

Position Description	
POSITION TITLE	Research Fellow, Food Policy
CAREER STEP	Research / Independent
REPORTING RELATIONSHIP	Program Head, Nutrition Science
PROGRAM	Food Policy
EMPLOYMENT DURATION	1 year contract, potential to extend for a further year
TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT	Part Time or Full Time (0.6 - 1 FTE)
DATE	December 2021

The George Institute for Global Health

We are a medical research institute affiliated with leading universities aiming to challenge the status quo in health care. With 700+ people around the world, and projects in over 40 countries, our Strategy 2025 is all about impact – specifically, the impact of The George Institute’s activities on the health of millions of people, particularly those living in disadvantaged circumstances around the world.

Our strategy focuses on three key research priorities:

- Better Treatments: finding better treatments for the world’s biggest health problems
- Better Care: transforming primary health care to support better health for more people
- Healthier Societies: harnessing the power of communities, governments, and markets to improve health

Our innovative commercial enterprises help maximise our impact.

Here is a sample of the things we are doing to achieve our goal of having the greatest possible impact on global health:

- We are identifying better and safer treatments for our biggest killers like stroke, heart disease and high blood pressure
- In many countries, our award winning FoodSwitch smartphone app is helping people make healthy food choices when shopping
- In China, we ran a successful education and awareness program to reduce the amount of salt eaten by people by 25% each day
- In rural India, we have shown that mobile technology can help diagnose mental health, as well as help treat cardiovascular disease, and we’re looking at similar approaches to treating chronic diseases in Indonesia and China
- Together with Aboriginal communities in NSW, Australia, we developed an innovative community led program to assist young Aboriginal drivers attain their license, now implemented in a dozen of locations
- We are developing an affordable dialysis machine, with potential to save millions of lives each year and transform the way kidney disease is treated globally
- And much more...



Context of the Role

The Institute has a strong track record in research addressing food and nutrition issues. The Food Policy team does both quantitative and qualitative research and holds large databases describing the changing composition of foods and household food purchasing patterns in Australia and other countries around the world. The group also works closely with policy makers and commercial organizations to develop and evaluate programs that will lead to real changes to the food environment. Throughout, the goal is to generate high-quality evidence regarding the prevention of diet-related ill health and to see this translated into policies and practices. The team is supported by a large technical team and a statistics groups within the Institute. The group also works closely with Communications and with Government Relations at the Institute to maximize the impact of their findings.

The Role

The Food Policy team has recently been awarded a \$2.5M NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence grant, and a major new work stream supported by the funding is to advance food and beverage nutrient profiling algorithms. The Research Fellow will help to lead this exciting new program of work and be responsible for conducting novel research by assessing the performance of existing and modified nutrient profiling scoring algorithms. A primary goal is to use large population-based studies to assess the strength of associations of existing and modified nutrient profiling scoring algorithms defined 'healthy diets' with major health outcomes including obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes. In addition, there will be opportunities to develop other related projects and to become involved with other ongoing initiatives. The work will be highly quantitative, but outputs will be both scientific and policy orientated.

This role will involve working with academics across the organisation, including those at other George Institute offices in China, India, and Oxford, as well as groups outside the organisation. There is strong philosophy of collaboration and working as part of a team. The role may also involve some national and international travel (depending on border restrictions).

Reporting Relationships

The Research Fellow reports to and works closely with the Program Head, Nutrition Science.

Duties and Key Responsibilities

- Provide a consistent level of contribution to the research activities of the program
- Work with the Program Head or Program Director in developing new study proposals
- Take the lead and assist with the preparation of grant applications
- Take the lead and assist with manuscript preparation
- Maintain existing collaborations and establish others
- Provide support and co-supervision of post-graduate students
- Ensure that research being conducted is congruent with world best practice
- Remain abreast of developments in the related to the program that are relevant to the study and the Institute, providing a source of information to colleagues within the Institute
- Actively develop and promote the desired culture of The George Institute by ensuring all interactions, documentation and communication are conducted in a manner which supports the stated mission.

As a Team Member:

- Participate in special projects to improve processes, tools, systems, and organisation



- Take responsibility for personal learning and development and for setting achievable and meaningful work objectives and managing personal targets, meeting obligations of The Institute's Performance Management and Development Policy
- Demonstrate commitment to The Institute's organisational values, including performing to an exceptionally high ethical standard and focus on integrity, collaboration, and teamwork in all efforts.

As a Team Manager: (remove if not required)

- Ensure direct reports understand and comply with GI's Policies and procedures, standard operating practices, ethical practice (with respect to research) and the legislative environment.
- Be responsible for managing performance of direct reports, including the completion of plans and agreeing on work and personal objectives and reviewing such plans and objectives, in accordance with GI's Performance Management and Development Policy.
- Act as a role model and ensure the team's commitment to GI's values, ensuring direct reports perform to a high ethical standard and focus on integrity, collaboration, and teamwork in all efforts.

Work, Health and Safety

- Comply with Work Health and Safety legislation and operate in accordance with established Occupational Health and Safety practice and procedures at the Institute
- Promote and contribute to a safe, secure environment for staff and visitors.

Skills, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- Relevant health/medical qualification, including a PhD
- Experienced and proficient researcher
- Demonstrated experience in the development and coordination of health research projects and/or clinical trials
- Experience in writing both research papers and grant applications
- Strong problem solving, analytical skills and strategic thinking
- Experience in data interpretation, analysis and/or statistical skills
- Strong experience using SAS, R, or STATA statistical packages
- Experience in nutrition/cardiovascular epidemiology and analyses of dietary intake data (e.g., NHANES)
- Willingness and ability to supervise PhD students
- Excellent time management and organisational skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to work well and flexibly i.e., autonomously, in small teams and with a wide range of varying stakeholders
- Strong focus on quality of work
- Proficient in the use of the internet and the Microsoft Office suite of products, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook
- Ability to be flexible and adaptable in the face of changing organisational priorities and ambiguous environments
- Availability and willingness to travel.