

Position Description

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Position Number: 00086590
Position Title: Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Date Written: September 2020

Faculty / Division: UNSW Medicine
School / Unit: Women's and Children's Health
Position Level: Level A

ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

UNSW is currently implementing a ten-year strategy to 2025 and our ambition for the next decade is nothing less than to establish UNSW as Australia's global university. We aspire to this in the belief that a great university, which is a global leader in discovery, innovation, impact, education and thought leadership, can make an enormous difference to the lives of people in Australia and around the world.

Following extensive consultation in 2015, we identified three strategic priority areas. Firstly, a drive for academic excellence in research and education. Universities are often classified as 'research intensive' or 'teaching intensive'. UNSW is proud to be an exemplar of both. We are amongst a limited group of universities worldwide capable of delivering research excellence alongside the highest quality education on a large scale. Secondly, a passion for social engagement, which improves lives through advancing equality, diversity, open debate and economic progress. Thirdly, a commitment to achieving global impact through sharing our capability in research and education in the highest quality partnerships with institutions in both developed and emerging societies. We regard the interplay of academic excellence, social engagement and global impact as the hallmarks of a great forward-looking 21st century university.

To achieve this ambition, we are attracting the very best academic and professional staff to play leadership roles in our organisation.

VALUES IN ACTION: OUR UNSW BEHAVIOURS

UNSW recognises the role of employees in driving a high-performance culture. The behavioural expectations for UNSW are below.



Delivers high performance and demonstrates service excellence.



Thinks creatively and develops new ways of working. Initiates and embraces change.



Works effectively within and across teams. Builds relationships with internal and external stakeholders to deliver on outcomes.



Values individual differences and contributions of all people and promotes inclusion.



Treats others with dignity and empathy. Communicates with integrity and openness.

OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT AREA AND POSITION SUMMARY

UNSW Medicine is a national leader in learning, teaching and research, with close affiliations to a number of Australia's finest hospitals, research institutes and health care organisations. With a strong presence at UNSW Kensington campus, the faculty have staff and students in teaching hospitals in Sydney as well as regional and rural areas of NSW including Albury/Wodonga, Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie.

The School of Women's & Children's Health (SWCH) is comprised of the clinical disciplines of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Paediatrics, and the National Perinatal Epidemiology Statistics Unit (NPESU). Clinical academics in the School are located at the Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney Children's Hospital, St George and Bankstown Hospitals, with teaching contributions made in Paediatrics at the Sutherland, Liverpool and Campbelltown Hospitals. The main administrative centre for the School is based at the Royal Hospital for Women and Sydney Children's Hospital (SCH) Randwick.

CoGENES (Collaboration for Genetic Epilepsy and Neurogenetics SCHN) <https://wch.med.unsw.edu.au/genetic-epilepsy-collaboration> is a multidisciplinary clinical research team whose vision is to understand the best ways to diagnosis, provide precision clinical care and support for children with neurogenetic disorders, with a particular focus on severe genetic epilepsies in infancy (SGEI). We are guided by an active consumer reference group and are highly collaborative. Sydney Children's Hospital Network cares for approximately 400 children with SGEI. SGEI are chronic, complex and often life-limiting diseases with profound impacts on families. Due to advances in genomic diagnoses, natural history data and advanced therapeutics there has never been a better time to translate a genetic diagnosis into improved health care for children with SGEI: aka as 'Precision and personalised medicine' (PPM). Our formative research has identified that a major barrier to the implementation of PPM for SGEI is a lack of understandable and accessible information for families and clinicians.

The Postdoctoral Fellow (Genetic Epilepsy) will be responsible for the design and evaluation of an innovative research program encompassing a comprehensive knowledge portal and effective knowledge dissemination to caregivers and clinicians related to PPM for SGEI. The significance of the project lies in its anticipated positive impact on caregivers and clinicians, including improved knowledge, communication and self-efficacy in a landscape of fastmoving genomic testing. Successful completion of the pilot will enable expansion of the model for other neurogenetic disorders and integration into the health care system.

The role of Postdoctoral Research Fellow will report to Lecturer (Clinical Genetics) and has no direct reports.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities for this role include:

- Co-design the innovative research program pilot and its evaluation, in liaison with the study coordinators and stakeholders including the CoGENES consumer reference group, and a steering committee of engaged implementation and behavioural scientists, paediatricians, geneticists, neurologists and government agencies
- Prepare ethics submissions and annual reports, including budgets and consent forms
- Organise meetings associated with the research
- Receive enquiries from parents of children with SGEI regarding PPM, conduct literature reviews, and disseminate information back to families in a variety of ways, including through web resources and a family day
- Coordinate multidisciplinary clinical educational meetings
- Conduct mixed-methods evaluation of the components of the pilot program, including implementation metrics and evaluation of impact on knowledge, communication and self-efficacy
- Create appropriate documentation and organisational systems to maintain accurate data, research protocols and procedures
- Assist in the preparation of manuscripts, abstracts, posters and grant/fellowship applications as appropriate

- Consult with staff on the preparation of grant applications and reports for publication, progress and annual reports for projects and grants and literature searches
- Cooperate with all health and safety policies and procedures of the university and take all reasonable care to ensure that your actions or omissions do not impact on the health and safety of yourself or others
- Other duties as required by Supervisor

SELECTION CRITERIA

- A PhD in psychology, implementation science, biomedical science, nursing, education, genetic counselling or a related field, or an equivalent level of knowledge gained through any other combination of education, training and/or and experience
- Demonstrated ability to contribute to research, including a record of publications
- Demonstrated ability to conduct qualitative and quantitative research
- Knowledge of genetics, epilepsy and/or rare disease is desirable
- Demonstrated experience with research project management is desirable
- Demonstrated research in health services design is desirable
- Demonstrated ability to work independently in a goal-directed manner yet collaboratively with other staff and external providers
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and the ability to liaise effectively with all levels of staff, students, management, collaborators and the general public
- Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training

It is not the intention of the position description to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position but to highlight the most important aspects of the position. The aspects mentioned above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.