



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE



Appointment of

# Professor and Head of the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics

Melbourne School of Population and Global Health  
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Photographer Phoebe Powell's 'Thank you' photo essay commissioned by the Metro Tunnel Creative Program. Photograph by Phoebe Powell.



# Position Summary and Selection Criteria

<b>Classification</b>	Professor Level E
<b>Salary</b>	An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated
<b>Superannuation</b>	17%
<b>Working hours</b>	Full time 1.0 FTE
<b>Basis of Employment</b>	Fixed Term for 5 Years The appointee will retain an underlying continuing position as a level E in the faculty

## Position Summary

The Professor and Head of the **Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics** (CEB) will provide academic leadership in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) for a globally leading team of researchers and educators in the field of public health.

We are seeking to appoint an experienced academic with an outstanding research track record to enable the strategic vision and direction for the Centre, ensuring that it remains at the forefront of Epidemiology and Biostatistics research and teaching in Australia. The successful candidate will foster a culture of excellence, collaboration, and innovation across the Centre's 13 specialised units.

You will have demonstrated excellence in Epidemiology and Biostatistics in areas that expand on and are complementary to existing strengths at CEB and the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health (MSPGH). The successful candidate will be expected to drive innovative research, individually and jointly with colleagues, supervise research staff and doctoral students, contribute to leadership of teaching programmes, and be active in seeking funding from a range of sources.

As a member of the senior leadership team for the MSPGH you will help set the direction for Australia's #1 School of Public Health.

## 1. Key Responsibilities

### 1.1 LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

- To provide overall leadership of all aspects of the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics and strategic oversight for the development, teaching and application of modern epidemiological and biostatistical methods at MSPGH
- Provide oversight of the Centre's priorities and programs in all areas, involving teaching, research, advocacy, and outreach.

- Be accountable for the organisational structure, staffing and management processes of the Centre, in collaboration with the Centre Manager, including administration and finances.
- Lead the development of local, national and international partnerships to advance the goals of the MSPGH and CEB.
- Participate in relevant committees of the MSPGH (including the School Executive Committee), the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, and Health Science (MDHS) and the University of Melbourne (including Academic Board).
- All professors of the University are members of the Academic Board of the University.

Occupational Health and Safety and Environmental Health and Safety responsibilities as detailed at [safety.unimelb.edu.au/people/community/responsibilities-of-personnel](https://safety.unimelb.edu.au/people/community/responsibilities-of-personnel)

### 1.2 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING - ADVANCEMENT OF THE DISCIPLINE

- Lead an outstanding research program producing novel, high-quality research that contributes substantively to knowledge with impact on practice and policy.
- Obtain/maintain research funding from a variety of sources, including from mainstream research funding bodies (HERDC category 1 such as NHMRC, MRFF and ARC) and government, community and industry sources, and philanthropy (HERDC categories 2–4)
- Play a leading role in mentoring and supporting the development of research skills and careers of early and mid-career research staff.
- Develop strong research collaborations within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, the MSPGH, and the University of Melbourne, as well as other appropriate affiliated hospitals, research institutes and partner organisations.
- Recruit, supervise and assist with supervision of postgraduate research students
- Maintain and expand national and international research collaborations.

### 1.3 TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Oversee and contribute to the development and delivery of a postgraduate subject/subjects related to Epidemiology and Biostatistics within MSPGH's degree programs, undergraduate programs in Biomedical Science, and the MD degree.
- Contribute to a leadership team that develops high quality teaching practices across the Centres teaching portfolio.
- Contribute to the delivery of non-degree short courses in Epidemiology and/or Biostatistics.

## 1.4 KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

- Contribute to driving new engagement initiatives or leading existing initiatives by presenting research to the public to elevate public awareness of educational and scientific developments, promoting critical enquiry and public debate.
- Seek membership of senior advisory groups to government and/or leadership of learned societies to influence and drive the agenda for public health.
- Champion innovation at the Centre, School and Faculty, promoting alternative paths to research impact.

