



Research Officer

Position title: Research Officer

Classification: Academic Level A

Division/Department: Infection and Immunity/
Population Health and Immunity

Work location: Parkville

Position reference: WEHI/CARO

Employment Type: Contract

Remuneration range: \$86,472 - \$92,817

Further information: Sant-Rayn Pasricha

Position reports to: Laboratory Head

Closing date: 1 September 2017

Starting date: September-October 2017

Positions reporting to this one: N/A

Position overview

The role of Research Officer is to contribute to the research effort and further develop their research expertise through the pursuit of defined projects within the research program to which they are appointed. Research Officers are expected to be self-motivated and to operate with minimal supervision under the general direction of the Laboratory Head.

This Research Officer will take on a principal role within a project evaluating the epigenetic and genomic regulation of key genes involved in systemic iron homeostasis.

The Pasricha laboratory is a multidisciplinary team that works on basic molecular, translational, clinical and global health aspects of anaemia and iron biology. This post is for an individual with a doctoral degree and experience in animal work, molecular biology, genomics and/or epigenetics. The work will involve use of animal and cellular models to understand genomic regulation of iron homeostasis. This position will suit an individual with experience with methods including Chromatin Immunoprecipitation, high throughput sequencing, and/or hepatocyte culture and biology.

The individual will have an opportunity to become involved and learn about research in low income countries, and to interface their work with data from clinical trials.

Organisational environment

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

The institute, established in 1915, currently houses 15 research divisions, containing around 81 laboratories and around 1,000 staff and students, with an annual budget of approximately \$100 million (AUD).

The institute's research focuses on cancer (breast, cancer, leukaemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, lung cancer, colon cancer, and ovarian cancer), infectious disease (malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, and hepatitis) and chronic inflammatory and immune diseases (coeliac disease, type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and transplantation) and continues a strong tradition of collaboration and interdisciplinary programs. The institute has a strong national and international reputation for performing highly influential research and for translation that leads to long term improvements in disease, diagnosis and treatment.

The institute's main laboratories are located within the Parkville precinct, a vibrant hub for life science research, education and healthcare provision. In addition, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute Biotechnology Centre is located 30 minutes from Parkville at La Trobe University's R&D Park in Bundoora. The Biotechnology Centre features facilities for high-throughput chemical screening, medicinal chemistry, antibody production and malaria containment.

The centre also functions as an incubator for the institute's biotechnology companies.

Organisational objectives

Discovery and translation

To make discoveries that shape contemporary scientific thinking, increase understanding and improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, immune disorders and infectious diseases.

Education and training

To educate and train world class scientists and to attract, develop and retain the best and brightest workforce.

Organisational culture

To provide a vibrant and inspiring organisational culture that encourages, promotes and rewards excellence, collaboration, innovation, creativity and respect.

Engagement

To engage with our stakeholders to improve outcomes, building support and secure resources for medical research.

Sustainability

To build infrastructure, professional services and funding that sustains our research and maximises the time our scientists can spend making discoveries.

Organisational values

- Pursuit of excellence
- Integrity and mutual respect
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Creativity
- Contribution to society
- Accountability

Key responsibilities

Activities	Performance Indicators
Innovation and Planning	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work within defined projects as directed by the Laboratory Head • Undertake experimental design • Recommend new approaches and techniques for assigned projects • Adapt to experimental progress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New approaches to design of experiment are introduced to projects and the laboratory • Appropriate new techniques are introduced • Initiative taken in identifying and recommending effective modifications to planned work • Effective adaptability changing situations shown
Knowledge and Skill Acquisition	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake literature search on assigned projects • Identify skill needs and how to acquire them • Attend meetings associated with the research work of the Laboratory, Division, and Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth knowledge and understanding of allocated projects gained • All skills relevant to allocated projects are kept up-to-date or acquired and developed • Demonstrated understanding of the broader field of research • Weekly attendance at the Institute seminar
Research Performance	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take initiative and independently solve problems in progressing assigned projects • Make substantial intellectual contributions in generating, analysing and interpreting research data and projects of the Parischa lab • Contribute to the production of research papers for publication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem solving skills applied independently • Observations recorded and documented diligently and objectively • Experimental approach effectively defended • Authorship on papers produced by the laboratory
Research Methods and Techniques	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct advanced research procedures • Operate advanced laboratory and technical equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of methods and techniques successfully used • Protocols modified according to conditions and experimental requirements
Research Communication	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give research reports at relevant internal meetings • Contribute to the production of conference and seminar materials • Draft own research findings for publication of papers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound writing skills demonstrated • Effective oral presentations given • Presentation of at least one Division seminar annually
Collaboration	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to scientific discussion within the laboratory • Work in cooperation with members of the laboratory and support services to achieve project goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas contributed to progress of other projects in the laboratory
Supervision	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to research training and provide advice to research students (undergraduate and/or graduate) within own field of research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information provided clearly • Guidance of students and less experienced staff
Funding	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify opportunities to apply for salary support funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality applications made for fellowship funding • Renewal or initial award
Contribution to Broader Goals of the Institute	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively participate in professional activities • Contribute to journal peer review and external assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions to the advancement of the research field • Contributions to institute mission and key objective of engagement

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contribute to community engagement with research | |
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Additional duties

- Management of mouse lines
- Analysis of mouse phenotypes using established protocols and development of new protocols
- Analysis and interpretation of results to inform future experimental direction
- Presentation of data regularly at lab meetings and annually at the division seminar.
- Manuscript preparation

Key selection criteria

Knowledge and skills

- A relevant doctoral qualification or equivalent
- Experience in animal work.
- Experience in molecular biologic techniques including, RNA and DNA preparation, PCR and qPCR, western blotting.
- An excellent academic record and achievements
- Demonstrated ability and potential for excellence and productivity in research
- Research experience that has resulted in publications, conference papers or reports
- Proven interpersonal and collaborative skills in achieving research outcomes

Desirable:

- Experience with high throughput sequencing methods, for example RNA-Sequencing, ChIP Sequencing, ATAC-Sequencing
- Experience with genomics.
- Experience using CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing techniques.
- Knowledge of epigenetics
- Knowledge of iron biology

Occupational Health and Safety

- Comply with institute Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.
- Take reasonable care of own safety and the safety of others around.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and safety devices appropriately.
- Report all hazards, incidents and injuries.
- Attend training programs as documented in individual training needs matrices.

How and where to apply

Applicants are encouraged to submit a cover letter, current resume and three referees to jobapplications@wehi.edu.au quoting the position number **WEHI/CARO**.

Research Officer

Please address each of the key selection criteria separately in a written document.

Diversity

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The institute encourages and welcomes interest from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders for roles within the institute.

Privacy notification

The collection and handling of declarations and personal information relevant to your employment will be consistent with the requirements of the *Privacy Act 1988*.