



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Department of Medicine (RMH), Melbourne Medical School
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Research Fellow/ Research Assistant

POSITION NO	0041633
CLASSIFICATION	Research Assistant Grade 2/Research Fellow Grade 1, Level A
SALARY	\$66,809 - \$90,657 p.a.
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
EMPLOYMENT TYPE	Full-time fixed term position available for 12 months Fixed term contract type: Externally funded. Work focus category: Research
OTHER BENEFITS	http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits
CURRENT OCCUPANT	New
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers , select the relevant option (‘Current Staff’ or ‘Prospective Staff’), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Associate Professor Nigel Jones Tel +61 3 9035 6402 Email ncjones@unimelb.edu.au <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

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about.unimelb.edu.au/careers
joining.unimelb.edu.au

Position Summary

The Research Assistant/Fellow will be a member of the Epilepsy and Behaviour laboratory in the Department of Medicine (Royal Melbourne Hospital) and will undertake research related to the interests of this group. The specific research endeavours for this position will involve investigating the bidirectional relationships between stress-related disorders and epilepsy. This will entail use of live animal models of epilepsy and advanced behavioural assessments, as well as immunocytochemistry and viral and transgenic technologies.

You will be responsible for conducting and managing research projects, and be involved in all aspects of the research, including ethics submissions, experimental design, analysis of results and the reporting of the findings in conference presentations and scientific papers. You may be expected to be involved in the supervision of research students and research assistants. A highly motivated post-doctoral neuroscientist with skills in small animal handling and surgery are essential criteria. Experience in electrophysiology would be an advantage.

The Research Assistant will report to Associate Professor Nigel Jones, Head of the Epilepsy and Behaviour Laboratory.

1. Selection Criteria

1.1 ESSENTIAL

- 1.1.1 An undergraduate degree with honours in the biological sciences and research experience in a relevant discipline (eg: neuroscience).
- 1.1.2 A submitted PhD in a relevant area
- 1.1.3 Experience in small animal surgery and handling
- 1.1.4 Experience in immunohistochemistry.
- 1.1.5 Excellent organisational skills and time management skills to meet deadlines
- 1.1.6 Strong written and oral communication skills
- 1.1.7 Understanding of statistics and data analysis for biomedical research.
- 1.1.8 Ability to effectively work both independently and as part of a team
- 1.1.9 Demonstrated ability to problem solve and to use initiative as appropriate

1.2 DESIRABLE

- .2.1 Experience in small animal behaviour
- .2.2 Experience in delivery of viral vectors to brain.
- .2.3 Knowledge of the university and hospital medical administrative policies and procedures
- .2.4 Experience with THEMIS Research or similar research management information systems would be well regarded

2. Key Responsibilities

2.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

- ▶ To conduct biomedical research projects using in vivo electrophysiology and related techniques in small animal epilepsy models.
- ▶ Undertake procedures related to rodent models of epilepsy, including surgeries, EEG recordings, drug administration.
- ▶ To perform cognitive behavioural paradigms in small animals.
- ▶ To statistically analyse the results of the research.

2.2 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- ▶ To liaise closely with other members of the research team and attend regular team meetings.
- ▶ Contribute to the management of similar projects within the Research Group
- ▶ Present results of the research at internal Department meetings and at National and International Scientific Conferences
- ▶ To prepare scientific manuscripts incorporating original observations for publication in biomedical journals.
- ▶ Drafting and submitting ethics and research governance applications
- ▶ To assist in the supervision of research students and research assistants where appropriate.
- ▶ To provide instruction and advice to new staff and students regarding specific research techniques and practices.

2.3 ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ To collaborate with other researchers in the Epilepsy and Neuropharmacology Research Group in the Department of Medicine, and establish collaborations outside the Department.
- ▶ Effective liaison with external networks to foster collaborative partnerships
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 4

3. Other Information

3.1 MELBOURNE MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Melbourne Medical School (MMS) was established in 1862 and has a substantial international reputation for its leadership in teaching and training, health research, policy and practice. The MMS is committed to working with the communities we serve to improve health and advance health care. We will do this through our teaching, learning, research, clinical care and advocacy.

The MMS is composed of eight clinical departments (General Practice, Medical Education, Medicine and Radiology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Rural Health and Surgery) which are embedded within clinical health services throughout metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria.

The MMS delivers a suite of health related graduate programs including the Doctor of Medicine (MD), the first professional entry Masters level medical program in Australia. The Melbourne MD delivers a fresh approach to medical training and creates a new benchmark in 21st century medical education.

The MMS is committed to improving the wellbeing of the community through the discovery and application of new knowledge. The research effort of the school is highly collaborative and spans basic to translational research and involves over 800 graduate researchers and 1000 academic staff.

The MMS also actively participates in the public debate and advocacy around key health issues and policy based on our values of commitment, integrity, compassion, respect and service.

