POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology
Position Number:
Type of Employment: Fixed term, full time
Classification: Research Academic 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 (45), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (51), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (60). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index; and secured a greater share of Australian Research Council grants in 2016 ($24.5 million) than any other university nationally.

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 230,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.7 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 will have further success in this area as an important strategic aim going forward.

**Organisational Environment**

The University of Queensland's Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (AIBN) is a dynamic multi-disciplinary research institute dedicated to developing technology to alleviate societal problems in the areas of health, energy, manufacturing and environmental sustainability. AIBN brings together the skills of more than 450 world-class researchers complimented by an extensive suite of integrated facilities, working at the intersection of biology, chemistry, engineering and computer modelling. With a reputation for delivering translational science, AIBN conducts research at the forefront of emerging technologies, and has developed strong collaborations with leading members of industry, academia and government. AIBN goes beyond basic research to develop the growth of innovative industries for the benefit of the Queensland and Australian economies. Information about the Institute can be accessed on the Institute’s web site at http://www.aibn.uq.edu.au/.

AIBN is committed to supporting the career growth of female researchers and have a number of initiatives to support females in developing and achieving a fulfilling research career at the institute. For more information, please visit our AIBN Women in Science web site at http://www.aibn.uq.edu.au/women.

The UQ Centre in Stem Cell Ageing and Regenerative Engineering (UQ-StemCARE), located within the AIBN brings together UQ’s leading researchers in stem cell biology, bioengineering, neural, vascular, and musculo-skeletal biology, genome biology, proteomics, bioinformatics, and clinical ageing-related research, to address the following challenges:

1. *Discover* the *intrinsic* and *extrinsic* regulators of stem cell ageing within *in vivo* perivascular, muscle, skeletal and neural stem cell niches;
2. *Develop* novel *in vitro* and *in vivo* models to *interrogate* the functional interactions between the intrinsic and extrinsic processes that result in ageing of stem cells and their niches in these tissues;
3. *Demonstrate* that manipulating novel key regulators can maintain stem cell and tissue *function* with age; and
4. *Translate* the scientific results into clinical solutions with medical and commercial potential.

For more information, see [http://stemcare.centre.uq.edu.au](http://stemcare.centre.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](http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq)

The University of Queensland [Enterprise Agreement](http://www.uq.edu.au/enterprise-agreement) outlines the position classification standards for Levels A to E.
DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

Perform top quality high impact research in neural stem cell and niche ageing; engineer novel in vitro and in vivo ageing models; and design novel regenerative medicine solutions to combat ageing-related decline in function and productivity and increase health span.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Interrogation of drivers of ageing in neural stem cells and their niche, using in vivo and in vitro engineered human iPSC models;
- Develop novel solutions to rejuvenate aged niches and their stem cells in these models;
- Conduct outstanding research and publish in high impact scholarly papers;
- Secure independent funding for further expansion of research portfolio, and/or assist in the preparation of grant applications;
- Assist in the supervision and training of research higher degree students.

Service and Engagement

- Foster the Institute’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 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 Centre Directors Prof Ernst Wolvetang and Justin Cooper-White.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
- PhD and expertise in one or more of the following areas:
  - Neurobiology
  - Stem cell biology (pluripotent, iPSC, tissue resident);
  - Cutting-edge molecular biology techniques;
  - CRISPR genome engineering;
  - In vitro organoid generation and interrogation;
  - Human models of ageing;
- Evidence of a contribution to research, including successful external grant/fellowship applications and a publications record;
- An ability to establish effective relationships and to represent and promote academic discipline at a university and wider community level, including industry, government and professional bodies;
- Strong motivation with the ability to work independently and design / interpret experiments, with excellent organisational skills;
- Highly developed team work and communication skills including excellent written and interpersonal skills.

Desirable
- Demonstrated experience with high-end microscopy and imaging tools and associated analysis;
- Demonstrated experience with single cell sequencing and acquisition and integration of multi-omics data sets;
- Demonstrated experience with high throughput screening and molecular profiling.

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.
Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Applications are also encouraged from women.