



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Department of Infectious Diseases
Melbourne Medical School
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Research Fellow – HIV Immunology

POSITION NO	0058446
CLASSIFICATION	Level A or Level B, commensurate with experience.
SALARY	Level A \$97,558 - \$104,717 p.a. (pro rata for part-time) Level B \$110,236 - \$130,900 p.a. (pro rata for part-time)
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 17%
WORKING HOURS	Full time
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed Term position for 3 years
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	Judy Chang Email judy.chang@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 acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

The University also acknowledges and is grateful to the Traditional Owners, Elders and Knowledge Holders of all Indigenous nations and clans who have been instrumental in our reconciliation journey.

We recognise the unique place held by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original owners and custodians of the lands and waterways across the Australian continent, with histories of continuous connection dating back more than 60,000 years. We also acknowledge their enduring cultural practices of caring for Country.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future, and acknowledge the importance of Indigenous knowledge in the Academy. As a community of researchers, teachers, professional staff and students we are privileged to work and learn every day with Indigenous colleagues and partners.

Position Summary

The Department of Infectious Diseases based at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (the Doherty Institute) is seeking to appoint a Research Fellow in HIV immunology to conduct laboratory research under the supervision of Professor Sharon Lewin. The appointee will be a member of a team focused on immune clearance of the HIV reservoir with the overall goal of finding a cure for HIV. The appointee will have experience in T-cell immunology and will be responsible for all assays required to assess the HIV-specific immune response as part of a clinical trial of anti-PD1 in people with HIV on antiretroviral therapy. In addition, the appointee will pursue the experimental development of novel immune checkpoint blockers and other immunomodulators as a strategy to enhance anti-HIV immunity and control. The appointee will be part of a large and dynamic laboratory focusing on all aspects of HIV cure, including both virology and immunology as well as early phase clinical trials. The position is funded through a grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Medical Research Future Fund and the Melbourne HIV Cure Consortium.

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

- ▶ Conduct experiments to assess the frequency and function of HIV-specific T-cells using a range of assays such as intracellular cytokine staining, tetramer sorting, co-culture and killing assays
- ▶ High level of experience in handling blood and tissue in a sterile environment
- ▶ High level of experience in multi-parameter flow cytometry
- ▶ Independently plan and carry out experiments focused on completion of research project aims to meet agreed timelines and milestones
- ▶ Build an independent research project and apply for grant funding for that project
- ▶ Collaborate with other researchers in carrying out experiments in order to work as a team and further the Department's research output, including supervision of PhD and Honours students
- ▶ Prepare manuscripts in a timely manner for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- ▶ Techniques will include but are not limited to: molecular biology, cell culture, flow cytometry, virus isolation, virus infection, quantitative PCR based assays, microscopy, RNAseq
- ▶ Ability to perform experimental techniques accurately and reproducibly, and demonstrate strong organisational skills and initiative in problem solving
- ▶ Maintain accurate and detailed records of all experiments conducted according to the laboratory guidelines and use of Lab Archives
- ▶ Be responsible for qualitative and statistical analysis of research data
- ▶ Perform other duties as requested by the appointee's immediate supervisors consistent with responsibilities of a junior post-doc.
- ▶ Sound knowledge of biosafety issues in handling infectious agents and adhere to principles of good laboratory practices

1.2 SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Present experimental results at local, national and international conferences when opportunities arise
- ▶ Maintain outstanding relationships with internal and external collaborators including prompt response to any project related correspondence
- ▶ Effective contribution to the quality and impact of research teams, projects and publications
- ▶ Attend and actively participate in departmental and institute seminars, meetings and/or committees
- ▶ Attend and provide regular updates at team/lab meetings and other relevant meetings with collaborators.
- ▶ Assist general laboratory duties including maintenance of the laboratory and equipment and ordering of supplies.
- ▶ Effective training of research support staff where required
- ▶ Participation in relevant community and professional activities within the Department of Infectious Diseases, the Doherty Institute and the University of Melbourne
- ▶ Effective demonstration and promotion of University values including diversity and inclusion and high standards of ethics and integrity

- ▶ Adherence to Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 4.
- ▶ Undertake other duties as requested by the supervisor

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ A PhD in immunology or related field.
- ▶ Sound knowledge of concepts of viral immunology and T-cell biology. Specific experience in HIV is not required.
- ▶ Proficiency in multi-parameter flow cytometry, cell sorting, co-culture and killing assays.
- ▶ Strong evidence of emerging academic standing through research contributions, and possessing the ability and desire to build an academic career trajectory as demonstrated by prior awards, scholarships and/or involvement in research activities
- ▶ Experience in culture, and isolation of immune cell subsets from blood and tissue including demonstrated ability to work with human specimens including buffy coat preparation and sterile culture of patient cells and tissue.
- ▶ Demonstrated experience designing and performing experiments effectively and achieving project objectives within timelines
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work with limited supervision in a self-directed manner and as a member of a research team, and to interact in a courteous and effective manner with academic, administrative and support staff
- ▶ Excellent written and verbal communication skills, demonstrated by presentation of research results at conferences, internal forums and through manuscript submissions
- ▶ Sound knowledge of biosafety issues in handling infectious agents and adherence to principles of good laboratory practices
- ▶ Experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, simple statistical software

