POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Fellow - Translational Neuroscience
Organisation Unit: UQ Centre for Clinical Research
Position Number: New
Type of Employment: Full time Fixed Term
Classification: Research Academic Level A/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 (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (42), QS World University Rankings (48), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (69). 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 52,000-plus strong student community includes more than 16,400 postgraduate scholars and more than 15,400 international students from 135 countries, adding to its proud 250,000-plus alumni. The University has more than 6,600 academic and professional staff (full-time equivalent) and a $1.75 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 Clinical Research
The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) is a $70 million purpose-built facility sponsored by Atlantic Philanthropies, the Queensland Government (Smart State funding) and UQ. The building, completed in early 2008, is located at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital site at Herston, Brisbane. The RBWH is the largest teaching hospital in Australia and the site also houses a basic medical research institute (QIMR), and a significant Faculty of Medicine presence, including the Schools of Public Health. UQCCR 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 current research themes are: Clinical Neuroscience, Infectious Diseases and Pathology Test Development.

UQCCR is a University-level research Centre reporting to the Research Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. The centre’s postgraduate students are enrolled through partnering Schools.

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 the Position
An opportunity for a highly motivated postdoctoral scientist to join a multidisciplinary research program in Translational Neuroscience investigating disease mechanisms, novel therapeutic targets and clinical biomarkers for Parkinson’s disease and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (Motor Neuron Disease). The appointed candidate will be expected to design and carry out independent research and publish outcomes in high-quality outlets in accordance with the aims of the research program. This position will also involve training and supervision of students and contribution to competitive research grant applications under supervision of the Group Leader. The candidate will also be expected to engage with industry partners, patient groups and other stakeholders to promote and advance goals of the research program.

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to
• Initiate and lead translational research projects using preclinical disease models and clinical biospecimen collections
• Perform routine dosing of novel therapeutic drugs to evaluate efficacy in disease models
• Perform in vitro cell culture experiments with isolated neuronal and glial cells to study disease mechanisms and therapeutic targets
• Provide research support to ongoing and new research projects
• Implement new research techniques and assays relevant to the research program
• Contribute to the submission of competitive research funding application
• Publish research outcomes in peer-reviewed journals and other relevant outlets
• Supervision and training of PhD and Honours students
• Work under the direction of the supervisor and in collaboration with team members to achieve project milestones
• Undertake routine project management tasks
• Other research duties as reasonably directed by supervisor

Service and Engagement
• Foster relationships with key stakeholders including patient associations, industry partners and government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.

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 Dr Richard Gordon, Group Leader in Clinical Neuroscience and Lab head

SELECTION CRITERIA

Qualifications
A PhD in the area of neuroscience, pharmacology, immunology or cell biology of animal systems or similar discipline.

Knowledge and skills

Essential

Academic Level A
• Training and experience in neuroscience and/or immunology and pharmacology
• High level of competency in animal handling and drug dosing in rodent models of human disease
• Experience with performing motor and cognitive function testing in rodents
• Expertise in isolation and culture of primary human and rodent cells
• Competency in standard cell and molecular biology techniques such as western blotting, immunohistochemistry and qPCR for gene and protein expression studies
• Ability to maintain detailed work records and document processes for quality management systems
• Demonstrated ability to analyse, interpret and present complex research data
• Excellent organization and time management skills with high levels of attention to detail
• Demonstrable high level written and verbal communication skills
• Ability to work both independently and collaboratively as part of a multi-disciplinary team
• Ability to work to deadlines and manage multiple priorities

Academic Level B
In addition to requirements for Academic Level A
• Previous postdoctoral research experience with demonstrable research outcomes
• Strong track record of high-quality peer-reviewed publications
• Demonstrable track record of securing research funding support as Chief Investigator or as part of a larger research group

Desirable
• Experience with survival stereotaxic surgery in rodents
• Previous experience in animal models of Parkinson’s disease and ALS
• Expertise in flow cytometry and analytical methods including mass spectrometry will be highly regarded
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 fixed-term position for 2 years with possibility of extension contingent on research funding and performance**

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.