



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Research Officer

POSITION NO	0054461
CLASSIFICATION	Research Officer Grade 1, Level A or Research Fellow Grade 2, Level B Level of appointment is subject to qualifications and experience.
SALARY	\$75,289 - \$102,163 p.a. (Level A) \$107,547 - \$127,707 p.a. (Level B)
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 17%
WORKING HOURS	Full time (1.0 FTE)
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed term position for 1 year Fixed term contract type: Externally funded
OTHER BENEFITS	http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers/working/benefits
HOW TO APPLY	Online applications are preferred. Go to http://about.unimelb.edu.au/careers , under 'Job Search and Job Alerts', select the relevant option ('Current Staff' or 'Prospective Staff'), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	A/Prof Sophie Valkenburg Email sophie.v@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

Position Summary

We are seeking a highly motivated Research Officer to join the research program of A/Prof Sophie Valkenburg within the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Peter Doherty Institute. The Valkenburg Lab aims to understand broadly reactive immunity from infection and vaccination against influenza and SARS-CoV-2 viruses through randomised control trials, observational studies and next generation vaccines in animal models.

(Current lab profile: http://www.hkupasteur.hku.hk/index.php/research/sophie_valkenburg_lab).

The research program aims to improve understanding of T cell biology from vaccination and infectious diseases models and conditions, including influenza and COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2). The laboratory employs both human and mouse techniques, antibody quality and T cell function. The incumbent will conduct independent and collaborative research and develop a strong publication record, including primary papers in leading specialist journals. They will be responsible for initiating new areas of investigation and developing an independent program of research whilst establishing the core research program at the newly relocated Valkenburg laboratory.

We 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 our leaders to live our values of:

- Collaboration and teamwork
- Compassion
- Respect
- Integrity
- Accountability

1. Key Responsibilities

1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

- ▶ Participate in research independently and as a member of a research team
- ▶ The production of conference and seminar papers and publications
- ▶ Active participation in the communication and dissemination of research
- ▶ Effective supervision of research support staff
- ▶ Supervision or co-supervision of major honours or postgraduate research projects within related research area
- ▶ Publications arising from scholarship and research, such as publication of books and articles in peer reviewed journals
- ▶ Contribute to identification of sources of funding to support individual or collaborative projects, relating to teaching and research practice in the discipline
- ▶ Occasional contributions to teaching within the staff member's area of expertise

1.2 TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ▶ Contribute to teaching, training, scientific mentoring and supervision of students and new laboratory staff as required
- ▶ Supervise junior research staff in the appointee's area of expertise

1.3 ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Contribute to the preparation of reports, manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- ▶ Present experimental results at local, national and international conferences when opportunities arise
- ▶ Attend and actively participate in departmental seminars, meetings and/or committees
- ▶ Attend and contribute actively to laboratory meetings

1.4 SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Contribute to the preparation and submission of competitive grant applications relating to the appointee's research program as required
- ▶ Assist with administrative duties such as submission of animal ethics and OGTR approvals and with general laboratory duties
- ▶ Undertake other duties as requested by the supervisor and the Head of the Department
- ▶ Undertake Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in Section 4 and take responsibility for routine reviews of laboratory practices.

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ A PhD or working towards completion in immunology and/or virology
- ▶ Substantial experience in working with clinical patient specimens, innate and adaptive immune assay, at both cellular and molecular levels.
- ▶ Sound knowledge of immunology and virology
- ▶ Experience in flow cytometry and tissue culture
- ▶ Demonstrated track record in independent and team-based research in immunology.
- ▶ Experienced presenting research findings at conferences or other forums
- ▶ Demonstrated excellent verbal and written communication skills, for effective research collaboration and engagement
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to expertly apply research methodologies and quantitative/qualitative data analysis
- ▶ Demonstrated experience in using initiative, working with minimal supervision and ability to prioritise tasks to achieve project objectives within timelines
- ▶ Strong organisational skills and initiative in problem solving
- ▶ Sound knowledge of biosafety issues in handling infectious agents
- ▶ Ability to adhere to the principles of good laboratory practice

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Experience in handling laboratory mice
- ▶ Experience in basic flow cytometry
- ▶ Experience in PBMC isolation and blood processing
- ▶ Experience with molecular biology techniques such as RNA extractions and qPCR
- ▶ Experience with cell culture techniques such as maintenance of cell lines
- ▶ Experience with mouse infection models
- ▶ Experience with serological assays (ELISA, neutralisation)
- ▶ Experience with virus culture (biosafety level 2)
- ▶ Experience with protein production
- ▶ Experience with data analysis
- ▶ Ability to establish and troubleshoot new experimental techniques

2.3 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ N/A

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 University's People Strategy 2015-2020 and policies that address 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 strive to service for excellence and reach the targets of Growing Esteem.

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:

<http://safety.unimelb.edu.au/topics/responsibilities/>

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 MICROBIOLOGY & IMMUNOLOGY

The Department of Microbiology & Immunology is one of the departments within the School of Biomedical Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. Further information is available at <http://www.microbiol.unimelb.edu.au/> and <http://bsac.unimelb.edu.au/>.

5.2 THE PETER DOHERTY INSTITUTE FOR INFECTION AND IMMUNITY

The Doherty Institute is a world-class institute combining research in infectious disease and immunity with teaching excellence, reference laboratory diagnostic services, epidemiology and clinical services. It is a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Health.

A new, purpose-built building for the Doherty Institute was completed in early 2014. The members of the Doherty include the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory of the University of Melbourne, the Victorian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance System, The Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, The Victorian Infectious Diseases Service, and The World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza.

Further information about the Doherty Institute is available at:
<http://www.doherty.unimelb.edu.au>

5.3 SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

www.biomedicalsciences.unimelb.edu.au

The School of Biomedical Sciences is one of the most prominent and diverse Schools in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences and is comprised of three Departments - Anatomy and Physiology, Biochemistry and Pharmacology, and Microbiology and Immunology.

The School is situated on the University's Parkville Campus and is part of the largest biomedical precinct in the southern hemisphere, providing access to world class research facilities for staff and students.

The School fosters a values-based culture of innovation and creativity to achieve research and teaching excellence.

5.4 FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES

www.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health Sciences has an enviable research record and is the University of Melbourne's largest faculty in terms of management of financial

resources, employment of academic and professional staff, teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate (including research higher degree) students and the conduct of basic and applied research. The Faculty's annual revenue is \$628m with approximately 55% of this income related to research activities.

The Faculty has a student teaching load in excess of 8,500 equivalent full-time students including more than 1,300 research higher degree students. The Faculty has approximately 2,195 staff comprising 642 professional staff and 1,553 research and teaching staff.

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.

5.5 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>.

5.6 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.

5.7 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 <http://www.unimelb.edu.au/governance>