## 2. Selection Criteria

- A doctoral qualification or other relevant higher degree
- Evidence of national or international standing in the field of Epidemiology or Biostatistics with a track record of fostering collaboration and innovation
- Demonstrated academic leadership in fostering the academic activity of others and making a significant contribution to the advancement of the discipline. A strong track record of mentorship.
- Experience in securing and managing research funding from national and international sources. A successful record of leading large national/international research teams.
- A globally relevant record of research publication
- High level interpersonal and communication skills with a demonstrated ability to build and maintain successful research teams and research partnerships and collaborations.
- Established capability to work collaboratively to develop and maintain relationships with key stakeholders (internal and external)
- An ethical leader who values diversity and works effectively with individual differences.







Anurika DeSilva (centre) with Linear and Logistic Regression students

## Our Centre

### Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics

[mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-epidemiology-and-biostatistics](https://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-epidemiology-and-biostatistics)

Established in 2001 as a founding Centre of the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne, the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics is at the forefront of a preventative health revolution. Big data, changing infectious diseases patterns, and multi-disciplinary collaborations are transforming the ways public health disciplines are researched and taught. Our Centre aims to be a leader in this evolving environment with the overarching goal to provide epidemiological and biostatistical leadership in teaching and research for the prediction, early detection, prevention, reduction of disease burden, and improvement of health.

Epidemiology and biostatistics provide solutions to global public health challenges that demand multi-disciplinary responses. Our Centre's approach to research, teaching, and research training reflects this reality. We combine deep expertise with a broad range and reach – through our units, and our active links to other renowned institutions. This ensures our researchers and graduates are ready to contribute to preventing and alleviating the world's common, debilitating, and burdensome health issues.

### Teaching

The Centre delivers an extensive and highly regarded teaching program providing opportunities for the next generation of public health leaders to specialise in Epidemiology and Biostatistics through the flagship Master of Public Health degree and specialist programs including the Master of Science - Epidemiology and the Master of Biostatistics (taught in collaboration with the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia), along with a suite of diploma, certificate and undergraduate subject offerings.

### Research

The Centre's extensive and impactful research addresses a range of important health questions. Combining the best of established approaches and the latest advances, the Centre is developing new statistical methods, study designs, and computing techniques to meet the challenges of increasingly large and complex data. Research expertise extends to non-traditional skills sets in disciplines such as molecular biology and mathematical and computational sciences. A commitment to ensuring research is applied in cost-effective programs is demonstrated through investment in implementation research in areas such as primary care, web-based technology and health economics.



## Resources and Collaborations

Much of the Centre's research draws on a wealth of resources within the Centre – the most valuable being our people. The Centre currently comprises 98 continuing and fixed term staff, including 75 academic and 23 professional roles, along with 41 research higher degree students. 64% of Centre staff are female.

Our extensive informational resources include our studies and data registries: the Australian Twin Registry; the international Colon and Breast Cancer Family Registries, and the Tasmanian Asthma Study.. We collaborate with major medical research institutions within the Parkville precinct and throughout the world. Our annual research income exceeds \$16 million.

## Recognition

Australia's NMHRC has awarded our researchers Centres of Research Excellence: for biostatistics, breast cancer screening, colorectal cancer and respiratory disease, and biostatistics. Internationally, the United States' National Institutes of Health co-fund the major cancer research programs that we host. National and state health departments seek our input in developing policy to ensure optimal disease control and national health security.

## Centre structure

Our Centre's specialised units address the most important diseases affecting Australians and other people worldwide:

- Allergy and Lung Health
- Biostatistics
- Breast Cancer
- Causal Inference in Epidemiology
- Colorectal Cancer
- High Dimensional Analytics
- Indigenous Health & Epidemiology
- Infectious Disease Dynamics
- Neuroepidemiology
- Population Interventions
- Sexual Health
- Teaching and Learning
- Twins Research Australia





# Our School



Professor Nancy Baxter

## The Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

The Head of the Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics will both contribute to and draw from the existing research strengths at the University of Melbourne, particularly in the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health (MSPGH).

The MSPGH currently has considerable expertise in clinical epidemiology, health economics, evaluation and implementation science, biostatistics and health informatics. The School is committed to increasing capacity in translational research and, in partnership with the Melbourne Medical School, runs the 'Methods and implementation Support for Clinical and Health Research Hub' as a resource for researchers both within and outside the Faculty with capability in Biostatistics and Clinical Epidemiology, Health Economics, Health Informatics (REDCap), Clinical Trials and Co-Design and Implementation Effectiveness. The role will also sit within and interact with both School and the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Science in the Centre for Cancer Research.

