POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Fellow, Health Informatics

Organisation Unit: Centre for Health Services Research, Faculty of Medicine

Position Number: TBC

Type of Employment: Full time, fixed term for three years

Classification: Academic 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.

Faculty of Medicine

The University of Queensland’s Faculty of Medicine is an internationally recognised provider of world-class education and research. The research-intensive Faculty has a gross budget of almost $300 million, employs approximately 1000 continuing and fixed-term staff (headcount), has a community of more than 4000 non-salaried academic appointees and around 3200 students (headcount).

The Faculty of Medicine offers Australia’s largest medical degree program for graduates and school-leavers. Undergraduate and postgraduate programs are available in the disciplines of Medicine, Health Sciences, E-Health, Mental Health, Biomedical Sciences and Public Health.

The Faculty possesses enormous strengths spanning research, teaching, industry engagement and clinical practice in disciplines ranging from the basic sciences, biomedical research and development, to clinical trials and public health. Research projects within the Faculty have already led to discoveries with far-reaching social and economic impacts, including the revolutionary Gardasil (TM) vaccine for cervical cancer (Professor Ian Frazer) and a drug discovery EMA401 (Professor Maree Smith), a first-in-class oral treatment for chronic pain which through Spinafex Pharmaceuticals led to Australia’s largest biotechnology commercialisation deal. Faculty staff include three highly cited authors, one Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS), three Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science (FAA) and 12 Fellows of the Academy of Health and Medical Sciences (AAHMS). The Faculty is a core member of Brisbane Diamantina Health Partners, the Brisbane-wide academic health science system.

Educational offerings in biomedical sciences, medicine and public health are informed and supported by research activity across a range of fundamental and clinical areas of importance including recognised strengths in cancer, skin diseases, brain and mental health, maternal and child health and genomics. Cutting-edge facilities such as the Herston Imaging Research Facility (HIRF), the UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR), our laboratories in the Translational Research Institute (TRI) and the new Centre for Children’s Health Research (CCHR) enable outstanding research outcomes and sharpen our understanding of cancer, autoimmunity, mental disorders, infectious diseases and neurological disease. Further details are available at www.medicine.uq.edu.au.

UQ Centre for Health Services Research

The UQ Centre for Health Services Research is one of five Research Centres in the Faculty of Medicine. The primary purpose of the Centre is to improve the delivery of health care through research which examines health systems performance and identifies mechanisms to improve access, effectiveness and efficiency. The Centre has research strengths in telehealth, geriatric medicine and aged care, renal medicine, clinical trial design and administration and biostatistics. The Centre engages 20 clinicians and research staff, 27 professional staff and has a large cohort of higher degree research students. The Centre works closely with the other Research Centres in the Faculty of Medicine (UQDI, UQCCR,
UQCHRC), the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences and also with Metro South Hospital and Health Services. The Centre is the Australian Coordinating Centre for interRAI and leads international development of its hospital assessment systems related to function and psychosocial problems. It has extensive related data holdings.

The vision of the UQCHSR is to improve health outcomes for patients, with a particular focus on those with chronic disease or frailty, for remote communities and those with other forms of disadvantage or vulnerability. This will be achieved through strong engagement of researchers and practitioners across the translational spectrum, from basic, through clinical and health trials, to implementation, this will enable outcomes such as improved health care services, new clinical products, policies or educational improvements. UQCHSR will be recognized for its strong engagement with the Princess Alexandra Hospital and industry, and outcomes arising from addressing clinically important research questions. It will also have a reputation for the provision of outstanding clinical research training, pre-clinical and clinical research services (e.g. clinical trials design and data analysis), and clinical trial linked service provision.

The UQCHSR is located at the PA Hospital campus in Woolloongabba, South Brisbane, with activities based in the Hospital, the Clinical Research Facility and associated with research activities both nationally and internationally.

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

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The primary purpose of this position is to contribute to the evidence based improvement of patient care using the digital hospital platform.

The use of digital systems for the documentation and clinical management of patients is expanding rapidly. Digital health care provides the opportunity to improve patient care on three levels:  
- better care of individual patients with better collection and presentation of clinical data during an episode of care  
- better care of groups of patients by using aggregated digital data to drive improvement  
- new and innovative models of care by leveraging digital technology to deliver new digital vehicles for healthcare delivery

The purpose of this position is to provide linkage between the digital hospital and key researchers within the CHSR to support a growing health informatics program within the CHSR and to start increasing health informatics capability in Queensland.

The position is expected to support growing research interest of CHSR to use the digital platform and data to improve health outcomes for patients. The role is expected to assist CHSR researchers in their efforts to better characterise the enablers and barriers of chronic disease management for each patient, identify critical intervention points, provide the patient data to doctors and health care professionals in an organised manner, and facilitate EMR data extraction, modification and implementation, database creation and data quality assessment.
In addition, the position will contribute to developing digital health services research methodology with a view to rapid translation into improved patient care.

The position will also work with telehealth researchers to strengthen the development and evaluation of informatics aspects of that program; and with researchers in geriatric medicine to develop and exploit the emerging repositories created through the interRAI research collaborative.

This position seeks to attract an emerging researcher who wishes to develop a career in health informatics. It is anticipated that the successful applicant will work with supervisors to secure additional income to ensure growth of the health informatics program and to ensure longevity of the position.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

**Data extraction, organisation and management**
- Work collaboratively with the team
- Program customised data interface screens and customise to suit health professionals’ data extraction needs
- Scope requirements and develop a plan for extracting EMR data for research purposes
- Manage data in a systematic way and prepare for patient assessment, feedback and information management for health care professionals
- Contribute to improvements to the EMR data capture and extraction functions
- Build modules that link extracted EMR data with common research software such as RedCap and
- Follow precise protocols and processes to ensure data security
- Innovate and suggest new processes to improve the data flow and ease of use for clinical practice and research purposes

**Research**
- Preparation of research grants and protocols
- Analysis of research data and preparation of publications
- Support other researchers within CHSR in using EMR data for research purposes
- Asertain data extraction, use and record keeping in accordance by UQ ethical principles

**Service**
- Work with supervisors, to foster the Centre’s relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
- Serve as the contact point for CHSR for Research database management
- 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:
  - 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 Professor Monika Janda, Professor in Behavioural Science, Centre for Health Services Research, with a dotted line to Dr Clair Sullivan, Academic Title Holder, Mater Research Institute.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- Completion of a PhD in a relevant discipline.
- Several years’ experience in working in a research intensive environment.
- Ability to conduct analyses and interpret data.
- Ability to prepare robust grant applications and scientific publications.
- Ability to establish and maintain positive working relationships with all levels of staff.
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team environment with scientific, nursing and medical staff.
- Demonstrated high level organisational skills.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and negotiation skills.
- Ability to work independently and manage time effectively.
- Ability to influence and negotiate with others within and beyond the Centre and Faculty.
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills.
- An understanding of health systems
- Excellent data literacy, data manipulation and data presentation skills
- Creative problem solving ability
- Proven ability to contribute in a team based environment
- An understanding of health services research and its translation into improved clinical practice
Qualification Verification
An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

ResearcherID
All applicants will need to create a ResearcherID account (www.ResearcherID.com) and populate it using Web of Science. The ID number then needs to be included in your application.

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.