



RESEARCH FELLOW – BARIATRIC SURGERY REGISTRY

DEPARTMENT/UNIT

Bariatric Surgery Registry / School of Public Health & Preventive Medicine

FACULTY/DIVISION

Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences

CLASSIFICATION

Level B

WORK LOCATION

The Alfred Hospital

ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

Everyone needs a platform to launch a satisfying career. At Monash, we give you the space and support to take your career in all kinds of exciting new directions. You'll have access to quality research, infrastructure and learning facilities, opportunities to collaborate internationally, as well as the grants you'll need to publish your work. We're a university full of energetic and enthusiastic minds, driven to challenge what's expected, expand what we know, and learn from other inspiring, empowering thinkers. Discover more at www.monash.edu.

The **Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences**, is the largest faculty at Monash University, and offers the most comprehensive suite of professional health training in Victoria. We consistently rank in the top 40 universities worldwide for clinical, pre-clinical and health sciences.

We want to improve the human condition. That is our vision - it has no expiration date. Through academic health centres, other translational models and by educating the healthcare workforce of the future, our staff, students and alumni directly improve quality of life.

Setting the global health care agenda, the Faculty aspires to lead in all areas of research activity and influence local, national and international policy to improve health and social outcomes and health inequalities. We've made a major impact in the world of medical research and become globally recognised for our quality education of over 41,000 doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals.

We are ambitious and aim to maintain our position as a leading international medical research university. We're recognised for the breadth and depth of our research, for our commitment to translational research, for the quality and scale of our research capability, and as a thriving biotechnology hub.

To learn more about the faculty, please visit monash.edu/medicine.

Monash **School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine** is a teaching and research unit of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and is centred at the Alfred Hospital Campus. It plays a prominent role in public health medicine and works closely with the major Monash affiliated hospitals, research institutes and public health units within Victoria. It plays a prominent role in public health medicine in Australia and has a strong

record for training individuals with the capacity and skills to assume leadership roles in Australia in this field. We work closely with the major Monash affiliated hospitals, research institutes and public health units within Victoria. Our skills provide a key resource underpinning translational research within our Faculty.

The School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine has the highest expectations of performance of senior staff in areas reflecting:

- Commitment to a team approach
- High levels of motivation and innovation
- A focus on high level performance in teaching
- A commitment to the principles of good research practice
- A commitment to standards and behaviours those are consistent with Monash University values, mission and code of conduct
- Maintenance of detailed knowledge of relevant areas of specialty, and remaining abreast of leading edge developments
- Contribution to the establishment and maintenance of a strong intellectual atmosphere and a positive departmental climate
- Maintenance of effective and regular communication with staff, ensuring that lines of communication upwards, downwards and laterally are facilitated

The Bariatric Surgery Registry (BSR) is an initiative of the Obesity Surgery Society of Australia and New Zealand (OSSANZ – now renamed the Australian and New Zealand Metabolic and Obesity Surgical Society (ANZMOSS)) with the current custodian Monash University. The core purpose of the registry is to document longitudinally the outcomes of Bariatric surgery.

Obesity is one of the most important public health issues facing Australia in the 21st century. It has proved difficult to prevent and according to the latest Australian Health Survey, 28.3% of Australians are now obese, up from 19% in 1995. Lifestyle interventions can be effective in the short term, but are rarely durable in the long term. However, for those with severe obesity (BMI>35kg/m²) there are several Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT) and multiple case series which suggest that Bariatric Surgery provides more predictable and durable weight loss than conservative regimes and is generally very safe. On the basis of these data, bariatric surgery is burgeoning in Australia. There has been a 300% increase in the number of procedures performed over the last 5 years. In 2013 there are expected to be more than 15,000 such procedures performed in Australia at a direct cost of \$200 million. Yet there are no evidence based guidelines directing who should be offered this surgery, nor is there any long-term community data documenting the efficacy and safety of the procedures in Australia.

A pilot Bariatric Surgery Registry (BSR) was established in 2012. Established primarily to measure quality and safety, the registry tracks the performance of hospitals, surgeons and devices. The pilot became a National rollout in mid-2014. There are over 50,000 patients currently on the Registry and much of the methodology, processes and infrastructure of the BSR has been completed.

