



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Department of Biochemistry and Pharmacology
School of Biomedical Sciences

Research Officer/Senior Research Officer

POSITION NO	0057759
CLASSIFICATION	Research Officer Grade 1, Level A or Research Officer Grade 2, Level B Level of appointment is subject to qualifications and experience.
SALARY	\$77,171 - \$104,717 p.a. (Level A) \$110,236 - \$130,900 p.a. (Level B)
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 17%
WORKING HOURS	Full-time
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed term for 1 year with the possibility of extension
OTHER BENEFITS	https://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/staff-benefits
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers , select the relevant option (‘Current Opportunities’ or ‘Jobs available to current staff’), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	Professor Jose Villadangos Tel +61 3 9035 7684 Email j.villadangos@unimelb.edu.au <i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i>

For information about working for the University of Melbourne, visit our website:
about.unimelb.edu.au/careers

Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Melbourne would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which our campuses are situated, the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples, the Yorta Yorta Nation, the Dja Dja Wurrung people. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet and learn was the place of age-old ceremonies, of celebration, initiation and renewal, and that the local Aboriginal peoples have had and continue to have a unique role in the life of these lands.

Position Summary

We are seeking a highly motivated post-doctoral researcher with aspirations to transition to independent group leader. The applicant will join the laboratory of Prof Jose Villadangos in the Department of Biochemistry and Pharmacology at the Bio21 Institute and develop, under the strategic supervision and mentorship of Prof Villadangos, a well-funded and supported, semi-independent research program on **“A Novel Regulatory Link between Metabolism and Immunity: O-GlcNAc Glycosylation”**. Highly competitive candidates specialised in other areas of research of interest for the Villadangos laboratory at the interface of Immunology/Biochemistry/Cell Biology are also encouraged to apply. Prof. Villadangos has a dual appointment and laboratory space in the Departments of Microbiology and Immunology at the Peter Doherty Institute, and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Bio21 Institute, University of Melbourne. Prof. Villadangos has been awarded a National Health and Medical Research Fund (NHMRC) Investigator Grant (L3) with a generous financial package to support laboratory research for 2023-2027, and receives additional funding from other national and international agencies. The applicant will:

- Have the opportunity to co-supervise PhD, Masters and Honours students
- Receive sufficient financial support for research activities
- Have access to all the resources and facilities of the Doherty and Bio21 institutes
- Seek independent funding with the support and guidance of Prof. Villadangos

The term of the position is for one year, with realistic prospects of **renewal for up to five years** subject to performance. Prof Villadangos will support and mentor the transition of the successful candidate to full independence within the University of Melbourne or a different institution, subject to position availability and competitiveness of the candidate. More information on the research directions of the Villadangos laboratory can be found at:

- <https://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/profile/341645-jose-villadangos>
- <https://www.doherty.edu.au/people/professor-jose-villadangos>
- <http://www.bio21.unimelb.edu.au/villadangos-group>

The position requires a driven and experienced cellular immunologist and/or biochemist/cell biologist with a background in Antigen Presenting Cells, Mechanisms of Antigen Processing and Presentation, T-Cell Biology and/or related areas. While the research in the Villadangos laboratory is centred on basic mechanisms of immunity using mouse models, researchers with interest in human immunology and clinical translation are encouraged to apply.

The applicant should have a PhD in Immunology, Biochemistry, Cell Biology or related disciplines and a strong track record of verifiable contributions to research activities. Previous experience in the research themes of the Villadangos laboratory is essential. Researchers are expected to operate with minimal supervision under the general direction of Prof. Villadangos. The appointee will have the opportunity to contribute to collaborative research projects and the research training of students and junior staff. Significant intellectual input on scientific direction of the research projects of the appointee, and the projects of their supervised students, is essential. Applicants

should have demonstrable experience preparing and publishing manuscripts, presenting at scientific conferences, and applying for research fellowships and grants.

The School of Biomedical Sciences and its Departments foster a [values-based](#) culture of innovation and creativity to enhance the research performance of the University and to achieve excellence in teaching and research outcomes.

