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<b>Position Title:</b>	Senior Research Officer
<b>Position Classification:</b>	Level 8
<b>Position Number:</b>	314938
<b>Faculty/Office:</b>	Health and Medical Sciences
<b>School/Division:</b>	UWA Centre for Medical Research
<b>Centre/Section:</b>	Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research
<b>Supervisor Title:</b>	Professor
<b>Supervisor Position Number:</b>	311210

### Your work area

This position is based within a translational cancer group, led by Andy Redfern, within the Cancer Division at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. The institute is Western Australia's premier medical research institute, investigating the genetic and environmental causes of a range of diseases. The groups research interests cover a spectrum of translational projects across breast, prostate, colorectal cancer and sarcoma.

The position involves the creation and curation of a range of translational cancer research resources comprising prospectively or retrospectively collated tissue, blood or other patient derived materials and attendant clinical databases. In addition, the inception and execution of a variety of projects exploring the underlying biology of aggressive cancer sub-types and cancer treatment resistance employing such resources will be undertaken.

### Reporting Structure

Reports to: Professor

Direct Reports: nil

### Your role

The appointee, under broad supervision, will be the Senior Research Officer of the Cancer Division, as well as performing key technical tasks in the laboratory. These roles will include a range of organizational, logistic, and experimental tasks as outlined below.

### Key responsibilities

- **Oversight of creation and custodianship of translational cancer research resources in WA.**
  - Design prospective & retrospective tissue collections connected with specific research initiatives.
  - Formation of collaborations with and maintain liaison with histopathologists, clinicians and other personnel integral to the formation of desired translational tissue biobanks.
  - Provision of technical pathology input to collect and assess corresponding slides, identify and pull suitable blocks and then build tissue microarrays and other tissue resources.
  - Liaison with surgical and pathological staff for the collection of prospective fresh clinical samples.
  - Act as overall custodian of collected resources.
- **Completion and maintenance of ethics and governance requirements**
  - Completion of ethics and governance applications associated with tissue-based translational resources and attendant research projects.
  - Maintenance of approvals and provision of reports, amendments and updates.
  - Management of ethics, governance and advocacy aspects of Indigenous research initiatives.
- **Input into the construction of databases**
  - construction of databases on standard platforms eg Microsoft Access

- collection and co-ordination of clinical data corresponding to tissue resources
- **Management of a spectrum of specific translational research projects**
  - Design of translational research protocols
  - Completion and maintenance of ethics and governance requirements for same.
  - Optimisation and conduct of requisite tissue processing techniques including immune- and fluorohistochemistry, confocal microscopy, and consequent histological assessment of expression of candidate molecules,

### **Your specific work capabilities (selection criteria)**

- Graduate with Bachelor of Science or similar.
- Substantial experience in handling and processing a spectrum of biospecimens including fresh, frozen and FFPE tissue and blood.
- Substantial experience in routine and specialised histological processing and staining techniques.
- Competence in routine and specialised immunohistochemistry protocols including immunoperoxidase and immunofluorescence.
- Construction of tissue microarrays and other biobank resources.
- Creation and manipulation of digital images relating to translational tissue resources.
- Project management experience.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills with the ability to collaborate with other stakeholders across medical and scientific disciplines.
- Familiarity with systems to maintain biobank integrity with respect to ethics approvals, quality assurance and patient confidentiality.
- Competence with data handling and manipulation, database set-up and data analysis

### **Special Requirements (selection criteria)**

- Experience with microscopy (brightfield, fluorescence, confocal microscopy, etc.) is essential.
- Experience with the assessment of research specimens inclusive of biomarker histological expression assessment in the research context.
- Knowledge of the conduct of Indigenous research including specific ethics and governance requirements, advocacy group access and cultural matters.

### **Compliance**

#### **Workplace Health and Safety**

All supervising staff are required to undertake effective measures to ensure compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 and related University requirements (including Safety, Health and Wellbeing Objectives and Targets).

All staff must comply with requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and all reasonable directives given in relation to health and safety at work, to ensure compliance with University and Legislative health and safety requirements.

Details of the safety obligations can be accessed at <http://www.safety.uwa.edu.au>

#### **Inclusion and Diversity**

All staff members are required to comply with the University's Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct and Inclusion and Diversity principles. Details of the University policies on these can be accessed at [http://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/publications/code\\_of\\_ethics](http://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/publications/code_of_ethics); <http://www.web.uwa.edu.au/inclusion-diversity>