POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Biostatistician
Organization Unit: Centre for Health Services Research (0.6 FTE) and Centre for Child Health Research for the CRE Australasian Cerebral Palsy and Rehabilitation Research Centre (0.4 FTE)

Position Number: New
Type of Employment: Full-time, Fixed Term 12 months
Classification: Academic Research Level B or C

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 (60). 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 (CHR) 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.
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.

The UQ Child Health Research Centre (CHRC)

Established in 2015, the UQ Child Health Research Centre (UQ-CHRC) brings together some of UQ’s leading researchers to tackle global challenges in child and adolescent health. With research in nutrition and growth, respiratory disease, allied health, environmental health, burns, infectious diseases, cerebral palsy, rehabilitation and child and youth mental health and more, the centre is making a difference to the health of children everywhere. The UQ-CHRC is co-located with research centres from Children’s Health Queensland and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in the recently completed Centre for Children’s Health Research (CCHR), a $134 million purpose-built research facility adjacent to the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital.

Information relating to the activities of CHRC may be found at https://child-health-research.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

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

Primary Purpose of Position

In association with senior researchers at the CHSR and the AusCP-CTN, the Biostatistician will develop and support a biostatistics research program that complements and integrates with existing and evolving research programs within the Centres. Provide biostatistics advice for development, funding and implementation of clinical trials within the CHSR and the AusCP-CTN. Provide assistance and supervision for research higher degree students associated with the Centres.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research
- Participate in the planning, implementation, data analysis, interpretation and dissemination of various research projects within CHRC and the AusCP-CTN.
- Help to attract research grants to support research activities in collaboration with multidisciplinary teams within CHRC and AusCP-CTN.
- Publish high quality research papers in leading scientific journals.
- Supervise research higher degree students.
- Develop a program of applied and contract research.
- Work with colleagues and postgraduates in the development of joint research projects including clinical trials and longitudinal cohort studies.
- Provide biostatistical advice and support to researchers, post doctoral fellows and post graduate students.

Education and Training
- Provide biostatistical training to researchers, post-doctoral fellows and post graduate students within the CHRC and AusCP-CTN.
- Provide biostatistical advice to researchers, post-doctoral fellows and post graduate students in setting up REDCAP databases and for data management.

Teaching
- Develop and deliver intensive short courses in biostatistics, epidemiology, and statistical computing at undergraduate and postgraduate levels to core members of the CHRC

Service and Engagement
- Perform a range of administrative functions in the School
- Contribute to the processes that enable the academic team to manage the work of the Centre, including participate in Centre decision-making and serve on Centre committees
- Foster the Centre’s relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
• Supervision of junior statisticians (who are likely to be appointed subsequent to this appointment).
• 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 Director, Centre for Health Services Research, Professor Len Gray, with a dotted reporting line to Professor Roslyn Boyd (Lead Chief Investigator: Australasian Cerebral Palsy Clinical Trials Network and the coordinator of the Australasian Kidney Trials Network (A/Prof Carmel Hawley).

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
• PhD in the area of Biostatistics or equivalent
• Demonstrated expert knowledge in the area of medical biostatistics in relation to clinical and health services research including analysis of Clinical Trials and longitudinal datasets.
• Knowledge of Biostatistical/Epidemiological theory and practice and the ability to explain concepts and results.
• Evidence of a contribution to research, including successful external grant applications.
• Ability to conduct sophisticated statistical analyses and clearly present results.
• Ability to work on a variety of collaborative studies in a wide range of clinical contexts involving adherence to tight deadlines.
• Strong track record of collaboration in peer reviewed publications as both primary and secondary author.
• An ability to establish effect relationships and to represent and promote academic discipline at a university and wider community level, including industry, government and professional bodies.
• Ability to work independently as well as under supervision, while assessing priorities and managing own workload effectively.
• Good knowledge of statistical software such as R/Stata/SAS.
• High quality statistical analysis of data.
• Publication and/or conference presentation record in statistics or related field
• Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work as part of a team with staff at all levels.
• Ability to cope under pressure while maintaining a high level of accuracy.

Desirable
• Developed industry liaisons and professional contacts.
• Experience in liaising and collaborating with external agencies to develop co-operative research initiatives.

Seminar
Applicants invited for interview may be expected to present a seminar in conjunction with the selection interview process and to undertake an exercise in the analysis of data from a clinical trial.

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.

Applications are particularly encouraged from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For further information please contact our Australian Indigenous Employment Coordinator at: atsi_recruitment@uq.edu.au
Applications are also encouraged from women.
This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.