Position Summary
The University of Tasmania is building a vision of a place-based University with a mission to enhance the intellectual, economic, social and culture future of Tasmania, and from Tasmania, contribute to the world in areas of distinctive advantage. The University recognises that achieving this vision is dependent on the people we employ as well as creating a people-centred University that is values-based, relational, diverse, and development-focused.

We are seeking to appoint a Research Assistant at the Menzies Institute for Medical Research (Menzies), part of the College of Health and Medicine.

Menzies is one of Australia’s leading health and medical research institutes and is recognised worldwide for its research excellence. Menzies’ mission is to perform internationally significant medical research leading to healthier, longer and better lives for all Tasmanians. Research takes a bench-to-bedside and disease prevention approach that is aimed at improving patient care and clinical outcomes for the community by translating knowledge into clinical and policy actions and through the commercial application of discoveries. Tasmania, an island state with a population of over 500,000 people, has a discrete health system that enables close engagement with the University and with government agencies and health providers and offers a unique framework for translational health research.

Bone marrow failure syndromes (BMFS) are a heterogenous group of rare diseases resulting in significant morbidity and early mortality. Our research aims to uncover the genetic regulators of gene expression in bone marrow and circulating blood cells and the insight from this work will lead to the development of novel markers for disease profiling and the identification of therapeutic targets. The laboratory-based Research Assistant will assist with performing blood sample cryopreservation, cataloguing and processing for research being conducted by the Cancer and Genetics Theme. The incumbent will be responsible for Human peripheral blood mononuclear cell processing and general laboratory management, as part of research focussed on Bone Marrow Failure.

We are an inclusive workplace committed to ‘working from the strength that diversity brings’ reflected in our Statement of Values. We are dedicated to attracting, retaining and developing our people and are committed to inclusive principles. We celebrate the range of diverse assets that gender identity, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, age and life course bring. Applications are encouraged from all sectors of the community. Tell us how we can make this job work for you.

What You’ll Do
• Efficiently isolate and process PBMCs from blood samples with a good viability rate, and conduct cell characterization assays, to support the research on bone marrow failure.
• Maintain accurate and systematic records of all experiments and sample processing, ensuring data integrity and reproducibility in line with Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) standards.
• Develop and manage a sample inventory system that categorizes and tracks blood samples, PBMCs, and related reagents.
• Implement rigorous quality control measures for all laboratory procedures involving sample processing and cryopreservation, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards.
• Provide comprehensive research support by assisting with experimental design, literature reviews, applications for research funding and preparation of materials for publications related to bone marrow failure research.
• Maintain a safe laboratory environment by regularly reviewing and updating safety protocols, participating in training sessions, and ensuring compliance with institutional safety regulations.
• Facilitate cross-functional collaboration by acting as a liaison between the laboratory, clinical teams, and external collaborators to streamline the integration of clinical and research objectives in the study of bone marrow failure.
• Assist with laboratory experimentation, research, administrative tasks and other general laboratory maintenance and duties associated with laboratory compliance.
• Undertake other duties as assigned by the supervisor.

What We’re Looking For (success criteria)
• A degree level qualification in a relevant area or an equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training.
• Skills and experience in a laboratory specialising in sample processing and small volume aliquoting.
• Excellent organisational skills, with the ability to be self-directed and use initiative.
• Record-keeping skills appropriate to carrying out a scientific investigation.
• Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to interact effectively with a range of people and organisations.
• Demonstrated ability to perform tasks with a high degree of attention to detail.
• Demonstrated ability to use computerised systems.

Other position requirements
• Regular interstate travel may be required to deliver research outcomes
• Laboratory and workshop activities and handling hazardous substances.

University of Tasmania

The University of Tasmania is an institution with an enduring commitment to our state and community, and a strong global outlook. We are committed to enhancing the intellectual, economic, social and cultural future of Tasmania. Our Strategic Direction strongly reflects the University community's voice that our University must be place based but globally connected as well as regionally networked and designed to deliver quality access to higher education for the whole State.

We believe that from our unique position here in Tasmania we can impact the world through the contributions of our staff, students and graduates. We recognise that achieving this vision is dependent on the people we employ, as well as creating a university that is values-based, relational, diverse, and development-focused. Check out more here:

https://www.utas.edu.au/jobs

The intention of this position description is to highlight the most important aspects, rather than to limit the scope or accountabilities of this role. Duties above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the position.