



POSITION DESCRIPTION

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

Research Fellow - Value of Genomic Testing for Patients with Bone Marrow Failure

POSITION NO	0046496
CLASSIFICATION	Research Fellow Level B
SALARY	Level B - \$98,775 - \$117,290 p.a. (pro rata)
SUPERANNUATION	Employer contribution of 9.5%
WORKING HOURS	This is a full time position. Part time may be considered.
BASIS OF EMPLOYMENT	Fixed Term for 6 months (November, 2018 - April, 2019) Fixed term contract type: External Funding
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 , select the relevant option (‘Current Staff’ or ‘Prospective Staff’), then find the position by title or number.
CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES ONLY	<i>Please do not send your application to this contact</i> Professor Maarten IJzerman, PhD Head of Cancer Health Services Research, Centre for Health Policy and Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health. E-mail: maarten.ijzerman@unimelb.edu.au or +61 385 598 585

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

Position Summary

The Cancer Health Services Research unit is a new unit within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health (MSPGH) of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (MDHS), with active collaborations within the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) and Melbourne Genomic Health Alliance. The Cancer Health Services Research Unit is to develop a world-class data-driven research program focussing on organisation and access to value-based cancer care as well as the translation and integration of new laboratory findings such as in the field of genomics to improved cancer health services.

We are seeking an experienced health economist to work on the health economic implications of implementing genomic testing in the management of Bone Marrow Failure (BMF). BMF is an extremely complicated condition of either hereditary (IBMFS) or acquired (AA) origin. The underlying cause of BMF cannot be made on standard-of-care investigations, however, it is fundamental for patient management. Inadequate management of BMF can result in serious adverse-events, long-term effects and potentially inappropriate use of healthcare resource. Genomic testing potentially will improve diagnosis and direct appropriate clinical management and thus improves clinical outcomes. The Melbourne Genomics Bone Marrow Failure (BMF) Flagship project is offering genomic testing (panel and whole exome sequencing) to patients and collecting data to allow determination of comparative effectiveness of molecular testing with usual care for patient diagnosis and management. The current project intends to provide the health economic analysis of genomic testing in BMF aiming at routine implementation and reimbursement. The ideal candidate for this exciting new role has a broad experience in health economics and decision modelling, applied to cancer genomics. The candidate is expected to work with a team of outstanding haematologists, geneticists and experts in health economics and healthcare financing.

The position will require postgraduate qualifications in health economics, operations research or econometrics with a demonstrated interest in health services related research and health policy. A track record in conducting research leading to peer review publications is highly desirable. Given the nature of the research, strong quantitative research skills are required demonstrated by advanced data analytic expertise.

This Melbourne Genomics Flagship project is led by clinical and molecular diagnostic experts at PeterMac Cancer Centre and the Royal Melbourne Hospital, working collaboratively with the Melbourne Genomics program team. The health economics work on delivery of cancer genomics services is carried out under direction from Professor Maarten Ijzerman, Head of the Cancer Health Services Research unit in the Centre for Health Policy.

1. Key Responsibilities

1.1 RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

- ▶ Collaboration with a multi-disciplinary research team and with researchers within the CHP, Peter MacCallum Cancer centre, and Melbourne Genomics in particular.
- ▶ With broad direction from the supervisor develop and manage a research program consistent with the needs of the group and the agreed research program in cancer health services research.
- ▶ To produce high quality research outputs for the Victorian Department of Health and in leading peer reviewed journals including methodological and empirical research findings

- ▶ To disseminate research findings through presentations at conferences and other public forums
- ▶ Prepare research proposal submissions to external funding bodies.
- ▶ Attend to administrative functions primarily connected with the staff member's area of research and for the research group.
- ▶ Manage training and "outreach" activities of the group with a view to developing new projects and links
- ▶ Provide input into decisions about future studies including the sourcing of potential funds and the development of grant applications
- ▶ Prepare materials for ethics submissions and obtain relevant data

1.2 TEACHING AND LEARNING

- ▶ Contribute to and participate in teaching and learning activities in the School as required, and the Cancer Health Services Research unit specifically.

1.3 ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ Assist with responding to enquiries from external stakeholders and other clinical groups, including enquiries from hospital administrators and external researchers wishing to have advice on optimization or implications of different models of care.

1.4 SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Provide service to the University and actively participate in meetings and committees as appropriate.
- ▶ Other duties commensurate with the position as directed by the Supervisor.
- ▶ Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) responsibilities as outlined in section 4.

