

## Position Description

# Senior Research Associate or Post Doctoral Fellow

*Position Number: 00070155*  
*Position Title: Senior Research Associate or  
 Postdoctoral Fellow*  
*Date Written: January 2019*

*Faculty / Division: UNSW Medicine*  
*School / Unit: School of Women's & Children's  
 Health*  
*Position Level: Level B*

### 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). The Behavioural Sciences Unit (BSU) was established in 2001 to conduct research studies that cover all psychosocial, behavioural and nutritional aspects of paediatric cancer. The BSU is based at, and supported by, the Kids Cancer Centre, Sydney Children's Hospital. Our team is multidisciplinary, with representation from psychology, dietetics, paediatric oncology/haematology, social work, nursing, bereavement counselling, behavioural sciences, and exercise physiology.

The Senior Research Associate or Postdoctoral Fellow will be responsible for coordinating the implementation of several research studies which involve psycho-social aspects of children with cancer and their families. The position will involve completing research tasks related to these studies, supervising research assistants and students, overseeing collection, interpretation and preparation of data for manuscript submission and some general office management.

The position will be responsible for a new project working with children, families and healthcare professionals to document and analyse the impacts of precision medicine. Tools will be created to make the process of precision medicine more transparent and accessible. The study will provide critical data for the implementation of precision medicine trials in practice and help ensure a successful translation of current and future precision medicine trials into clinical care internationally, thereby having a direct impact on children's and parents' health and wellbeing.

The role of Senior Research Associate or Postdoctoral Fellow reports to the Head of Behavioural Sciences Unit and may have a number of direct reports including junior research staff, ILP and other students.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities for this role include:

- Implement several research studies involving psycho-social aspects of children with cancer and their families and performing research tasks related to these studies.
- Leadership in the management of allocated research projects, including managing ethics submissions, reporting to funding body, data integrity, analysis (including statistical) and reporting of results.
- Prepare research manuscripts for publication in quality peer reviewed journals.
- Consult with staff on the preparation of grant applications and reports for publication, progress and annual reports for projects and grants and literature searches.
- Supervise staff and students working on each study and ILP supervision/training.
- Conduct face-to-face and telephone interviews with research participants when required.
- Represent the BSU on relevant UNSW and other committees, conferences and patient forums, and actively contribute to the Discipline of Paediatrics.
- Providing external reviews for international journals and reviewing patient education materials on behalf of the BSU.
- Perform other duties as required, relevant to/consistent with the classification.

- Ensure hazards and risks are identified and controlled for tasks, projects and activities that pose a health and safety risk within your area of responsibility.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- A PhD in Psychology or related field
- Demonstrated understanding of research methodology and previous experience coordinating psychological research studies in a health-related field, particularly in the area of psycho-oncology.
- Demonstrated knowledge of evidence-based psychology practice for the range of psychological disorders and problematic issues commonly occurring in children with cancer and their families.
- Qualitative and quantitative data coding/collection and analysis skills
- Demonstrated excellent written and verbal communication skills, with particular emphasis on oral communication with research participants (phone/video/online), with high level academic writing skills
- Proven ability to be both self-directed and work in a multidisciplinary team of oncologists, social workers and psychologists
- Proven IT skills with knowledge and experience using research-related computer programs (such as Endnote, SPSS and NVivo).
- Ability and capacity to implement required UNSW health and safety policies and procedures.

## **PRE-EMPLOYMENT CHECKS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION**

- Verification of qualifications
- Criminal record check
- Working with Children Check

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.