

Position Description

Position Title:	Research Assistant
Salary Range:	Research Assistant Level A Step 1- 5
Reporting Manager:	A/Prof David Elliott and A/Prof Enzo Porrello
Direct Reports:	None
Home Group:	Stem Cell Biology, Heart Regeneration and Disease Groups

Who are we?

The Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) is home to significant scientific discoveries. We believe there is an answer, a cure or a better treatment for every childhood condition – and we're determined to find it.

We are a diverse team of world-leading researchers, doctors, engineers, and hardworking professionals in corporate and scientific services from all corners of the world with one shared goal – to transform child health worldwide.

Our strength lies in our partnership and co-location with The Royal Children's Hospital and the University of Melbourne – the Melbourne Children's Campus. This rare model amplifies opportunities to quickly translate research into clinical care.

At MCRI, you'll also find our subsidiary organisation, the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services (VCGS), a specialist childhood, prenatal and adult genetics service. VCGS provides an integrated genetic consultation, counselling, testing and diagnostic support service to children, adults, families and prospective parents.

Together, we share a powerful vision: re-imagine the future of child health.

What is it like to work for us?

We are committed to ensuring a positive working environment that values all backgrounds and experiences. We cultivate an inclusive culture that is underpinned by equal opportunity for all and a culture based on respect, consideration and dignity. We are also committed to developing our people and fostering an environment where learning and development is central to our staff reaching their full potential.

Position Overview

This position is based in the Heart Regeneration and Heart Disease groups at MCRI. The successful candidate will contribute to projects related to the generation and characterisation of 3D heart tissues following differentiation of human pluripotent stem cells. This will involve the exploration of culture conditions that lead to the optimal formation of heart cells in 2D and in 3D structures, with the goals of supporting interventions to promote cardiac regeneration in pre-clinical and clinical settings. The work will involve the culture and differentiation of human pluripotent stem cells and their analysis using a range of techniques including flow cytometry, cell sorting and gene expression studies. The work will also involve managing laboratory inventories and data records.

Key Accountabilities

- Performs cell culture experiments using pluripotent stem cells
 - Works to support the smooth running of the Laboratory
 - Assists with organisation of stocks and reagents
 - Attends professional development opportunities
 - Conducts ethical research at the highest level of integrity and in line with the Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research and MCRI policies
 - Assists and contributes to data generation for research and publications
 - Works to improve skill base in research productivity and methodology
 - Assists in high calibre, competitive research
 - Follows standard operating procedures, study protocols and study guidelines
 - Continuous maintenance of neat and orderly records, electronic lab books and data storage
 - Fosters relationships with key internal and external stakeholders
 - Is engaged in the campus culture including professional development activities and attending internal/external campus conferences and seminars
 - Is aware of, and adheres to, MCRI policy on Intellectual Property/Material Transfer Agreements/Contracts/Clinical and Public Health Outcomes
-

Selection Criteria

- Degree/Honours/Masters qualification in Science or related discipline
 - Extensive cell culture experience is essential
 - Expertise in tissue engineering is highly desirable
 - Appropriate level of expertise gained from a combination of experience, training, or professional accreditation
 - Demonstrated capacity to work independently and collaboratively in a team environment
 - Excellent time management, organisational and analytical problem-solving skills
 - Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
 - Demonstrated computer skills, including spreadsheets, database programs, and word processing
 - Demonstrated understanding of a range of research methodologies and their application in empirical research
-

Conditions of Employment

- Working with Children & National Police Clearance (if appointed) in compliance with the Victorian Governments Child Safety Standards
 - The right to reside and work in Australia and you meeting any applicable visa conditions
-

Health, Safety & Wellbeing

- We are committed to providing and maintaining a working environment which protects the health, safety and wellbeing of our people, partners and the community
 - Employees conducting duties on behalf of MCRI are expected to meet the environment, health and wellbeing requirements and responsibilities specifically required for the role
 - We are committed to supporting children in their right to be safe and adhere to the responsibilities we have to ensure their protection and safety as per the Child Safety Standards Policy
 - Specified positions may be subject to medical review to ensure that the inherent requirements of the role can be undertaken safely.
-

As MCRI evolves to meet its changing strategic and operational needs and objectives, so will the roles required of its employees. As such, this document is not intended to represent the position which the occupant will perform in perpetuity. This position description is intended to provide an overall view of the incumbent's role as at the date of this statement.