POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: Child Health Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine
Position Number: NEW
Type of Employment: Part-time (0.6), fixed term until 30 June 2022
Classification: 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 CWTS Leiden Ranking (32), the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (40), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (42), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (54), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (66). Excluding the award component, UQ is now ranked 45th in the world in the ARWU, and is one of the only two Australian universities to be included in the global top 50.

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 53,000-plus strong student community includes more than 16,400 postgraduate scholars and more than 17,000 international students from 135 countries, adding to its proud 260,000-plus alumni. The University has more than 6,600 academic and professional staff (full-time equivalent) and a $2.15 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+.

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 Spinifex 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](http://www.medicine.uq.edu.au).

**UQ Child Health Research Centre**

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 Queensland 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 online.

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

**DUTY STATEMENT**

**Primary Purpose of Position**

To engage, as a postdoctoral research fellow, in research in the areas of motor rehabilitation, participation and physical activity in children with cerebral palsy. The initial focus of this position will be to carry out a systematic review and meta-analysis and high-level applied research on existing funded projects, with an expectation of involvement in the development and implementation of future projects at a level appropriate to experience.

This position is physically based at the Centre for Children’s Health Research next to the Queensland Children's Hospital, South Brisbane

**Duties**

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

**Research**

- Engage in independent and/or team research program including external funding, and achieve national recognition in the research area,
- Conduct systematic reviews with/out meta-analyses,
- Apply for external research and salary support funding,
- Work with a multidisciplinary team, including academics, clinicians and postgraduate students, in the development of joint research projects,
- Contribute to the effective supervision of Research Assistants and junior staff undertaking duties relevant to the process and management of the research projects,
- In collaboration with the lead and other investigators, prepare and publish scholarly papers and disseminate findings at relevant meetings,
- Use high-level paediatric physiotherapy/occupational therapy skills to plan, implement and report research methodologies within targeted research programs,
- Apply high level problem solving and critical thinking skills on a daily basis to support independent clinical reasoning and professional judgment in choosing and administering appropriate assessments and interpreting assessment findings, requiring infrequent need for direct clinical practice supervision.
Teaching and Learning

- As a ‘Research focussed’ position there is no formal requirement for undergraduate teaching. However it is encouraged that you actively seek teaching opportunities.
- Participate in events to attract postgraduate students to the Centre
- Contribute to the supervision and mentoring of undergraduate and postgraduate research students

Service and Engagement

- Foster the Centre’s relations with industry, government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
- Perform a range of administrative functions in the Centre,
- Contribute to the processes that enable the academic team to manage the work of the Centre, including participation in decision-making and serving on committees.
- 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 A/Prof Leanne Sakzewski, Senior Research Fellow, QCPRRC.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- PhD in the field of occupational therapy or physiotherapy (or near completion)
- Demonstrated specialised knowledge, skills and techniques in the assessment and analysis of motor skills in cerebral palsy,
- Evidence of a contribution to research, including successful external grant applications,
- Experience undertaking systematic reviews,
- Strong publication track record, including original journal articles and national and international conference papers, relative to opportunity,
- Experience in clinical research particularly with children,
- High level interpersonal and communication skills (written and oral),
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues,
Commitment to upholding the University’s values, and with the outstanding personal qualities of openness, respectfulness and integrity

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.

Vaccinations and Immunisation

It is a condition of employment for this role that if you are required now or in the future, to work or interact in Queensland Health clinical facility; or in an equivalent clinical health facility; or health care role; or will be required to perform work tasks that put you at risk of exposure to vaccine-preventable disease you are required to be immunised against, and remain immunised against, certain vaccine preventable diseases (VPDs) in accordance with the University’s Vaccinations and Immunisation Guidelines (PPL 2.60.08). The employee is required to provide evidence of immunisation against VPDs.

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 for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to recruitment@uq.edu.au.