



Australian
National
University

Position Description

College/Division:	ANU College of Science
Faculty/School/Centre:	Research School of Biology
Department/Unit:	Division of Biomedical Science and Biochemistry
Position Title:	Research Officer
Classification:	ANU Officer Grade 5/6 (Research)
Position No:	
Responsible to:	Lead PI, Associate Professor Alexander Maier
Number of positions that report to this role:	-
Delegation(s) Assigned:	-

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Research Officer will provide research support to the ARC funded project '*Signalling pathways for sexual differentiation of apicomplexan parasites*'. The goal of the project is a better understanding of the mechanisms and signaling pathways of the sexual differentiation (in particular of the malaria parasite) and a functional characterisation of novel sex-specific molecules, which are pivotal prerequisites for new approaches to disease intervention.

The Research Officer conducts experiments and provides comprehensive support on a diverse range of research activities. These activities are primarily in the areas of generating and maintaining parasite cell line in culture, but also parasite genetics, flow cytometry imaging and lipid and protein biochemistry.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITY AREAS

Position Dimension & Relationships:

The Research Officer reports directly to the Lead PI of the project, and liaises with a wide range of stakeholders and providing assistance with the design and implementation of research directions. The Research Officer is responsible for providing general support related to allocated research activities.

Role Statement:

Under general direction, the Research Officer will:

1. Provide support to the research team, including but not limited to:
 - Assisting in the design and conduct of qualitative and quantitative research studies and in the analysis of data. This includes cellular and biochemically based assays like western blots and drug response curves, as well as the cloning of DNA constructs and molecular biological analysis of cell lines (PCR, Southern blot).
 - Assisting in the preparation of research profiles, reports and publications.
 - Creating, testing, maintaining and managing relevant databases accurately.
 - Assisting in the compliance for the research team as required.
2. Support the timely and on budget delivery of the research endeavours of the team..
3. Undertake basic laboratory maintenance including; monitoring and maintaining laboratory stocks and general laboratory housekeeping in compliance with WHS procedures.

4. Provide general support on a range of research related matters, including coordinating team meetings, coordinating the communications to various stakeholders and organising relevant travel and events.
5. Participate in seminars, workshops and professional networks across campus to develop a broad base of industry knowledge, and provide input to improve the area's research practices and processes.
6. Comply with all ANU policies and procedures, in particular those relating to work health and safety and equal opportunity.
7. Perform other duties as requested, consistent with the classification level of the position and in line with the principle of multi-skilling.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Degree or demonstrated relevant experience in a research or research support role in molecular biology, or molecular parasitology and an interest in a field closely related to allocated research activities. Sound knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies is essential.
2. Knowledge of biological processes as well as molecular biology and/or cell culture skills. Experience and/or knowledge of cell biology, protein biochemistry, molecular biology and malaria research is desirable.
3. Experience in basic laboratory maintenance, as well as knowledge of general laboratory WHS procedures.
4. Demonstrated effective interpersonal skills and verbal and written communication skills, including the ability to draft standard business correspondence and various research related papers, and an ability to consult and liaise effectively with a wide range of people in a culturally diverse environment.
5. Proven organisational skills and attention to detail, with a demonstrated ability to prioritise own workload and to work effectively both independently and as part of a team, meeting competing deadlines and delivering high-quality outcomes.
6. Demonstrated experience using information systems, including the ability to generate complex reports and demonstrated skills using the MSOffice suite.
7. A demonstrated understanding of equal opportunity principles and policies and a commitment to their application in a University context.

ANU Officer Levels 5 and 6 are broadbanded in this stream. It is expected that at the higher levels within the broadband occupants will have a deeper understanding, and a more independent application, of the research theory and techniques.

References: [Professional Staff Classification Descriptors](#)