

Faculty of Health

Research Assistant/Project Assistant (various positions)

School of Biomedical Sciences

Position No. EOIBIO8

General Information

The University of Newcastle is one of Australia's leading Universities – an exceptional achiever in research with an international reputation for expertise in innovative approaches to teaching and learning.

The School of Biomedical Sciences formally combines the six disciplines of medical biochemistry, human physiology, immunology and microbiology, anatomy, pharmacy & experimental pharmacology and medical genetics. Major research groups exist in the fields of cancer and cell biology, cancer genetics, infection and virology, neuroscience, membrane biophysics, and asthma. The School is also part of the Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI).

As part of the School of Biomedical Sciences, the Priority Research Centre for Asthma and the CRC for Asthma and Airways are seeking expressions of interest from individuals in a range of HEW (3-7) positions. Individuals work on projects directed by Professor Paul Foster and senior members of the research centres. Researchers are involved in basic research that is focussing on understanding the development of asthma and other respiratory diseases with the goal in developing new ways to treat disease. Specifically the research focuses on models of disease, understanding airway cell function and the expression of genes and their impact on disease progression. Individuals with bioinformatics experience are encouraged to also apply.

There are several positions available at full-time on a fixed term basis for 12 months, with the possibility of extension depending on performance and funding availability.

Position Description

DATE AUTHORED:	29 April 2008
ROLE:	Research Assistant
HEW LEVEL:	Salary will be dependent upon the skills and qualifications of the successful applicants
FACULTY/DIVISION:	Faculty of Health
SCHOOL/UNIT:	School of Biomedical Sciences Discipline of Infection and Immunity
IMMEDIATE SUPERVISORS:	Professor Paul Foster / Associate Professor Joerg Mattes/ Dr Ming Yang

Role Statement

Individuals will be responsible for the preparation and maintenance of materials for experiments, processing of experimental samples as well as data entry and maintenance of results database.

Role Description

Supervision/Management/Leadership

Be responsible to the Professor Paul Foster, Associate Professor Joerg Mattes or Dr Ming Yang

for the provision of a high level of service as a Research Assistant/Project Assistant;

Reporting to the Project leaders within the The Priority Research Centre for Asthma and the CRC for Asthma and Airways for the allocation of specific tasks;

Supervision of other staff within the unit may be required at more senior levels where those staff perform a range of straightforward tasks, following set procedures or routines function.

Task level and Typical Activities

Depending on the level of appointment:

Apply theoretical knowledge, procedures and techniques in a wide range of molecular biological and cell culture areas eg; ELISA, real-time PCR, flow cytometry and gel electrophoresis;

Required to prepare and analyse mouse models of asthma and

Required to prepare and stain slides for differential cell counts and samples for experimental analysis, process respiratory samples

Set up, monitor and maintain equipment such as flow cytometry equipment for a range of experiments database management, development and maintenance and lung function testing systems.

Routine laboratory maintenance eg put away samples, clean work areas etc;

Work as part of a research team in a support role with the ability to work accurately and independently and may need to supervise other staff, where those staff perform a range of straightforward tasks, following set procedures or routines;

Ordering of laboratory chemicals consumables and equipment as required;

Assist in the collection of research samples and testing procedures;

Analyses genomic data bases and emerging gene expression data from experimentation (bioinformatics e-biologist)

Communicate and present results to appropriate team members and/or at medical research meetings/conferences;

Assist in developing and implementing Standard Operating Procedures;

Understanding of the University's policies and procedures on Equity and Diversity, Managing for Performance and OHS.

Organisational Knowledge

Be familiar with, and observe the University's policy and procedures on Equity and Diversity and Occupational Health and Safety in the performance of the responsibilities of the position;

Perform tasks/assignments which require knowledge of the work area processes and an understanding of how they interact with other related functions.

Judgement, Independence and Problem Solving

Exercise judgement on work methods and task sequence within specified timelines and standard practices and procedures.

Selection Criteria

1. The successful applicant will have relevant qualifications or be nearing completion of a Diploma in Laboratory Technology or for higher HEW positions a bachelor science or bachelor of science honours, biomedical sciences or equivalent experience;

2. Demonstrated experience in working with personal computers and data base programs;
3. Experience in research projects;
4. Well developed interpersonal and communication skills including and ability to work positively as a team member and interact with both University and Area Health staff.

It is desirable that the successful applicant also possess the following:

5. Current driver's licence.
6. Previous experience in laboratory based biological research with preference to cell biology , molecular biology and immunology
7. Bioinformatics and analyses of transcriptional profiles

Conditions and Benefits

The salary level will be dependent on the skills and qualifications of the successful applicant.

The basic contribution for superannuation will be made by the University into Unisuper Accumulation 1. Contributory superannuation with additional employer contributions is not available with this appointment.

A range of flexible salary packaging options is also available.

Further information on benefits and conditions of employment is available at the following link:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/employment/conditions.html>

Further Information

For additional information on the position contact Professor Paul Foster on (02) 49138719.

Related Links

- [School of Biomedical Sciences webpage](#)
- [University of Newcastle Annual Report](#)

Closing Date

Expressions of Interest close on Sunday 20 July 2008.

Submitting Your Expressions of Interest Application

Please email your expression of interest application to Professor Paul Foster at

Paul.Foster@newcastle.edu.au

Note: Your application must include a statement addressing the selection criteria together with a current resume.

All applications must include the Application for Employment Cover Sheet ([PDF](#) or [MS Word](#)) including an email and/or fax address for each nominated referee.

The University of Newcastle values [equity and diversity](#).