

Position Description

Position Title:	Graduate Research Assistant
Position Classification:	Level 5
Position Number:	318288
Faculty/Office:	Faculty of Science
School/Division:	School of Molecular Sciences
Centre/Section:	
Supervisor Title:	Research Fellow
Supervisor Position Number:	306462

Your work area

The Hartmann Human Lactation Research Group is a world leader in the field of human lactation, conducting internationally recognised research into the physiology of breastfeeding, the anatomy of the breast and the composition of breastmilk. The group, under the direction of Chief Investigator, aims at understanding the normal function of the lactating breast, thereby enabling study of breastfeeding problems and ultimately how they can be successfully managed. To achieve this, the group encompasses a broad range of expertise, including biologists, biochemists, anatomists, midwives, lactation consultants and addresses aspects of human lactation using tools ranging from sonography, biochemistry, metabolomics, immunology and microbiology.

<http://humanlactationresearchgroup.com/>

Located: UWA, Bayliss Building, Human Lactation Research Group Laboratory

Reporting structure

Reports to: Research Fellow

Dotted line reports: Senior Research Fellow

Your role

As the appointee you will, under limited direction, provide a high level of assistance to researchers. You will run standard laboratory assays for human milk as well as develop and optimize new assays. You will also provide support in the smooth running of the laboratory.

Your key responsibilities

Perform biochemical assays. Assays include enzymatic, ELISA, multiplex and mineral analysis

Run molecular assays that include DNA/RNA extraction, gene expression and flow cytometry analysis

Appropriately analyse data. Post data to internal databases and report findings to team members

Prepare and maintain accurate laboratory records

Develop and optimise assays for human milk including quantification of cytokines using the multiplex system and protein and peptide separation with capillary electrophoresis and NMR

Clean and maintain work area and all laboratory equipment and supplies

Perform quality control as directed by the Laboratory Manager

Perform routine and experiment-based cell culture

Perform the following, passage, maintenance, freezing & storage, and appropriate record-keeping of cell lines

Perform cell viability, proliferation, survival and apoptosis assays

Prepare the laboratory for experiments

Prepare buffers and reagents
Order laboratory supplies
Maintain equipment
Maintain sterile and organised environment in tissue culture facility
Organise, document, and maintain freezers, refrigerators, and cell line storage
Obtain milk samples from participants
Provide training and assistance to both staff and students* within the group (*lab enquiries)
Other duties as directed

Your specific work capabilities (selection criteria)

Relevant degree qualification preferably Honours degree
Relevant laboratory experience performing biochemical and/or molecular assays
Highly developed verbal and written communication skills, including an ability to write reports
Highly developed organisational skills and demonstrated ability to set priorities and to meet deadlines
Proficiency in a range of computing skills including word processing, spreadsheets, databases, internet and email
Ability to work independently, show initiative and work productively as part of a team
Demonstrated ability to maintain confidentiality

Special requirements (selection criteria)

There are no special requirements

Compliance

Workplace Health & Safety

All supervising staff are required to undertake effective measures to ensure compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 and related University requirements (including Safety, Health and Wellbeing Objectives and Targets).

All staff must comply with requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and all reasonable directives given in relation to health and safety at work, to ensure compliance with University and Legislative health and safety requirements. Details of the safety obligations can be accessed at <http://www.safety.uwa.edu.au>

Inclusion & Diversity

All staff members are required to comply with the University's Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and Inclusion and Diversity principles. Details of the University policies on these can be accessed at <http://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/policies/policies/conduct/code>, <http://www.web.uwa.edu.au/inclusion-diversity>.