The Kirby Institute is a world-leading health research institute at UNSW Sydney. We work to eliminate infectious diseases, globally. Our specialisation is in developing health solutions for the most at-risk communities. Putting communities at the heart of our research, we develop tests, treatments, cures and prevention strategies that have the greatest chance of success.

This Research Associate position will further develop and optimise existing sequencing procedures for HIV and Hepatitis C (HCV) with a view to transfer to molecular virology diagnostic laboratories. This position will assist with assessing different sequencing procedures and tools and identifying the most cost-effective and accurate method for partial or complete genome sequencing of HIV and HCV, and which will be subsequently used for phylogenetic analyses. The Research Associate will need to have expertise in molecular virology research techniques and have experience in PC2 or PC3 containment facilities.

This Research Associate role will report to the Post Docotral Fellow and work closely with the Associate Professor and has no direct reports.

Specific accountabilities for this role include:

- Contribute independently or as a team member to develop and evaluate protocols for partial and whole viral genome sequencing protocols for analysis of HIV and HCV.
- Validate and design standard operating procedures and quality assurance protocols to be used in diagnostic settings.
- Conduct research (as per the norms of the discipline) and/or enable research teams to create scholarly output that is recognised by peers.
• Liase with other researchers, physicians, and diagnostic laborarotiers for the implementation of the sequencing procedures.

• Utilise the sequence datasets for molecular epidemiological analyses in collaboration with bioinformaticians and evolutionary virologists.

• Prepare and present research findings at local, national and international seminars and conferences as required.

• Prepare concept sheets, laboratory protocols, study designs, as well as proposals (inclusive of budgets) and reports to various granting bodies.

• Support the dissemination of research outcomes through appropriate channels and outlets.

• Prepare ethics committee and institutional bio-safety committee submissions.

• Prepare manuscripts relating to this research for publication in high impact journals, and assist in the preparation of patent applications. Undertake discipline-appropriate research activities, e.g. surveys, literature reviews, data gathering and/or recording of results using appropriate research methods.

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

• Keep accurate records of all experimental data, as well up-to-date protocols, and procedures.

• Support other duties as requested by the Supervisors.

• 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

• PhD in virology or molecular epidemiology (or a related/relevant discipline) or an equivalent level of knowledge gained through any other combination of education, training, or experience.

• Experience in sequence analysis and using phylogenetic tools desirable.

• Proven commitment to proactively keeping up to date with discipline knowledge and developments.

• Demonstrated ability to undertake high quality academic research and conduct independent research with limited supervision

• Demonstrated track record of publications and conference presentations relative to opportunity.

• Demonstrated ability to work in a team, collaborate across disciplines and build effective relationships.

• Evidence of highly developed interpersonal skills.

• Demonstrated ability to communicate and interact with a diverse range of stakeholders and students.

• Demonstrated research experience in molecular virology research, including experience in high-throughput sequencing techniques for viral pathogens. Experience in working in PC3 containment environment is desirable.
• 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.