The responsibilities as specified above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the position.

2. Selection Criteria

2.1 ESSENTIAL

- ▶ Postgraduate qualifications in operations management, health economics or industrial engineering with a demonstrated interest in cancer genomics and health services research.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to write and conduct research including the publication of articles in high-quality peer-review journals.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively within a research team to achieve project goals and meet deadlines
- ▶ Quantitative research skills such as a major in econometric or statistics.
- ▶ Willingness to participate in teaching of short courses and to develop materials to promote the use of operations management in a wide variety of healthcare delivery studies within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and the University of Melbourne

and its affiliated medical research institutes and hospitals within the Melbourne Academic Centre for Health (MACH).

- ▶ Honours level or Masters level qualification in a relevant discipline (Mathematics, Computer Sciences, Econometrics).
- ▶ Experience contributing to peer review publications, conference presentations and the preparation of research grant applications commensurate with opportunity.
- ▶ A demonstrated capacity to work collaboratively in a multidisciplinary team environment

2.2 DESIRABLE

- ▶ PhD in operations management, computer science or mathematics with a demonstrated interest in health services research.
- ▶ Experience with hospital data and registries, and the analysis of linked data sets for operations management applications using a variety of software.
- ▶ Demonstrated knowledge of the health and welfare sectors, including pertinent data sources.
- ▶ Experience attracting research grants or funding
- ▶ Experience publishing peer reviewed research publications
- ▶ A track record in conducting independent research leading to peer review publications in specialist journals or high impact medical journals.
- ▶ Demonstrated ability to work with hospital administrators, researchers from other disciplines and other stakeholders.
- ▶ Experience in the supervision or co-supervision of postgraduate students and more junior research staff.

2.3 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ May involve some local and or international travel.

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 desire 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 CANCER HEALTH SERVICES UNIT / CENTRE FOR HEALTH POLICY

The Cancer Health Services Research unit is a new research unit that focuses on all relevant aspects of cancer care innovation, cancer health economics and the improvement of cancer care delivery. The Cancer Health Services Research unit sits in the Centre for Health Policy within the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health (<http://mbspgh.unimelb.edu.au/centres-institutes/centre-for-health-policy>). The Centre is a multidisciplinary Centre, with particular focus on health economics, health services and health systems research, public health law, data linkage and big data, and ageing and demography.

The mission of the CHP is to contribute to the health of the community through research, teaching and service relevant to health systems, programs and policy. It aims to do this by advancing relevant knowledge and addressing relevant issues productively and flexibly. It also includes research methods development, exemplary practice and a varied program of teaching and training. It aims to achieve this mission by improving the community's capacity to critically evaluate the performance and funding of health systems, services and programs.

5.2 MELBOURNE GENOMICS HEALTH ALLIANCE

Genomics has huge potential to improve healthcare. Looking at the genome can help diagnose illness more quickly and easily, as well as help understand what treatment / management might be most effective.

Melbourne Genomics is an alliance of 10 leading healthcare and research organisations dedicated to bringing the global knowledge of genomics to benefit the individual care of Victorians.

Together, the Royal Melbourne Hospital, The Royal Children's Hospital, The University of Melbourne, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, the CSIRO, the Australian Genome Research Facility, the Peter MacCallum

Cancer Centre, Austin Health and Monash Health are forging a path forward for patients, clinicians and researchers to benefit from the enormous potential of genomics.

The work of Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance is to assess genomics in practice, establish the best systems, building healthworkers' skills and knowledge and ensuring appropriate access to quality information. The vision is for Victoria to be a world leader in using genomics in healthcare.

5.3 VICTORIAN COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTRE

The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) was established in 2009. Its mission is to accelerate improvements in cancer outcomes by integrating cancer research and education/training into clinical care across all VCCC partner organisations. Through innovation and collaboration, the VCCC is facilitating improvements in cancer outcomes. In order to achieve the vision of the VCCC, the members have established a partnership to work together effectively in the fight against cancer. A jointly owned company has been established to manage the venture on their behalf.

The VCCC Partnership – a collaborative partnership of leading Victorian organisations that work together to reduce the burden of cancer. The VCCC Partnership includes Australia's best cancer research and treatment institutions: the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne Health, the University of Melbourne, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, the Royal Women's Hospital, the Royal Children's Hospital, Western Health, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, Austin Health and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. This powerful alliance provides a unique environment for the sharing of ideas and knowledge, and their translation into improved patient outcomes.

