POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Fellow
Organisation Unit: Child Health Research Centre
Position Number: NEW
Type of Employment: Full time, 2 years fixed term
Classification: Research 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 $11 billion+ (see http://uniest.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™ 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 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 Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital.

Information relating to the activities of CHRC may be found at https://child-health-researchcentre.uq.edu.au/.

The Acquired Brain Injury in Children program (ABiC) is a new program within UQ-CHRC. It is closely linked with the Queensland Cerebral Palsy and Rehabilitation Research Centre (QCPRRRC) within the Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland (UQ), and a research program for the Department of Paediatric Rehabilitation situated within the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital. It
is closely linked with clinical services provided at the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital, providing research leadership to the state-wide Queensland Paediatric Rehabilitation Service (QPRS) and the Queensland Children’s Motion Analysis Laboratory (QCMAL). This program focuses on improving the lives of children with acquired brain injury, especially Traumatic Brain Injury.

ABiC has links and collaborations with the University of Queensland, the UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR) and the Queensland Brain Institute. ABiC collaborates nationally and internationally in concussion research.

Neuromodulation Research – the KidStim Lab

ABiC will be setting up a new KidStim lab at CHRC in 2018, bringing neurostimulation therapies to children in Queensland. The focus of this crucial role will be to manage all aspects of the new KidStim laboratory, to be a centre of excellence and outstanding research in paediatric neuromodulation. This role will oversee and conduct clinical research in collaboration with the Chief Investigator, A/Professor Dr. Karen M. Barlow, the Dr. Paul Hopkins Chair of Paediatric Rehabilitation, as well as identify research opportunities based on extensive knowledge in this area.

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

The candidate will lead research projects using modern neurostimulation technologies and techniques to expand our understanding of altered brain function following acquired brain injury, including the role of neurostimulation in modulating neural function for better health outcomes. The candidate must have extensive knowledge and experience in neurostimulation research, specifically Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS), and ideally in children. They will be responsible for experimental design, data analyses, and manuscript preparation, and will also be expected to apply for both independent and collaborative funding to support their research focus. In addition, this role will provide management and oversight of the new KidStim laboratory, ensuring the smooth running of research activities within the facility.

This position is physically based at the Centre for Children’s Health Research next to the Lady Cilento Children’s Hospital, South Brisbane.
Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Research

- Conduct research to further understanding of brain function in children with acquired brain injury using neurostimulation.
- Publish high quality papers and contribute to the disciplined academic environment of the laboratory and the institute.
- Apply for both independent and collaborative research funding.
- Acquire and maintain familiarity with relevant scientific literature and contribute to the academic environment of the laboratory and institute
- Present results of research at meetings at all levels – laboratory, institutional, national and international as appropriate.
- Using extensive knowledge and experience to identify research opportunities within this field, to further our understanding of neurostimulation.

KidStim laboratory management

- Oversight and smooth running of KidStim laboratory activities, including recruitment and supervision of staff and students.
- Point of expertise for laboratory equipment and processes; creating and maintain training materials and providing training to the team.
- Ensuring proper maintenance and use of equipment, including oversight of any warranty contracts, services and repairs.
- Conducting tours, demonstrations and contributing to promotional activities and materials, in support of current and future funding.
- Performing other laboratory related administrative duties as required
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 the Associate Professor Karen Barlow, Chair in Paediatric Rehabilitation.
SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
- Completion of a PhD in the field of neuroscience.
- Evidence of a growing profile in research, including successful publications and external grant applications; or an ability to acquire.
- Demonstrated knowledge in neurostimulation.
- Experience in using TMS.
- Eligibility to work with children: applicants should hold or be eligible to hold a Blue Card, or have current Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registration.
- Experience in research and project management preferably in a research and/or clinical setting.
- Experience in developing research practices, procedures and protocols with broad direction.
- Excellent analytical and written communication skills, with the provision of extensive reports and delivery of presentations to various levels within the organization.
- Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders at all levels of the research and health care systems, including children and families.
- Excellent organisational skills, including the ability to prioritise own workload and exercise initiative and judgment as appropriate, and work in a flexible and dynamic environment with competing priorities to meet deadlines.

Desirable
- Experience in conducting research in children.
- Experience in managing a research laboratory, including supervision of team members.
- Detailed knowledge, or the ability to acquire knowledge, of academic and administrative policies and the inter-relationships between these policies and activities within research centres.
- Knowledge of the Queensland Hospital and Health Services’ (Children’s Health Queensland) administrative systems, procedures and practices.

Qualification Verification
An appointment to this position is subject to the verification of the highest academic qualification from the conferring institution.

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.