Position Description

Research Associate

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.

Demonstrates Excellence — Delivers high performance and demonstrates service excellence.

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

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

Embraces Diversity — Values individual differences and contributions of all people and promotes inclusion.

Displays Respect — 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 Medical Sciences (SoMS) is the largest School within UNSW Medicine, and one of the largest at UNSW. The School is based largely within the Wallace Wurth (Medicine) Building on the Kensington campus, but also includes the UNSW Lifestyle Clinic on High Street, Randwick.

The Research Associate will work within the Environmental Determinants of Obesity Research Group in SoMS. This research group undertakes various projects aimed at understanding the mechanisms underlying the response to poor diet and the impact of obesity in parents on the next generation. 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 administrative duties.

The Research Associate reports to the head of the Environmental Determinants of Obesity Research Group and has no direct reports.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collect or organise collection of biological samples related to research projects and storage of samples in the laboratory and conduct laboratory-based activities (e.g. handling of biological samples, PCR, ELISA, RNA, DNA extraction, and histological analyses) in addition to behavioural testing and maintenance of the laboratory

- Plan and conduct experiments and take leadership in the management of allocated research projects, including managing data integrity, analysis (including statistics) and reporting of results

- Identify funding opportunities and contribute to the development and preparation of funding proposals

- Develop independent research projects (related to Environmental Determinants of Obesity Research) and seek grant funding by participating in preparation of research grants, including NHMRC

- Conduct data analysis for publications, and oversee data management for key projects

- Assist in the preparation of manuscripts, abstracts, posters and grant/fellowship applications

- Convene and attend meetings associate relating to research projects or work of the Environmental Determinants of Obesity Research Group on relevant UNSW and other committees, conferences and forums

- Liaise with study coordinators, researchers and collaborators of the various projects

- Supervise and train staff and Honours, PhD or ILP students

- Assist in course administration and contribute to teaching tutorials as required

- Perform other duties as requested by your supervisor

- 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 Neuroscience, Physiology, Psychology or related field, and/ or an equivalent level of knowledge gained through any other combination of education, training and/or and experience

- Demonstrated knowledge of and displayed interest in obesity related research, the use of animal models, and histological and molecular biology techniques

- Excellent oral and written communication skills and the ability to liaise effectively with all levels of staff, students, management, collaborators

- Ability to work well independently under minimal supervision, and as part of a multidisciplinary team

- An excellent academic track record with demonstrated and proven experience in the use of statistical packages such as SPSS, Endnote, spreadsheet and database applications in order to perform statistical procedures commonly used in the analysis of data

- Track record in writing scientific manuscripts as well as a proven research and publication record in academic journals in relevant area, including the ability/potential to attract external research funding

- Demonstrated project management experience, including ability to meet project requirements deadlines

- Experience in student and technical staff supervision or teaching

- Strong organisation skills and demonstrated ability to prioritise workload and meet strict deadlines

- 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.