POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Scott Sullivan Research Fellow in Motor Neuron Disease (MND)
Organisation Unit: Queensland Brain Institute
Position Number: NEW
Type of Employment: Full Time, Fixed term for 3 years
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 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.

Organisational Environment

The Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) works to understand the development, organisation and function of the brain. We aim to understand the neural circuits in the brain, how information is processed in these circuits, 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) understand how neural circuits process and evaluate information from the sensory world, (2) use our understanding of brain function to improve learning in classrooms and in the workplace, and (3) develop novel therapeutic approaches to treat disorders of neural function.

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 all four of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) reviews (2010, 2012, 2015 and 2018), one of only two universities in Australia to achieve this.

Details of the Institute may be accessed from the website: www.qbi.uq.edu.au.

The UQ Centre for Clinical Research (CCR) has capacity for 320 staff with affiliation guided by research strengths, assessed by defined research quality indicators. UQCCR’s mission is to improve health outcomes for individuals and populations based on rigorous, high quality clinical research. This is achieved by facilitating research and training, influencing patient care, and providing the translational linkages between basic and applied scientific research, the patient, and health outcomes.

The Neurology Department of the RBWH has a special interest in the clinical study of MND with the involvement in the care of patients throughout Queensland and Northern NSW, has been involved in international clinical trials, and together with QBI have developed a large team of investigators studying the genetic, cellular and molecular basis of MND. Based on their discoveries, the team are planning several clinical trials over the next 2-3 years.

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

The Scott Sullivan Research Fellowship is a joint position between the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) and the Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) at The University of Queensland. It is supported by the generous philanthropic support of the MND and ME Foundation and the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital Foundation.

The primary purpose of this position is to develop a translational research program that bridges the clinical and basic sciences, with the ultimate aim of slowing the progression and/or curing the disease.

This position will enhance the existing collaborations between the clinical and basic sciences at the RBWH, UQCCR and QBI, especially in the areas of human genetics, biomarkers and molecular therapeutics. The successful candidate will have a strong record of achievement in the neurosciences, especially in the areas of translational research – experience in areas such as molecular genetics and biomedical sciences, and experience in handling human samples may also be an advantage.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Develop a translational research program that bridges the clinical and basic sciences, with the ultimate aim of slowing progression and/or curing the disease.
- Publish high quality papers and contribute to the disciplined academic environment of the laboratory and the University.
- Acquire and maintain familiarity with relevant scientific literature and contribute to the academic environment of the laboratory and University.
- Present results of research at meetings at all levels – laboratory, institutional, national and international as appropriate.
- Contribute to safe laboratory working environment.
- Contribute to supervision of junior members and students within the laboratory and to the smooth running of the laboratory.

Teaching and Learning

- Supervise or co-supervise at honours and postgraduate level.
- Consult with students.

Service and Engagement

- Foster the University’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

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Organisational Relationships

The position reports to the relevant Group Leader.

SELECTION CRITERIA

**Essential**
- PhD in the area of neuroscience, molecular genetics, biomedical science or related discipline.
- At least four years post-doctoral experience in a field relevant to MND.
- A strong research focus and a clinical interface, dealing with MND patients.
- Evidence of a contribution to research through publication of scholarly papers in the international literature and presentation of scientific work at national/international meetings.
- Evidence of a contribution to research, including successful external grant applications.
- Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues.
- Awareness of laboratory safety, occupational health and safety protocols.

**Desirable**
- Experience of handling human samples and in conducting clinical trials.
- Record of achievement in translational research.
- Experience in supervising or co-supervising HDR students.
- Experience in liaising and collaborating with external agencies to develop cooperative research initiatives.

**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.

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

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