We invest in developing the careers and wellbeing of our students and staff and expect all to live by our Faculty Values of:

- Collaboration
- Compassion
- Respect
- Integrity
- Accountability

1. Key Responsibilities

1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

- ▶ Independently plan and carry out experiments focused on completion of research projects
- ▶ Maintain accurate and detailed records of all experiments conducted
- ▶ Develop effective timelines and milestones based on goals of the research programme
- ▶ Be responsible for qualitative and statistical analysis of research data
- ▶ Presenting and communicating experimental plans and their execution effectively
- ▶ Collaboration with team members to further the laboratory's research output
- ▶ Contribute intellectually and work towards building an independent research theme

1.2 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- ▶ Prepare and submit competitive grant applications relating to the research program
- ▶ Compliance with Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities and contribute to preparation of applications and compliance by other lab members
- ▶ Contribute to preparation and compliance with animal and/or human research ethics applications and permits
- ▶ Contribute to general laboratory maintenance operations

1.3 TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ▶ Contribute to teaching, training, scientific mentoring and supervision of students
- ▶ Supervision and training of junior research staff in the appointee's area of expertise

1.4 ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Contribute to the preparation of manuscripts related to the research project of the successful candidate and assist with preparation of other manuscripts from the laboratory
- ▶ Attend and contribute to Laboratory and Departmental meetings
- ▶ Present experimental results at local, national and international forums
- ▶ Attend and actively participate in departmental seminars, meetings and/or committees

1.5 IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, A LEVEL B APPOINTMENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO

- ▶ Provide leadership in the supervision of research graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and/or research assistants.
- ▶ Lead the preparation of manuscripts related to the research project
- ▶ Lead the preparation and submission of fellowships and competitive grant applications
- ▶ Contribute to professional activities at state and national levels (committees, conferences, professional societies, grant review, etc)

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ A PhD in Immunology, Biochemistry, Cell Biology or related disciplines
- ▶ Strong background in Antigen Presenting Cells, Mechanisms of Antigen Processing and Presentation, T-Cell Biology and/or related areas of interest in the Villadangos Laboratory
- ▶ The ability to work with mice according to ethical guidelines
- ▶ Experience with protein chemistry (Interactions, Mass Spectrometry, Post-Translational Modifications, Intracellular Trafficking, etc).
- ▶ Experience with advanced microscopy techniques
- ▶ Experience in flow cytometry
- ▶ Experience in molecular biology techniques: recombinant DNA, transfection, CRISPR/Cas9, etc
- ▶ Excellent ability in analysing data and maintaining accurate research records
- ▶ Strong organisation skills and ability to prioritise tasks to achieve project milestones
- ▶ Verifiable experience using initiative and working with minimal supervision
- ▶ Excellent written and verbal communication skills, demonstrated by presentation of research results at conferences, internal forums and through publication of manuscripts
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work as a member of a research team and interact in a courteous and effective manner with academic, administrative and support staff

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, ESSENTIAL CRITERIA FOR A LEVEL B APPOINTMENT ARE:

- ▶ Demonstrated experience in supervising students or research staff.
- ▶ Strong publication track record relative to career stage.

- ▶ Strong record of presentation at scientific meetings
- ▶ Demonstrated ability in attracting grant or fellowship support.
- ▶ Advanced organisational skills and ability to manage administrative tasks and contribute to effective strategic planning.
- ▶ Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, with demonstrated ability to work collaboratively and collegially with academic and administrative support staff.

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Experience with mouse models of infection and immunity or tumour immunology
- ▶ Experience in bioinformatic analysis and data mining
- ▶ Experience in handling and analysis of human samples and clinical translation

2.3 OTHER JOB RELATED INFORMATION

- ▶ Occasional work out of ordinary hours, travel, etc.

3. *Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion*

The University is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing a workplace free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation. The University makes decisions on employment, promotion, and reward on the basis of merit.

The University is committed to all aspects of equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion in the workplace and to providing all staff, students, contractors, honorary appointees, volunteers and visitors with a safe, respectful and rewarding environment free from all forms of unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation. This commitment is set out in the Advancing Melbourne strategy that addresses diversity and inclusion, equal employment opportunity, discrimination, sexual harassment, bullying and appropriate workplace behaviour. All staff are required to comply with all University policies.

The University values diversity because we recognise that the differences in our people's age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, physical ability and background bring richness to our work environment. Consequently, the People Strategy sets out the strategic aim to drive diversity and inclusion across the University to create an environment where the compounding benefits of a diverse workforce are recognised as vital in our continuous desire to strive for excellence and reach the targets of Advancing Melbourne.

4. *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)*

All staff are required to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other personnel who may be affected by their conduct.

OHS responsibilities applicable to positions are published at:

<https://safety.unimelb.edu.au/people/community/responsibilities-of-personnel>

These include general staff responsibilities and those additional responsibilities that apply for Managers and Supervisors and other Personnel.

