



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Department of Medicine, Austin Health
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Research Assistant – Diabetes and Metabolism Research

POSITION NO	0042874
CLASSIFICATION	Research Assistant Grade 2 Level A
SALARY	\$69,148 - \$93,830 per annum
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
WORKING HOURS	Full time
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Full-time (fixed-term) position available for 12 months Fixed term contract type: Externally funded contract employment
OTHER BENEFITS	http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers , under 'Job Search and Job Alerts', select the relevant option ('Current Staff' or 'Prospective Staff'), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	A/Prof Sof Andrikopoulos Tel +61 3 9496 2403 Email Sof@unimelb.edu.au <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website:
about.unimelb.edu.au/careers

Position Summary

A Research Assistant is required to conduct research involving procedures that would assess glucose metabolism in preclinical models of obesity and diabetes. The research is specifically aimed at understanding the physiological and biochemical mechanisms that contribute to insulin resistance and defects in insulin secretion, both of which contribute to hyperglycaemia and diabetes. You will be required to be proficient in the use of a number of different physiological and biochemical techniques, undertake animal care, and analyse and evaluate experimental results. In particular you will be able to conduct glucose tolerance and insulin tolerance tests as well as cannulate the bile duct of rodents for the isolation of pancreatic islets. Proficiency in tissue culture and aseptic techniques is essential.

The successful applicant will be required to keep exemplary records of all work as well as being able to present this work to other team members when required. You will be required to reference scientific literature in advancement of your work and present at group and scientific meetings.

The position will report to A/Prof Sof Andrikopoulos, the responsible investigator on these projects. The position is located at the University of Melbourne, Department of Medicine on the Austin Hospital campus in Heidelberg.

1. Key Responsibilities

- ▶ As a member of the Islet Biology and Metabolism Research Group, conduct of research in diabetes/obesity, under the direction of the supervisor, both independently and as a member of a team
- ▶ Analysing results using computer based statistical and graphics programs
- ▶ Assistance with publication of peer reviewed manuscripts arising from scholarship and research
- ▶ Contribution to the preparation of research proposal submissions to internal or external funding bodies
- ▶ Involvement in professional activity, including preparation and presentation of data and findings to local seminars and meetings and participation in conferences and meetings of professional societies (subject to availability of funds)
- ▶ Administrative research duties connected with the area of research, including preparation of Animal Ethics Committee applications and amendments, and maintenance of databases pertaining to the area of research
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 6

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ Completion of a Bachelor of Science, with Honours or equivalent experience in an appropriate discipline

- ▶ Experience with small animal procedures, and in particular surgical techniques to cannulate the bile duct for the isolation of pancreatic islets
- ▶ Proficiency in tissue culture and aseptic techniques
- ▶ Experience with surgical techniques including administration of general anaesthesia and animal monitoring during general anaesthesia
- ▶ Experience in the conduct of glucose tolerance and insulin tolerance tests in vivo.
- ▶ Excellent organisational and time management skills
- ▶ Demonstrated computer skills, including spreadsheets, database management, Endnote, biostatistics and word processing
- ▶ Excellent communication skills and a demonstrated ability to present oral summaries of research to various audiences
- ▶ Well-developed interpersonal skills including demonstrated capacity to work as both a team member and independently

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Good computer literacy particularly spreadsheets and word processing
- ▶ Previous experience in a medical or science field
- ▶ Background in genetics and blood sampling

3. *Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion*

The University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation. The University makes decisions on employment, promotion and reward on the basis of merit.

The University is committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, students, contractors, honorary appointees, volunteers and visitors with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation. This commitment is set out in the University's People Strategy 2015-2020 and policies that address diversity and inclusion, equal employment opportunity, discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying and appropriate workplace behaviour. All staff are required to comply with all University policies.

The University values diversity because we recognise that the differences in our people's age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability and background bring richness to our work environment. Consequently, the People Strategy sets out the strategic aim to drive diversity and inclusion across the University to create an environment where the compounding benefits of a diverse workforce are recognised as vital in our continuous deserve to service for excellence and reach the targets of Growing Esteem.

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.

5. Other Information

5.1 MEDICINE, AUSTIN HEALTH

<http://www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/medicine-and-radiology>

The Department of Medicine and Radiology is a large and diverse department in the Melbourne Medical School that undertakes research, postgraduate and undergraduate teaching within the University of Melbourne teaching hospitals. The Department of Medicine, Austin Health is a large research focused node of the Department, committed to high standards of teaching, research and clinical care. The Department has major programs in basic and applied research, has clinical responsibilities at Austin Hospital, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital and contributes significantly to the undergraduate teaching program for medical students. The research base is broad with significant funding from NH&MRC and other competitive grant schemes. There are approximately 90 academic, technical and administrative staff, and over 90 students who are enrolled to pursue higher degrees from BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD and DMedSc.

5.2 MELBOURNE MEDICAL SCHOOL

www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au

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.

5.3 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.

5.4 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. The main campus in Parkville 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. With outstanding performance in international rankings, the University is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

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>.

5.5 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/our-research/research-at-melbourne>

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.

5.6 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/governance>