



Australia's
Global
University

Position Description

Senior Research Fellow

Position Number: 00078192
Position Title: Senior Research Fellow
Date Written: September 2019

Faculty / Division: UNSW Medicine
School / Unit: Kirby Institute
Position Level: Level C

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.



Demonstrates
Excellence

Delivers high performance and demonstrates service excellence.



Drives
Innovation

Thinks creatively and develops new ways of working. Initiates and embraces change.



Builds
Collaboration

Works effectively within and across teams. Builds relationships with internal and external stakeholders to deliver on outcomes.



Embraces
Diversity

Values individual differences and contributions of all people and promotes inclusion.



Displays
Respect

Treats others with dignity and empathy. Communicates with integrity and openness.

OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT AREA AND POSITION SUMMARY

UNSW Medicine is a national leader in learning, teaching and research, with close affiliations to a number of Australia's finest hospitals, research institutes and health care organisations. With a strong presence at UNSW Kensington campus, the faculty have staff and students in teaching hospitals in Sydney as well as regional and rural areas of NSW including Albury/Wodonga, Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie.

The Kirby Institute is a leading global research institute dedicated to the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. Established in 1986 in response to the then emerging HIV epidemic, the Kirby Institute now contributes to knowledge on a broad range of diseases, including viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections. Focussing on the coordination of national surveillance programs, population health and epidemiological research, clinical and behavioural research and clinical trials, the Kirby Institute's research projects are conducted in partnership with communities most affected by epidemics.

The Kirby Institute aims to find ways to control infections, develop new therapies and preventative vaccines, as well as providing critical leadership to decision makers in Australia and internationally on the most effective, efficient and sustainable strategies to address epidemics.

The IVPP is predominantly a laboratory-based group. The program has a range of investigator driven projects focussed on viral immune-pathogenesis especially with regards HIV and Human Papilloma Virus with particular interests in: T cell and innate immune responses to infection both in peripheral blood and in affected tissues such as lymph node and mucosal surfaces and regulation of viral gene expression and how this affects interaction with the immune system transmission patterns. The work is underpinned by state-of-the-art functional and phenotypic cellular assays and a variety of molecular assays and genetic manipulations. Currently, the laboratory is involved in a number of clinical studies regarding the treatment and prevention of viral infections.

The Senior Research Fellow will have responsibility for the academic oversight of the development and implementation of projects on the pathogenesis and effects of immunotherapy especially on virally driven cancers. The Senior Research Fellow will have the opportunity to participate in, develop and lead studies in the area of host factor determinants of outcome of infection, as well as other relevant areas of infectious disease pathophysiology. It will be expected that the Senior Research Fellow will where appropriate work collaboratively across the program, the institute and UNSW and foster and grow appropriate national and international collaborations. They will seek external funding opportunities and contribute to the group's international recognition in this research area through high quality peer reviewed papers and presentations.

The role of Senior Research Fellow reports to the IVPP Program Head and has no direct reports but this is will change as their group grows.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities for this role include:

- Independently design, develop, lead and produce high quality independent research in the area of immunopathogenesis and treatment of infectious diseases especially in virally driven cancers, publishing in high impact journals and presenting findings in major international conferences.
- Provide overall leadership in immunopathogenesis and treatment of viral driven cancers activities including developing of a range of laboratory techniques to elucidate systemic and mucosal immunological and inflammatory responses and to monitor the effect of potential therapeutic interventions in correlative studies.

- Supervise and or mentor research fellows, research assistants and as appropriate, supervising ILP, postgraduate and honours students in the research group.
- Coordinate the development of an immunopathogenesis of virally driven cancer stream within IVPP .
- Promote research collaborations in viral immunopathogenesis across the Kirby, institutions, nationally and internationally.
- Contribute to the successful conduct of research activities through submission of manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals and preparation of competitive grant applications for external funding.
- Identify and protect appropriately intellectual property.
- Attend relevant meetings and conferences, and represent the Kirby Institute at national and international meetings with private and public sector groups or agencies as required.
- 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 clinical immunology or related field with substantial post-doctoral experience
- Proven experience and performance in research in the field of human viral immunopathogenesis research especially with regards immunoregulation and cancer outcomes, especially those driven by viruses, as recognised by publications in relevant journals.
- Strong understanding of immunopathogenic mechanisms especially in the context of human immune responses
- Extensive experience in the design and implementation of correlative studies in the context of clinical studies.
- Demonstrated experience in leading high-quality research in clinical human research, including track record (as Chief Investigator) of obtaining competitive or contract research funding
- Highly developed communication and interpersonal skills in a leadership role with a proven ability to work effectively both independently and as part of a team
- Established track record of peer-reviewed publications and research reports relative to research opportunity
- Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training
- Ensure hazards and risks are identified and controlled for tasks, projects and activities that pose a health and safety risk within your area of responsibility.

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.