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ Sound knowledge of molecular biology and virology
- ▶ Some experience of HIV virology and immunology is desirable but not a requirement for the position
- ▶ Experience and training in high containment at the level of PC3
- ▶ Experience in supporting laboratory analysis of samples collected as part of a human clinical trial
- ▶ Experience with bulk or single-cell sequencing approaches
- ▶ Some knowledge of bioinformatics
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to develop new experimental protocols and experience in troubleshooting laboratory protocols and reagents

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 INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<https://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/school-structure/infectious-diseases>

The Department of Infectious Diseases is a recently established department of the Melbourne Medical School, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences that is based at The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute). Research within the department encompasses infectious diseases including antimicrobial resistance and healthcare associated infections, malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, influenza, viral hepatitis, sexually-transmitted infections, skin pathogens and emerging infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Our researchers come from diverse backgrounds, including discovery research and basic scientists, clinician researchers, epidemiologists, public health physicians and microbiologists.

5.2 MELBOURNE MEDICAL SCHOOL

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

Established in 1862, Melbourne Medical School (MMS) in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at The University of Melbourne is the oldest medical school in Australia. It is internationally renowned for global leadership in teaching and training, health research, policy and practice. MMS is ranked 14th in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 for clinical, pre-clinical and health), has strong academic partnerships and ground-breaking collaborative research programs with leading public and private hospitals, as well as leading medical research institutes and centres in Australia and internationally.

Under the leadership of Professor John Prins, MMS spans all major fields of medicine and is comprised of thirteen clinical departments:

- Baker Department of Cardiometabolic Health;
- Clinical Pathology;
- Critical Care;
- General Practice;
- Medical Education;
- Infectious Diseases;
- Medicine;
- Obstetrics and Gynaecology;
- Paediatrics;
- Psychiatry;
- Radiology;
- Rural Health; and
- Surgery.

MMS has more than 1,000 academic and professional staff members located at the Parkville campus or embedded within health services throughout metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria. Staff are privileged to work alongside more than 2,725 honorary appointees from the health sector who generously contribute their time, knowledge, research and clinical expertise.

MMS is committed to improving community wellbeing through the discovery and application of new knowledge. With annual research income of \$165 million, the School's research effort is highly collaborative, spanning research programs from basic to translational. The School has research collaborations across the 47 partner organisations in the vibrant Melbourne Biomedical Precinct, as well as nationally and internationally.

These partnerships enable medical advances to impact healthcare delivery as rapidly and seamlessly as possible.

The School's flagship Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree was the first Masters level entry-to-practice qualification of its kind developed in Australia, setting a new benchmark in medical education. Now, the new curriculum launched in 2022 has created more responsive, modular, technology-enhanced learning for state-of-the-art curriculum delivery. Continuous research and discovery options, and an ability to tailor the degree, allows each student to gain deeper experience in areas of greatest interest. The MD Rural Pathway offers students the opportunity to undertake their entire program in rural Victoria, with a \$6.5 million expansion of facilities in Shepparton to accommodate this. There is also an expanded range of joint degree pathways on offer. The School utilises the Department of General Practice's continually expanding network of general practitioners and primary healthcare providers in the community to ensure that MD students are also provided with quality community-based medical education.

In addition to the MD, MMS has an ever-expanding portfolio of other vocationally oriented programs. These teach research skills, leadership and continuing professional development in specific disciplines. An emphasis on the clinician-scientist career trajectory – with training, support and ongoing career pathways at graduate and postgraduate levels – is central to the School's development of future leaders in all aspects of healthcare, education, research and policy. MMS has over 600 higher degree by research candidates located both within Departments and across its network of partners.

School staff and honorary appointees lead and participate in public debate and advocacy around key health issues and policy based on the MMS values of commitment, integrity, compassion, respect and service. The School also offers a range of initiatives and programs in support of its diverse and inclusive culture:

<https://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/about/diversity-and-inclusion>

MMS is always looking to recruit talented individuals across a wide range of medical disciplines which include leadership roles. This presents a wonderful opportunity for appointees to help drive the strategy, growth and continued excellence of Australia's leading medical school.

5.3 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 \$630m 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.

5.4 THE PETER DOHERTY INSTITUTE FOR INFECTION AND IMMUNITY

<https://www.doherty.edu.au/>

The Doherty Institute is a world-class institute combining research, teaching, public health and reference laboratory services, diagnostic services and clinical care into infectious diseases and immunity. It was officially opened in September 2014 and is a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Health. The Doherty Institute has a major focus on diseases that pose serious public and global health threats such as influenza, tuberculosis, HIV, viral hepatitis, Ebola and drug resistant bacteria. The

Doherty's activities are multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral, placing great emphasis on translational research and improving clinical outcomes. Teams of scientists, clinicians and epidemiologists collaborate on a wide spectrum of activities - from basic immunology and discovery research, to the development of new vaccines and new preventative and treatment methods, to surveillance and investigation of disease outbreaks.

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 <https://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy/governance>