

## Position Description

# Research Officer

*Position Number: 00061430*  
*Position Title: Research Officer*  
*Date Written: May 2018*

*Faculty / Division: UNSW Medicine*  
*School / Unit: Medical Sciences*  
*Position Level: Level 7*

## ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

UNSW is currently implementing a ten-year strategy to 2025 and our ambition for the next decade is nothing less than to establish UNSW as Australia's global university. We aspire to this in the belief that a great university, which is a global leader in discovery, innovation, impact, education and thought leadership, can make an enormous difference to the lives of people in Australia and around the world.

Following extensive consultation in 2015, we identified three strategic priority areas. Firstly, a drive for academic excellence in research and education. Universities are often classified as 'research intensive' or 'teaching intensive'. UNSW is proud to be an exemplar of both. We are amongst a limited group of universities worldwide capable of delivering research excellence alongside the highest quality education on a large scale. Secondly, a passion for social engagement, which improves lives through advancing equality, diversity, open debate and economic progress. Thirdly, a commitment to achieving global impact through sharing our capability in research and education in the highest quality partnerships with institutions in both developed and emerging societies. We regard the interplay of academic excellence, social engagement and global impact as the hallmarks of a great forward-looking 21st century university.

To achieve this ambition we are attracting the very best academic and professional staff to play leadership roles in our organisation.

## UNSW BEHAVIOURS

UNSW recognises the role of employees in driving a high-performance culture. The behavioural expectations for UNSW are below.

### Demonstrates Excellence

Delivers high performance and demonstrates service excellence

### Drives Innovation

Thinks creatively and develops new ways of working. Initiates and embraces change

### Builds Collaboration

Works effectively within and across teams. Builds relationships with internal/external stakeholders to deliver outcomes

### Embraces Diversity

Values individual differences and contributions of all people and promotes inclusion

### Displays Respect

Treats others with dignity and empathy. Communicates with integrity and openness

## OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT AREA AND POSITION SUMMARY

UNSW Medicine is a national leader in learning, teaching and research, with close affiliations to a number of Australia's finest hospitals, research institutes and health care organisations. With a strong presence at UNSW Kensington campus, the faculty have staff and students in teaching hospitals in Sydney as well as regional and rural areas of NSW including Albury/Wodonga, Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie.

The School of Medical Sciences (SoMS) is the largest School within UNSW Medicine, and one of the largest at UNSW. The School is based largely within the Wallace Wurth (Medicine) Building on the Kensington campus, but also includes the UNSW Lifestyle Clinic on High Street, Randwick.

The vibrant and interdisciplinary Stem Cell & Cancer Group is focusing on targeting cancer stem cells to prevent relapse in pancreatic cancer, one of the most devastating human cancers. Traditional therapies mostly targeting the bulk epithelial cancer cells have failed due to confounding effects attributed to distinct subpopulations of highly chemoresistant cancer stem cells and the complex tumour microenvironment. We have developed novel therapeutic approaches that are now tested (pre-)clinically with in-depth analysis of (liquid) tumour biopsies to understand how the therapy impacts the tumour's biology. Innovative lab technologies have been developed for this purpose and the successful candidate will undergo comprehensive training by senior scientists and technicians as required.

The Research Officer will be actively involved in research projects within the Group and provide state-of-the-art technical support to foster our team efforts. As such the Research Officer will contribute to the overall scientific endeavour of the Group, closely collaborate with other scientists in the group, and will take responsibility for distinct areas of our research programme. The Research Officer will work as part of the Group's research team, being mutually supportive and covering duties as necessary during colleagues' absences and at times of additional pressure, as directed.

The role of the Research Officer reports to the Head of the Stem Cell & Cancer Group.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

Specific responsibilities for this role include:

- Undertake laboratory research, particularly but not exclusively working human and murine (liquid) biopsies, establishing new primary cultures, and developing/validating novel treatment strategies.
- Contribute actively and in a timely manner to the assigned project.
- Maintain key techniques for the research teams and develop and troubleshoot novel cutting-edge techniques, particularly in the area of drug response analysis.
- Execute experiments independently with minimal supervision and be responsible for the collection of data, undertake any appropriate analysis of data and provide regular progress reports.
- Attend and actively participate in the Group's academic activities, eg laboratory and journal club meetings, other research group meetings and weekly seminars.
- Responsible for supervising trainees as required.
- Perform other duties as requested by your supervisor.
- Supervise all health and safety policies and procedures of the university that are relevant for the group and take all reasonable care to ensure that lab members' actions or omissions do not impact on the health and safety of yourself or others.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

- Bachelor of Science (Honours) or higher degree with at least three years research experience in life science or a related discipline
- An in-depth understanding of tumour and/or cancer (stem) cell biology;
- Experience in patient-derived primary cell cultures;
- Experience in flow cytometry and cell sorting;
- Experience in advanced confocal microscopy and multiplex imaging;
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team as well as independently
- Understanding of the research process and active contribution to project development;
- Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training.

*It is not the intention of the position description to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position but to highlight the most important aspects of the position. The aspects mentioned above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.*