The Melbourne School of Population Health was established in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences in 2001. It became the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health in 2013. Over 400 academic and professional staff work in the School and through its partner agencies. The School's total budget is in excess of \$95 million. There are approximately 120 higher degree research students (predominantly PhD).

The School aims to strengthen the understanding, capacity and services of society to meet population health needs and to improve the quality and equity of health care. It employs a population health framework that incorporates public health and preventative medicine, health promotion, clinical medicine and allied healthcare disciplines and an equity and evidence-based approach to health care and health policy. Its research programs aim to elucidate the genetic, environmental, social and economic determinants of health, and to focus on the evaluation of the health systems, programs and services that seek to prevent disease and injury and to promote health. The School provides research and professional development opportunities for medical undergraduates, postgraduates in a wide range of disciplines, clinicians in all sectors of the health care industry, scientists, professionals and leaders in population health.

Further information about the School is available at:  
**[mspgh.unimelb.edu.au](http://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au)**

# Our Faculty

The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS) is Australia's pre-eminent medical, health sciences and biomedical faculty and is recognised for its research, teaching, training and policy leadership across all of these fields.

The Faculty employs more than 2500 members of staff, attracts more than 8300 students each year and comprises six schools; 37 departments, centres and institutes; and 160 courses. It contributes almost 50 per cent of all research conducted across the University.

Led by Professor Jane Gunn, the Faculty is Australia's overall leader in clinical, pre-clinical and health sciences and is ranked 11th globally in 2021 by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. In 2021 the Academic Ranking of World Universities ranks the University of Melbourne as first in Australia in clinical medicine (14th internationally), public health (16th internationally), human biological sciences, and medical technology. The University educates more health professionals, graduates, research and higher-degree students and attracts more national competitive funding than any other Australian university.

Consistent with the introduction of the Melbourne Model, the Faculty offers a suite of professional entry masters-level graduate programs, including the Doctor of Medicine (MD), the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS), and the Doctor of Physiotherapy (DPT). There are also a number of other successful graduate level programs such as the Master of Public Health, Master of Primary Health Care, Master of Social Work, Master of Clinical Audiology, Master of Speech Pathology, Master of Clinical Optometry, and many more in nursing, social work, health sciences and psychology.



Co-authorship with more than 140 countries in the last five years. Top five countries are United States, England, Canada, Germany and the Netherlands.



Annual research income of more than AUD\$385 million in 2020: 50% of the University of Melbourne's total.



More than 6000 peer-reviewed publications every year: >40% of publications include an international co-author.



Approximately 2300 graduate research students conduct research supervised by over 1500 staff and honoraries across the Faculty's six schools and in affiliated health services and research institutes.



University departments are embedded in a range of health services including the Austin Hospital, Northern Hospital, Royal Melbourne Hospital, St Vincent's Hospital, The Royal Women's Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital, Western Hospital, Mercy Hospital and rural partners such as Goulburn Valley Health.



The Faculty employs over 2200 academic staff and more than 800 professional staff. A large portion of our workforce is located in hospital-based departments. The Faculty also has over 4000 honorary staff including hospital-based staff and those from partner institutions.







These programs which are unparalleled in the Australian higher education system provide new approaches to educating health care professionals and are specifically designed to better align student attributes to the sector's needs.

Please see [study.unimelb.edu.au](http://study.unimelb.edu.au) for further information.

The Faculty has strong collaborative links within the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct, as well as with many leading national and global research institutes, clinical centres and health-related industries. These collaborations provide students, researchers, educators and clinical academics with excellent resources and infrastructure. They have led to significant medical breakthroughs and fostered new world-class facilities such as the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Melbourne Brain Centre, Doherty Institute, Bio21 Institute and Royal Children's Hospital campus.

### **Melbourne Biomedical Precinct**

The Faculty is a key collaborator within the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct – a leading global research and teaching hub and one of the top five biomedical precincts in the world. Precinct partners share an impressive history of ground-breaking medical discoveries and developments, as well as a future-focused outlook on innovative and transformative health care.

