POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Research Assistant - Clinical & Translational Neuroscience
Organisational Unit: UQ Centre For Clinical Research (UQCCR)
Position Number: 
Type of Employment: Full Time - Fixed Term until March 2021
Classification: HEW Level 6

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 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.

**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: Mothers, Babies and Lifelong Health; Infection and Immunity; Brain and Mental Health; and Cancer.

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.

Drug Repurposing & Translational Neuroscience Laboratory
The primary focus of our research group is the development and clinical translational of new therapies for progressive neurodegenerative diseases. We utilise a multidisciplinary approach that spans experimental disease models and human patient studies to discover and validate new therapeutic targets, biomarkers and disease-modifying drugs for translation towards clinical use. Our research program is funded by the Queensland Government’s Advance Queensland program, Wesley Medical Research (WMR), the Michael J Fox Foundation and the Cure Parkinson’s Trust UK.

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

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of the Position

A full-time Research Assistant position is available to support the expansion of the Drug Repurposing & Translational Neuroscience Laboratory at the UQ Centre for Clinical Research (UQCCR). The primary purpose of the position is to provide laboratory-based research and management support for clinical and translational neuroscience projects within the group. The candidate will be based at UQCCR, located at the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital Campus in Herston.

The successful candidate will be expected to work independently to coordinate and support a range of research activities across projects involving clinical studies with patients as well as pre-clinical animal models of neuroinflammation and neurodegeneration. Applicants are expected to have the ability to analyse a wide range of complex scientific information and data. Excellent organisational and time management skills as well as a high level of written, oral and interpersonal communication skills would be required for this role. Candidates are also expected to have a sound knowledge of translational research activities including good clinical practice as well as regulatory requirements for human and animal research.

Duties
Duties and responsibilities primarily include, but are not limited to:
• Providing lab-based research support for Clinical and Translational Neuroscience projects
• Work with clinical and research staff to collect, process and archive clinical samples in accordance with the quality management framework
• Perform analyses of research samples using advanced cell culture, immunoassays, molecular biology techniques and flow cytometric methods
• Undertake routine laboratory and project management tasks as assigned
• Assist research team with day to day management of clinical sample biorepositories and databases as required
• Provide research support in implementing new research methods and assays
• Writing and maintenance of detailed work documents and standard operating procedures
• Work under the direction of supervisors and in collaboration with other members of the Laboratory to achieve project milestones
• Maintain Good Clinical Practice (GCP) and abide by the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research
• Routine travel to clinical trial sites around Brisbane would be required as part of this position

Service and Engagement
• Foster relationships with key stakeholders including patient associations, industry and government departments, professional bodies and the wider community.
• Other duties as reasonably directed by the supervisor.

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.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential
• Relevant tertiary qualifications, preferably a Bachelor’s or Masters in Health, Science, or related field with significant laboratory or clinical research experience
• Experience with flow cytometry, advanced molecular biology techniques and multiplex immunoassay methods
• Experience in isolation and ex vivo culture of human and rodent cells or ability to quickly learn these skills
• Ability to maintain detailed work records and document processes for quality management and reporting to regulatory standards
• Demonstrated ability to analyse and interpret complex research data and to learn new research methods
• Excellent organisation and time management skills, with demonstrated ability to work towards deadlines while maintaining a high level of attention to detail.
• Demonstrated high levels of written and verbal communication skills
• Demonstrated problem solving and strategic planning skills
• Ability to work towards multiple priorities

Desirable
• Experience in human phlebotomy/venipuncture and sample collection or the ability to learn these skills
• Previous research experience working with clinical samples and biorepositories
• Previous research experience working with Quality Management Systems

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 until March 31st 2021 with the possibility of extension subject to additional project funding.
Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement