

Position description

Research Assistant

Department/Unit	Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Faculty/Division	Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
Classification	HEW Level 5
Work location	Clayton campus
Date document created or updated	13 October 2016

Organisational context

Monash is a university of transformation, progress and optimism. Our people are our most valued asset, with our academics among the best in the world and our professional staff revolutionising the way we operate as an organisation. For more information about our University and our exciting future, please visit www.monash.edu

The **Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences (MN&HS)** is the University's largest research faculty. World class researchers work across disciplines including laboratory based medical science, applied clinical research, and social and public health research. The Faculty is home to a number of leading medical and biomedical research institutes and groups, and has contributed to advances in many crucial areas. Our expertise in life sciences and biomedicine is recognised both nationally and internationally.

From a teaching perspective, our education curriculum covers a range of disciplines, including medicine, nursing, radiography & medical imaging, nutrition & dietetics, paramedic studies, biomedical sciences, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, behavioural neurosciences and social work. We take pride in delivering outstanding education in all courses, in opening students to the possibilities offered by newly discovered knowledge and in providing a nurturing and caring environment. To learn more about the Faculty, please visit www.med.monash.edu.au/.

The **sub-Faculty of Biomedical and Psychological Sciences (FBPS)** is a unique discovery research precinct of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. The Discovery Precinct is a partnership between (i) Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute; (ii) Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute; and (iii) Monash Institute of Cognitive and Clinical Neuroscience. The mission is to carry out world-class discovery research that translates to the clinical and commercial sectors. The FBPS Discovery Precinct is home to two ARC Centres of Excellence, namely, (1) Advanced Molecular Imaging and (2) Integrative Brain Function.

We are committed to an inclusive working environment with a particular focus on gender equity.

Please visit <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/biomed-psych/index.html> for more information on FBPS.

The **School of Biomedical Sciences and Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute** is one of the largest and most dynamic biomedical research and teaching environments in Australia. The School and its cognate Departments of Anatomy and Developmental Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Microbiology, Pharmacology and Physiology comprise over 100 research groups and deliver discipline-focused teaching into our flagship Biomedical Science Degree, the Bachelor of Science Degree, as well as the Medical School and various Health-related Degree Programs. We pride ourselves on an excellent and evolving teaching curriculum and our teaching space is about to be transformed by a new \$80 million dollar biomedical teaching building. Opening in 2019, the new building will provide world-class teaching and learning space for Biomedical Sciences.

All research staff in the School are also a member of the **Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute (BDI)**. The BDI comprises six inter-disciplinary health-focused research Programs, each led by a research leader in the field. The BDI Programs include, Infection and Immunity, Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, Development and Stem Cells, Metabolic Disease and Obesity and Neuroscience. The BDI works closely with clinical and drug development precincts at Monash and has a number of major industry partnerships to facilitate the translation of our research.

The School and BDI comprise over 100 research teams that publish over 700 papers in international journals every year. Annual research income is over \$50 million, the vast majority of which comes from the NHMRC and ARC.

For more information about us and the work we do, please visit: www.monash.edu/discovery-institute and www.med.monash.edu.au/sobs/.

The **Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology** is the largest of the six departments in the School of Biomedical Sciences.

Biochemistry and molecular biology are closely-related disciplines which study the chemical components of living cells, including the genetic material, in order to understand biological processes and how these are altered in disease.

Research and teaching in the department encompasses six broad themes: cell biology, signal transduction, host/pathogen interaction, structural biology, immunology and developmental biology. Our research is highly relevant to major human diseases and pathological processes, including infection, inflammation, diabetes and obesity, developmental and degenerative disorders, cardiovascular disease, and cancer.

The Department has been ranked as the premier Department in its discipline since the inception of ARC benchmarking of Australian Departments in 1998.

For more information about the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, please visit our website: <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/biochem/>.

The Rosenbluh Laboratory, headed by A/Professor Joseph Rosenbluh, which uses state of the art functional genomics approaches aimed at understanding and targeting colon cancer. The laboratory uses a variety of molecular approaches including CRISPR loss of function screens and ORF rescue screens to identify signalling networks required for colon cancer survival and pathogenesis.

To learn more about the Department, please visit www.med.monash.edu.au/biochem.

Position purpose

The Research Assistant will expedite the successful completion of key research projects undertaken in the Rosenbluh Laboratory. Projects in the lab include detailed mechanistic studies of selected candidates and high throughput genetic screens. The incumbent will be responsible for assisting with functional genetic screens, cell culture, and target characterization by standard biochemical and cell biological techniques.

Reporting Line: The position reports to the Associate Professor under routine supervision to general direction

Supervisory responsibilities: Not applicable

Financial delegation and/or budget responsibilities: Not applicable

Key responsibilities

1. Provide support and assist with experiments including preparation, sampling, interpretation, data collection and analysis and preparation of results and reports
2. Assist in the preparation of documentation (e.g. for grant applications, research and conference papers) requiring the conducting of literature reviews and/or analysis of data
3. Maintain laboratory equipment and materials including the disposal of waste and ordering of supplies
4. Provide administrative and financial management support for research projects and programs, including maintaining/using information systems, databases, websites and record keeping systems

5. Keep abreast of developments, activities and protocols in area of expertise through liaison with staff and peers, reading relevant literature and attendance at meetings and seminars
6. Make presentations relating to research progress to the team and other members of the Department as required
7. Comply with University policy, procedure and protocols in relation to the nature of the research being conducted

Key selection criteria

Education/Qualifications

1. The incumbent should possess:
 - An honours degree (preferably first class) in a relevant areas (e.g. Biochemistry, Cell Biology), from a recognised university, with subsequent relevant work experience leading to development of practical expertise in cellular and molecular biology; or
 - An equivalent combination of relevant experience and/or education/training

Knowledge and Skills

2. Demonstrated experience in cellular and molecular biology with a strong work ethic
3. High level of accuracy and attention to detail
4. Demonstrated written and oral communication skills including capacity to communicate with individuals at all levels in the organisation and an ability to effectively analyse information and produce clear, succinct reports and documents
5. Demonstrated high level organisational skills, including the ability to set priorities, manage time, plan work to meet deadlines and work effectively under pressure
6. A high level of computer literacy, including demonstrated experience in learning and adopting new software packages as required

Other job related information

- Travel (e.g. to other campuses of the University) may be required
- Out of hours work (including evenings, weekends and public holidays) may be required

Legal compliance

Ensure you are aware of and adhere to legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including: Equal Employment Opportunity, supporting equity and fairness; Occupational Health and Safety, supporting a safe workplace; Conflict of Interest (including Conflict of Interest in Research); Paid Outside Work; Privacy; Research Conduct; and Staff/Student Relationships.