POSITION DESCRIPTION

Senior Research Fellow
RNA New Research Talent Program

Position Summary

The Senior Research Fellow will be expected to lead and develop an independent internationally recognised research team addressing challenges in the field of RNA-based fundamental science, technologies and therapeutics as well as contribute to educational excellence in their respective School and Faculty.

The Senior Research Fellow will be part of the UNSW RNA Institute and lead research in one or more key fields of RNA science, technologies, therapeutics and medical research:

- RNA interactions and fundamental RNA biology, chemistry and (bio)physics
- Delivery systems, including cell, tumour & tissue specific delivery systems.
- Sensing, with emphasis on RNA detection in blood or other biological matrices
- Manufacturing, including novel RNA synthesis methods, microfluidics / reactor design and novel production quality control methods
- Treatment of infectious diseases, cancer, genetic disorders or neurodegenerative diseases

UNSW RNA Institute

The newly established UNSW RNA Institute aims to become a premier institute for RNA Biology and Biotechnology.
The past two decades have revealed that RNA is not only the intermediate between gene and protein, but also a molecule that controls cell differentiation and development, immune responses and brain function. The advent of RNA-based vaccines heralds a new era of applications across all areas of human disease, including auto-immune disorders that comprise the majority of the health burden.

The UNSW RNA Institute will have three main themes: RNA biology, RNA chemistry, and RNA therapeutics. It now seeks to appoint 3 group leaders to initiate research programs across these themes.

The UNSW RNA Institute aims to be the premiere RNA research and pre-clinical manufacturing facility in Australia and seed an RNA-based therapeutics industry in NSW and beyond by supporting collaboration between researchers from the Faculties of Science, Engineering and Medicine to build understanding and drive innovation from fundamental RNA biology through to manufacturing of nanoparticle formulations for the treatment of diseases.

The Institute also includes a manufacturing hub, the RNA Accelerator, which will give researchers access to high quality RNA and lipid nanoparticle formulations suitable for pre-clinical studies, as well as other research support hubs to facilitate the development of novel approaches to RNA therapeutics.

A **Senior Research Fellow (Level C)** is expected to make independent or original contributions to the research effort within their field of research expertise and may have the opportunity to contribute to teaching and the development of educational programs in agreement with their respective Head of School.

The role of Senior Research Fellow will be an academic appointment in a School that best aligns with their respective field of research and will report to Head of School.

**Accountabilities**

Specific accountabilities for this role include:

- Make independent contributions to RNA research that have a significant impact in their field of expertise and create a nationally recognised research track record.
- Undertake independent research in discipline or related area (as per the norms of the discipline), making an independent contribution through professional practice and expertise.
- Develop research groups in area of specialist expertise and research methods that are appropriate to the discipline.
- Attract peer recognition and establish research network/s (based on the norms of the discipline) at national level.
- Obtain research income from nationally competitive research grants (and/or research fellowships) and research end-users as a member or leader, at or above the level that is relevant to the discipline in leading universities.
- Mentor and guide students, groups, and colleagues; supervise HDRs to timely completion as primary supervisor; and contribute to HDR review panels.
- Contribute content to meet the reporting requirements of the RNA Institute.
• Make a positive contribution by leading School meetings and seminars and be a member of School/Faculty committees as required.
• Align with and actively demonstrate the UNSW Values in Action: Our Behaviours and the UNSW Code of Conduct
• 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.

Skills and Experience
• A PhD in a related discipline, and/or relevant work experience within the broad field of RNA Science, Engineering or Medicine.
• Proven commitment to proactively keeping up to date with discipline knowledge and developments.
• Demonstrated track record in research with outcomes of high quality and high impact with clear evidence of the desire and ability to continually achieve research excellence as well as the capacity for research leadership.
• Experience in successfully recruiting and supervising high calibre students.
• Experience in educational activities and/or outreach would be beneficial.
• Evidence of ability to support and inspire students from diverse backgrounds and support student equity diversity and inclusion initiatives.
• Demonstrated ability to work in a team, collaborate across disciplines and build effective relationships.
• Evidence of highly developed interpersonal and organisational skills.
• Demonstrated ability to interact with the profession and industry and attract funding for learning and teaching initiatives.
• An understanding of and commitment to UNSW’s aims, objectives and values in action, together with relevant policies and guidelines.
• Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

Pre-employment checks required for this position
• Verification of qualifications

About this document
This Position Description outlines the objectives, desired outcomes, key responsibilities, accountabilities, required skills, experience and desired behaviours required to successfully perform the role.

This template is not intended to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position. Characteristics of the position may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.