Position Description

Postdoctoral Fellow

ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

UNSW is currently implementing a ten-year strategy to 2025 and our ambition for the next decade is nothing less than to establish UNSW as Australia’s global university. We aspire to this in the belief that a great university, which is a global leader in discovery, innovation, impact, education and thought leadership, can make an enormous difference to the lives of people in Australia and around the world.

Following extensive consultation in 2015, we identified three strategic priority areas. Firstly, a drive for academic excellence in research and education. Universities are often classified as ‘research intensive’ or ‘teaching intensive’. UNSW is proud to be an exemplar of both. We are amongst a limited group of universities worldwide capable of delivering research excellence alongside the highest quality education on a large scale. Secondly, a passion for social engagement, which improves lives through advancing equality, diversity, open debate and economic progress. Thirdly, a commitment to achieving global impact through sharing our capability in research and education in the highest quality partnerships with institutions in both developed and emerging societies. We regard the interplay of academic excellence, social engagement and global impact as the hallmarks of a great forward-looking 21st century university.

To achieve this ambition, we are attracting the very best academic and professional staff to play leadership roles in our organisation.

VALUES IN ACTION: OUR UNSW BEHAVIOURS

UNSW recognises the role of employees in driving a high-performance culture. The behavioural expectations for UNSW are below.

- Delivers high performance and demonstrates service excellence.
- Thinks creatively and develops new ways of working. Initiates and embraces change.
- Works effectively within and across teams. Builds relationships with internal and external stakeholders to deliver on outcomes.
- Values individual differences and contributions of all people and promotes inclusion.
- Treats others with dignity and empathy. Communicates with integrity and openness.
OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT AREA AND POSITION SUMMARY

The School of Psychology is one of the largest and most prestigious schools in Australia. The School is located in the Faculty of Science and has approximately 50 academic staff, 1600 undergraduate students and 150 postgraduate students. Members of the School study a diverse range of topics and students gain an integrated and comprehensive knowledge in the main discipline areas of psychology and develop strong research, analytical and communication skills. Our School attracts excellent students who have an outstanding record in international competitions. Our School has a distinctive quality of academic staff; we earn more competitive research funding and publish more Tier 1 journal articles per academic than any other School in Australia. Our academics are very well connected within Australia and internationally. Our School offers APAC-accredited programs at undergraduate, undergraduate bridging, Honours, and postgraduate levels, as well as the opportunity to pursue higher degrees by research. For further information about the School, please visit https://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/

The Postdoctoral Fellow will provide outstanding academic leadership to promote sensorimotor recovery/rehabilitation in people with major spinal cord injury using cutting-edge non-invasive treatments.

The Postdoctoral Fellow will build translational research capability in sensorimotor recovery/rehabilitation after major spinal cord injury and produce research, that, ideally, will provide evidence for improving clinical practice and home care.

The role of Postdoctoral Fellow reports to Associate Professor Sylvia Gustin and has no direct reports.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities for this role include:

• Conduct research into spinal cord injury sensorimotor rehabilitation either as a member of a team, or where appropriate, independently, and ensure all research is conducted to highest scientific and ethical standards through implementation of best practice research processes.

• Provide expertise for the development/refinement, delivery and evaluation of spinal cord injury sensorimotor rehabilitation programs.

• Prepare or contribute to the preparation of research and rehabilitation protocols and ethics applications.

• Contribute to the writing of scientific manuscripts, assist with the coordination of research activities and actively contribute to research outputs to meet project milestones.

• Contribute to the preparation of research proposal submissions to funding bodies and actively seek collaboration with industry partners as appropriate.

• Participate in and/or present at conferences and/or workshops relevant to the project as required.

• Assist with the supervision of research students in the research area where required.

• Collaborate effectively and maintain strong relationships with relevant researchers within the Institute, external research collaborators, stakeholders, and policy makers.

• Contribute to drafting research grant proposals and tenders for commissioned research and contribute to the compliance and reporting process of funding bodies.

• Cooperate with all health and safety policies and procedures of the university and take all reasonable care to ensure that your actions or omissions do not impact on the health and safety of yourself or others.
SELECTION CRITERIA

- PhD in Spinal Cord Injury (SCI).
- Established experience in spinal cord neuromodulation for sensorimotor rehabilitation in major spinal cord injuries, specifically, transcutaneous electrical stimulation, epidural stimulation, and pharmacological neuromodulation.
- Experienced in both preclinical research in rodents and clinical research in SCI patients.
- Demonstrated excellent or outstanding track record of research publications in peer-reviewed, highly ranked international journals in the field of Neurology, Neuroscience, Neurorehabilitation, and Neural Engineering relative to opportunity.
- An emerging or established international research track record as evidenced by successful collaborations and international competitive research grants in the field of Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation.
- Demonstrated commitment to the highest standards of scientific and ethical integrity.
- Experience in multimodal brain and spinal cord imaging, e.g., pCASL, resting state fMRI, fMRI, DTI and spectroscopy, is desirable, but not necessary. Notable, this criteria does not need to be addressed if the candidate has no experience in multimodal brain and spinal cord imaging.
- Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

It is not the intention of the position description to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position but to highlight the most important aspects of the position. The aspects mentioned above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.