Key precinct partners include WEHI, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Florey Institute for Neuroscience and Mental Health, Centre for Eye Research Australia and Bionics Institute. The 25 precinct partners, located within easy reach of each other, are engaged in breakthrough research, education and the delivery of clinical care and health services. This dense concentration of hospitals, research institutes and academic campuses provides the opportunity, which is unparalleled in Australia, for talented individuals from a range of disciplines to engage in world-class collaborations.

For more information about the Biomedical Precinct please visit [www.melbournebiomed.com](http://www.melbournebiomed.com)

### **Melbourne Academic Centre for Health (MACH)**

MACH is a joint venture between 19 full partners, including 10 Victorian healthcare providers, 8 independent medical research institutes and the University of Melbourne, with La Trobe University as an affiliate member. Across this partnership, which has nearly 40,000 staff, around \$7 billion is invested each year in health care, research and education. The MACH partnership brings together health services and health scientists committed to translation of interdisciplinary research that will benefit patients and strengthen the economy. MACH addresses current health challenges by delivering precision care tailored to the needs of patients, developing world-leading research into tomorrow's healthcare and nurturing future leaders of innovative care.

For more faculty information, please visit our website at [mdhs.unimelb.edu.au](http://mdhs.unimelb.edu.au)



# Our Values



Caring for people is at the heart of what we do. Our Faculty values guide our ways of working and we are committed to a diverse and inclusive culture that enables our staff and students to reach their full potential. This includes our commitment to progressing gender equity which is aligned with the University's Athena SWAN Bronze Award from SAGE (Science in Australian Gender Equity), and championing the Pride in Action Network, the University's inaugural LGBTQIA+ ally network.

We work to improve the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve. We invest in developing the careers and wellbeing of our students and staff, fostering a culture that supports us all to do our best work. We are guided by our values in our pursuit of excellence.

## Respect

- We respect the diversity of histories, lived experiences and futures of our students, staff and communities we serve
- We see diversity, inclusion and personal growth as a strength
- We create a safe place to work that fosters belonging and aspiration

## Accountability

- We are accountable for our actions, outcomes and conduct
- Our processes are efficient and transparent
- We hold ourselves accountable to those we serve
- We uphold our sense of place and our responsibility for the environment

## Compassion

- We provide an environment that is caring and upholds the health and wellbeing of our students and staff
- We have the courage to act on our convictions
- We communicate and clarify our expectations of each other

## Collaboration & Teamwork

- We collaborate with each other and our partners to lead the advancement of health and wellbeing
- We connect locally and globally to advance and enrich the communities we serve
- We share our knowledge and expertise to achieve our goals
- We drive innovation and are open to new perspectives, ideas and ways of working

## Integrity

- We apply the highest standards of ethics and quality in all that we do
- Honesty and trust underpin our relationships
- We believe in freedom of intellectual enquiry and the value of diverse cultural knowledges
- We are humble learners and proud leaders

Artist statement: This artwork depicts the united values MDHS are guided by. The shields are a representation of how we are protected by these values but also loyal to them. Surrounding the shields are the communities that are connected to MDHS, such as the Hospitals and research centers. The line work pattern in the shields represent how each value is linked as each one doesn't work without the other – Kat Clarke

Wurundjeri translation – Auntie Gail Smith,  
Wurundjeri Elder from Wurundjeri Council



## Our Culture

Our Faculty is ranked among the top in the world for its impact, innovation, education, prosperity and growth. We equally recognise and celebrate our rich diversity across our staff and student populations. The University is recognized as an employer of choice for women and is one of 40 organisations to participate in the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) pilot program of the Athena SWAN in Australia. We were also recently awarded a bronze award on the Australian Workplace Equity Index (AWEI) with significant contributions to achieve this coming from our Pride in Action networks initiatives.

We offer the opportunity to be part of a growing list of networks and initiatives across the Faculty such as [the Supporting Women in MDHS \(SWiM\) program](#), [including mentoring](#), [Women Clinicians in Academic Leadership](#), [Pride in Action network](#), Indigenous Development network, Early Career Researcher network, Professional Leaders network and our Faculty Administration network.