Between them, the VCCC partners provide clinical services to around 40% of Victoria's cancer patients (over 60% for some types of tumour) and enrol around 80% of the patients who are on cancer clinical trials in Victoria. The partners provided over 1.7 million occasions of service in relation to cancer over the last five years.

With around 1400 cancer researchers across the ten partner institutions, 360 PhD students in cancer research and \$110 million in annual cancer research income, the VCCC partnership is by far the largest cancer research program in Australia. The quality and impact of VCCC cancer research also leads Australia – 40% of Australia's top 1% most cited cancer papers are authored by VCCC researchers. For 2006-2013, cancer publications with VCCC authors had a relative citation impact of 2.06, compared with a world average of 1.0 (and Australia's average of 1.61).

5.4 THE MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF POPULATION AND GLOBAL HEALTH

The Melbourne School of Population Health (<http://mspgh.unimelb.edu.au/>) and 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, as it incorporated the Nossal Institute for Global Health and underwent a major restructure. Over 350 academic and professional staff work across the School and its partner agencies. The School's total budget is in excess of \$70m. There are approximately 130 higher degree research students (predominantly PhD). The School is currently composed of four Centres (Centre for Health Policy, Centre for Health Equity, Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Centre for Mental Health), one Institute (The Nossal Institute for Global Health) and two partnership units (Vaccine and Immunisation Research Group and the Global Burden of Disease Group).

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.

5.5 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.

5.6 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>.

5.7 GROWING ESTEEM, THE MELBOURNE CURRICULUM AND RESEARCH AT MELBOURNE: ENSURING EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT TO 2025

Growing Esteem describes Melbourne's strategy to achieve its aspiration to be a public-spirited and internationally-engaged institution, highly regarded for making distinctive contributions to society in research and research training, learning and teaching, and engagement. <http://about.unimelb.edu.au/strategy-and-leadership>

The University is at the forefront of Australia's changing higher education system and offers a distinctive model of education known collectively as the Melbourne Curriculum. The new educational model, designed for an outstanding experience for all students, is based on six broad undergraduate programs followed by a graduate professional degree, research higher degree or entry directly into employment. The emphasis on academic breadth as well as disciplinary depth in the new degrees ensures that graduates will have the capacity to succeed in a world where knowledge boundaries are shifting and reforming to create new frontiers and challenges. In moving to the new model, the University is also aligning itself with the best of emerging European and Asian practice and well-established North American traditions.

The University's global aspirations seek to make significant contributions to major social, economic and environmental challenges. Accordingly, the University's research strategy *Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025* aspires to a significant advancement in the excellence and impact of its research outputs.

<http://research.unimelb.edu.au/our-research/research-at-melbourne>

The strategy recognises that as a public-spirited, research-intensive institution of the future, the University must strive to make a tangible impact in Australia and the world, working across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries and building deeper and more substantive engagement with industry, collaborators and partners. While cultivating the fundamental enabling disciplines through investigator-driven research, the University has adopted three grand challenges aspiring to solve some of the most difficult problems facing our world in the next century. These Grand Challenges include:

- ▶ Understanding our place and purpose – The place and purpose grand challenge centres on understanding all aspects of our national identity, with a focus on Australia's 'place' in the Asia-Pacific region and the world, and on our 'purpose' or mission to improve all dimensions of the human condition through our research.
- ▶ Fostering health and wellbeing – The health and wellbeing grand challenge focuses on building the scale and breadth of our capabilities in population and global health; on harnessing our contribution to the 'convergence revolution' of biomedical and health research, bringing together the life sciences, engineering and the physical sciences; and on addressing the physical, mental and social aspects of wellbeing by looking beyond the traditional boundaries of biomedicine.
- ▶ Supporting sustainability and resilience – The sustainability and resilience grand challenge addresses the critical issues of climate change, water and food security, sustainable energy and designing resilient cities and regions. In addition to the technical aspects, this grand challenge considers the physical and social functioning of cities, connecting physical phenomena with lessons from our past, and the implications of the technical solutions for economies, living patterns and behaviours.

Essential to tackling these challenges, an outstanding faculty, high performing students, wide collaboration including internationally and deep partnerships with external parties form central components of Research at Melbourne: Ensuring Excellence and Impact to 2025.

5.8 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>