5. Other Information

5.1 DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHARMACOLOGY

<https://biomedicalsciences.unimelb.edu.au/departments/department-of-biochemistry-and-pharmacology>

The Department of Biochemistry and Pharmacology has critical mass, interdisciplinary teaching and a remarkable breadth and depth in research expertise that underpin our key themes of molecular understanding of biology and disease, translational research, drug discovery and development.

It is envisaged to consolidate the research activities of the new Department. With respect to teaching, the departments' offerings are complementary, and we are looking forward to developing new courses across our joint areas of expertise.

5.2 SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

<https://biomedicalsciences.unimelb.edu.au/>

As part of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences since 2015, the School comprises three Departments, [Departments of Anatomy and Physiology](#), [Biochemistry and Pharmacology](#), and [Microbiology and Immunology](#). It has 85 research groups across the three departments, awarding-winning teachers and more than 2500 equivalent full-time student enrolments each year.

Our Mission

Create an innovative and inclusive academic environment building on a strong legacy of world-class excellence and lay the foundation for new generations of biomedical researchers to create new knowledge and lead the revolution in biomedicine, and realise their dream of advancing human health locally and globally.

Our Vision

- ▶ Promote collegiality and an inclusive academic environment through the engagement of partners, institutes, hospitals, industries, government and the community at large.
- ▶ Cultivate the highest level of excellence in research and education.
- ▶ Attract and develop a diverse and talented academic workforce.
- ▶ Lead the revolution in biomedicine and translate research outcomes into life transforming healthcare.
- ▶ Strengthen our intellectual and technological environment through interdisciplinary interactions, integration of resources and creative thinking.

- ▶ Seize all opportunities to create the conditions for sustainability.
- ▶ Observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

5.3 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) plays a vital role in the delivery of the University of Melbourne's Strategic Plan 2015-2020: Growing Esteem by providing current and future generations with education and research equal to the best in the world. It is Australia's largest and leading biomedical research faculty. It employs more than 1,700 members of staff, has more than 8,000 students, and total revenue of \$607 million for 2015. Reflecting the complexity of today's global health landscape, the Faculty is made up of six different Schools and four Strategic Research Initiatives, and draws together all areas of human health, ranging from the most basic to the most applied areas of research. The Faculty contributes close to 50 per cent of research conducted at the University.

The Faculty has appointed Australia's first Associate Dean (Indigenous Development) to lead the development and implementation of the Faculty's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which will be aligned with the broader University-wide plan. To enable the Faculty to improve its Indigenous expertise knowledge base, the Faculty's RAP will address Indigenous employment, Indigenous student recruitment and retention, Indigenous cultural recognition and building partnerships with the Indigenous community as key areas of development.

5.4 THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of excellence in teaching and research. The main campus in Parkville is recognised as the hub of Australia's premier knowledge precinct comprising eight hospitals, many leading research institutes and a wide-range of knowledge-based industries. With outstanding performance in international rankings, the University is at the forefront of higher education in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

The University employs people of outstanding calibre and offers a unique environment where staff are valued and rewarded.

Further information about working at The University of Melbourne is available at <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers>

5.5 ADVANCING MELBOURNE

The University's strategic direction is grounded in its purpose. While its expression may change, our purpose is enduring: to benefit society through the transformative impact of education and research. Together, the vision and purpose inform the focus and scale of our aspirations for the coming decade.

Advancing Melbourne reflects the University's commitment to its people, its place, and its partners. Our aspiration for 2030 is to be known as a world-leading and globally connected Australian university, with our students at the heart of everything we do.

- ▶ We will offer students a distinctive and outstanding education and experience, preparing them for success as leaders, change agents and global citizens.

- ▶ We will be recognised locally and globally for our leadership on matters of national and global importance, through outstanding research and scholarship and a commitment to collaboration.
- ▶ We will be empowered by our sense of place and connections with communities. We will take opportunities to advance both the University and the City of Melbourne in close collaboration and synergy.
- ▶ We will deliver this through building a brilliant, diverse and vibrant University community, with strong connections to those we serve.

The means for achieving these goals include the development of the University of Melbourne's academic and professional staff and the capabilities needed to support a modern, world-class university. Those means require a commitment to ongoing financial sustainability and an ambitious infrastructure program which will reshape the campus and our contribution to the communities we engage with. This strategy, and the priorities proposed, is centred around five intersecting themes; place, community, education, discovery and global.

5.6 GOVERNANCE

The Vice Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University and responsible to Council for the good management of the University.

Comprehensive information about the University of Melbourne and its governance structure is available at <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/governance>