3.2 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) plays a vital role in the delivery of the University of Melbourne's Strategic Plan 2015-2020: Growing Esteem by providing current and future generations with education and research equal to the best in the world. It is Australia's largest and leading biomedical research faculty. It employs more than 1,700 members of staff, has more than 8,000 students, and total revenue of \$607 million for 2015. Reflecting the complexity of today's global health landscape, the Faculty is made up of six different Schools and four Strategic Research Initiatives, and draws together all areas of human health, ranging from the most basic to the most applied areas of research. The Faculty contributes close to 50 per cent of research conducted at the University.

The Faculty has appointed Australia's first Associate Dean (Indigenous Development) to lead the development and implementation of the Faculty's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which will be aligned with the broader University-wide plan. To enable the Faculty to improve its Indigenous expertise knowledge base, the Faculty's RAP will address Indigenous employment, Indigenous student recruitment and retention, Indigenous cultural recognition and building partnerships with the Indigenous community as key areas of development.

3.3 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

The University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. With outstanding performance in international rankings, Melbourne is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. The University of Melbourne is consistently ranked among the world's top universities. Further information about our reputation and global ranking is available at <http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/explore/why-choose-melbourne/reputation-rankings>.

Established in 1853, shortly after the founding of Melbourne, the University is located just a few minutes from the centre of this global city. The main Parkville campus is recognised as the hub of Australia's premier knowledge precinct comprising eight hospitals, many leading research institutes and a wide range of knowledge-based industries.

The University employs people of outstanding calibre and offers a unique environment where staff are valued and rewarded. Further information about working at The University of Melbourne is available at <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers>.

3.4 GROWING ESTEEM, THE MELBOURNE CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH AT MELBOURNE: ENSURING EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT TO 2025

Growing Esteem describes Melbourne's strategy to achieve its aspiration to be a public-spirited and internationally-engaged institution, highly regarded for making distinctive contributions to society in research and research training, learning and teaching, and engagement. <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy-and-leadership>

The University is at the forefront of Australia's changing higher education system and offers a distinctive model of education known collectively as the Melbourne Curriculum. The new educational model, designed for an outstanding experience for all students, is based on six broad undergraduate programs followed by a graduate professional degree, research higher degree or entry directly into employment. The emphasis on academic breadth as well as disciplinary depth in the new degrees ensures that graduates will have the capacity to succeed in a world where knowledge boundaries are shifting and reforming to create new frontiers and challenges. In moving to the new model, the University is also aligning itself with the best of emerging European and Asian practice and well-established North American traditions.

The University's global aspirations seek to make significant contributions to major social, economic and environmental challenges. Accordingly, the University's research strategy *Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025* aspires to a significant advancement in the excellence and impact of its research outputs.

<http://research.unimelb.edu.au/index.html#home>

The strategy recognises that as a public-spirited, research-intensive institution of the future, the University must strive to make a tangible impact in Australia and the world, working across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries and building deeper and more substantive engagement with industry, collaborators and partners. While cultivating the fundamental enabling disciplines through investigator-driven research, the University has adopted three grand challenges aspiring to solve some of the most difficult problems facing our world in the next century. These Grand Challenges include:

Understanding our place and purpose – The place and purpose grand challenge centres on understanding all aspects of our national identity, with a focus on Australia's 'place' in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and on our 'purpose' or mission to improve all dimensions of the human condition through our research.

Fostering health and wellbeing – The health and wellbeing grand challenge focuses on building the scale and breadth of our capabilities in population and global health; on harnessing our contribution to the 'convergence revolution' of biomedical and health research, bringing together the life sciences, engineering and the physical sciences; and on addressing the physical, mental and social aspects of wellbeing by looking beyond the traditional boundaries of biomedicine.

Supporting sustainability and resilience – The sustainability and resilience grand challenge addresses the critical issues of climate change, water and food security, sustainable energy and designing resilient cities and regions. In addition to the technical aspects, this grand challenge considers the physical and social functioning of cities, connecting physical phenomena with lessons from our past, and the implications of the technical solutions for economies, living patterns and behaviours.

Essential to tackling these challenges, an outstanding faculty, high performing students, wide collaboration including internationally and deep partnerships with external parties form central components of Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025.

3.5 EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Another key priority for the University is access and equity. The University of Melbourne is strongly committed to an admissions policy that takes the best students, regardless of financial and other disadvantage. An Access, Equity and Diversity Policy Statement, included in the University Plan, reflects this priority.

The University is committed to equal opportunity in education, employment and welfare for staff and students. Students are selected on merit and staff are selected and promoted on merit.

3.6 GOVERNANCE

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and responsible to Council for the good management of the University.

Comprehensive information about the University of Melbourne and its governance structure is available at <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/unisec/governance.html>.

4. *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)*

All staff are required to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other personnel who may be affected by their conduct.

OHS responsibilities applicable to positions are published at:

<http://safety.unimelb.edu.au/topics/responsibilities/>

These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for Managers and Supervisors and other Personnel.