We are creating new traditions and continually expanding our offer to our people to ensure we provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for you to thrive and exceed your own expectations. As a member of our University community, you will have access to:

- Increased [flexible work](#) possibilities including flexible hours and work from home options
- Paid parental leave and retention benefits
- Salary packaging of childcare

- Subsidised onsite sporting facilities
- A tailored transition plan to take on this new role
- Professional development opportunities including a University wide Academic Women in Leadership program
- Relocation support (where applicable)
- Strategic grants for outstanding Women
- Our campuses with 11 libraries, 12 museums and galleries and 37 cultural collections

We are integrating our values and behaviours into the way we work with a strong focus on leadership accountability. Our people's safety and wellbeing are a top priority. We want you to feel safe in talking about mental health and trust that bullying, harassment, sexual misconduct and discrimination will not be tolerated.

Performance relative to opportunity is another important component of promoting an inclusive environment. This is also reflected in our recently announced momentum fellowships that are designed to support researchers who have managed extraordinary personal circumstances including disability.

Benefits can also be tailored to best suit your needs and circumstances. Speak with us about how we can support you to become a valued member of our dynamic world-class organisation.





# Our Strategic Plan

## Advancing Melbourne 2020 – 2030

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.

More information about Advancing Melbourne can be found at [about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/advancing-melbourne](https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/advancing-melbourne).

## Advancing Health 2020 - 2030

Advancing Health sets out a unifying vision for the Faculty to meet the challenges of a changing world, and continue to make an impact on the health and wellbeing of our communities. It's been designed to support the university-wide Advancing Melbourne 2020 - 2030 strategy at a Faculty level.

Read more at <https://mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/advancing-health-2030>





# Our city

## Geography

Melbourne is the capital city of Victoria - and is the second largest city in Australia with a population of more than 5 million people and a metropolitan area of 9990.5 km<sup>2</sup>. The Economist Intelligence Unit has rated Melbourne one of the world's most liveable cities for six consecutive years, based on its education, entertainment, health care, research and development, tourism and sport.

The City of Melbourne municipality, in which the University's main Parkville campus is based, covers 37.7 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population of more than 143 000 people. It includes the city centre and a number of attractive inner suburbs with thriving communities and businesses.

The City of Melbourne is home to residents from 180 countries who speak more than 233 languages and dialects and follow 116 religious faiths. The Wurundjeri, Boonwurrung, Taungurong, Dja Dja Wurrung and the Wathaurung people of the Kulin Nation are the Traditional Owners of the land now known by its European name of Melbourne.

The City of Melbourne is recognised as Australia's cultural capital with a number of world-class galleries and museums, internationally renowned food and wine regions, and an impressive year-round calendar of events catering for all tastes.

## Parkville Campus

The Parkville campus provides easy access to cafes, shops and services; libraries with extensive collections; as well as cultural and sporting facilities. Nearby Lygon Street is home to a huge variety of cafes and shops while the northern end of the University is adjacent to the popular Princes Park, hosting a range of outdoor activities.

Parkville is recognised as the hub of Australia's premier knowledge precinct, comprising eight hospitals as well as numerous leading research institutes and knowledge-based industries. Although a sizeable portion of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences is located in Parkville, the Faculty also has academic departments co-located at a range of health services throughout the Melbourne metropolitan area and rural and regional Victoria. These include St Vincent's Hospital, The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, Austin Hospital, Western Health, Northern Health as well as the Department of Rural Health based at Shepparton in the Goulburn Valley with health services affiliations to almost 40 smaller towns in rural Victoria.





## Need further information?

General information about the University of Melbourne is available at [www.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.unimelb.edu.au)

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**About the University of Melbourne**  
[about.unimelb.edu.au](http://about.unimelb.edu.au)

**Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences**  
[mdhs.unimelb.edu.au](http://mdhs.unimelb.edu.au)

**Melbourne School of Population and Global Health**  
[mspgh.unimelb.edu.au](http://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au)

For queries, please email  
[snr-talentacq@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:snr-talentacq@unimelb.edu.au)

Please do not send your application to this email address.

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