultrasound Product Development Manager to coordinate product research & development activities with stakeholders;
- Integrate translational activities as follows;
  - engineering and design consultants and contract research organisations (CROs);
  - regulatory consultants;
  - clinical advisory board;
  - clinical trials consultants & CRO(s);
with a view to:
  - Support the regulatory pathway in consultation with stakeholders;
  - Support the commercialisation strategy to maximise the additional value created throughout the project.
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 the Director, Clem Jones Centre for Ageing Dementia Research

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- Postgraduate qualification in the area of biomedical science/biochemistry or related discipline with experience in translational research projects.
- Excellent interpersonal skills (including written and verbal communication), and proven ability to effectively liaise with internal and external stakeholders at all levels.
- Demonstrated analytical capabilities with the ability to analyse a wide variety of information and data to make recommendations regarding translational objectives.
- Demonstrated knowledge of relevant project management tools or equivalent practical methodologies for monitoring project progress.
- Demonstrated ability to solve problems and analytical skills sufficient to assess problems and propose and implement appropriate solutions.

Desirable

- Supervisory experience of a team consisting of 2-5 members with experience in managing a multidisciplinary research effort, or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or training.
- Ability to work well with cross-functional teams to accomplish objectives and to work on multiple work streams.
- Experience in project management in a tertiary education institution.
- Demonstrated knowledge of current industry trends and active participation to keep abreast of current applicable medical device technologies and new ways of thinking.
- Experience with medical imaging techniques will be highly regarded.
- Knowledge of commercialisation related activities including patents, clinical trials and regulatory compliance.
Seminar

Applicants invited for interview may be expected to present a seminar in conjunction with the selection interview process.

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.

This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

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