The ability to track longitudinally all persons undergoing bariatric procedures offers an unprecedented opportunity to:

- Confirm the outcomes from clinical trials on bariatric surgery at a population level
- Measure and improve the quality and safety of bariatric surgery in our community
- Measure health outcomes from bariatric surgery at a population level
- Translate these efficacy and health outcomes into practice guidelines
- Utilise the Registry as a resource for future research projects

The Registry provides confidence to surgeons, funders, hospitals and the wider community that bariatric surgery is safe and is achieving improvement in health outcomes to patients at a population level. It is in line with the recommendations of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (2008) and the Health Technology Review report (review of health technology assessment in Australia, 2009). There have now been two specific federal recommendations for the establishment of a Bariatric surgical registry:

- Georganas senate inquiry into obesity published as “Weighing it up” (released May 2009) recommendation 6)
- Medical Benefits Reviews Task Group, 2011

Financial support for research is drawn from the Federal Government, the ANZMOSS, private companies and charitable organisations primarily in the form of competitive grants and subscriptions.

To learn more about the Faculty, please visit <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/sphpm/depts-centres-units/bariatric/>.

POSITION PURPOSE

A Level B research-only academic is expected to carry out independent and/or team research within the field in which they are appointed and to carry out activities to develop their research expertise relevant to the particular field of research.

The BSR Research Fellow will be responsible for undertaking research projects related to Patient Reported Outcome Measures within the Registry construct. Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) are new outcome measures that the BSR will be introducing to better assess the impact of these procedures on patient's quality of life.

They will be responsible ensuring all research is conducted to the highest ethical standards, at all times complying with Australian Privacy Legislations. Whilst the expectation is that they will drive one of the current projects with in the registry in the first instance, in time it is hoped that the successful applicant will be able to attract research funding for ongoing projects. They will also have a role in provision of reports arising from Registry data.

Reporting Line: The position reports to BSR Programme Manager. They will be expected to work with a high degree of autonomy under broad direction.

Supervisory responsibilities: This position provides no direct supervision but provides indirect supervision of approximately 10 casual staff who enter data and contact patients for follow-up

Financial Delegation: Not applicable

Budgetary Responsibilities: The position tracks the research related expenditure of the Bariatric Surgery Registry against the budget and is responsible for regular reporting to the Director and Programme Manager

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific duties required of a Level B research-only academic may include:

1. To develop the research function of the Registry with an initial focus on PROMs
2. To take primary responsibility for conducting and completing research into the development of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) for use in the BSR either as a member of a team or independently
3. To assist in the role out of PROMs in the Registry once developed
4. To assist the BSR Programme Manager with the preparation of reports to surgeons, governments, hospitals and other vested parties when required
5. Guidance in the research effort of junior members of research-only Academic staff in their research area
6. Contribution to the preparation or, where appropriate, individual preparation of research proposal submissions to external funding bodies
7. Involvement in professional activities including, subject to availability of funds, attendance at conferences and seminars in the field of expertise
8. Administrative functions primarily connected with their area of research

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Education/Qualifications

1. The appointee will have:
 - A doctoral qualification in the relevant discipline area or equivalent qualifications or research experience; and
 - a proven track record in the successful completion of research projects with a public health focus including experience in developing, collecting and analysing Quality of Life or patient outcome measures; and
 - experience in managing and analyzing large datasets

Knowledge and Skills

2. Outstanding research, analytical and consulting skills, including the ability to devise innovative solutions to complex issues
3. Exceptional communication skills – both written and verbal
4. Excellent knowledge of the ethical constructs that govern research and the ability to prepare applications for ethics committees as well as regular reports to these bodies
5. Experience in administering research activities and reporting research outcomes in an academic environment
6. Excellent organisational skills and ability to work independently to prioritise work within agreed timeframes and to required standards
7. Active team player and excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to communicate complex information effectively with individuals at all levels. Experience in and understanding of the healthcare industry and the higher education sector is desirable
8. A high level of computer capability, including demonstrated experience in developing and adopting new software packages as required, capable of updating website and communicating with the public via internet
9. Qualitative research experience

OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

- Travel to other campuses of the University may be required
- There may be a requirement to work additional hours from time to time
- There may be peak periods of work during which taking of leave may be restricted

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.