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POSITION DESCRIPTION

Senior Research Fellow

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| Position Level | C |
| Faculty/Division | Medicine & Health |
| Position Number | 00145576 |
| Original document creation | 06/10/2022 |

Position Summary

The Kirby Institute is a world-leading health research institute at UNSW Sydney. We work to eliminate infectious diseases, globally. Our specialisation is in developing health solutions for the most at-risk communities. Through innovative and world-class research, we develop tests, treatments, cures and prevention strategies to improve health.

The Senior Research Fellow will coordinate and manage surveillance activities with people who inject drugs. The primary function of this position is to develop, implement and evaluate surveillance activities, including the Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS), the National Needle and Syringe Program Minimum Data Set (NSP MDS) and the NSW Needle and Syringe Program Enhanced Data Collection (NNEDC). The position will involve consultation and liaison with national, State and Territory government health departments, public health professionals, service providers, researchers and affected communities, as well as interaction with other Kirby Institute programs.

The role of Research Fellow reports to the Professor and has two direct reports.

Accountabilities

Specific accountabilities for this role include:

- Make independent contributions to research that have a significant impact in their field of expertise and create a nationally recognised research track record.
- Undertake independent research in discipline or related area (as per the norms of the discipline), making an independent contribution through professional practice and expertise.
- Develop research groups in area of specialist expertise and research methods that are appropriate to the discipline.

- Attract peer recognition and establish research network/s (based on the norms of the discipline) at national level.
- Obtain research income from nationally competitive research grants (and/or research fellowships) and research end-users as a member or leader, at or above the level that is relevant to the discipline in leading universities.
- Mentor and guide students, groups, and colleagues; supervise HDRs to timely completion as primary supervisor; and contribute to HDR review panels.
- Manage and implement annual data collections for the Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey (ANSPS), the NSP National Minimum Data Collection (NSP NMDS), and the NSW NSP Data Collection (NNEDC).
- Conduct and support HIV and viral hepatitis surveillance and related monitoring and evaluation activities including analysing and reporting jurisdictional and national trends in the prevalence and incidence of HIV and viral hepatitis in Australia for publication in the Kirby Institute's Annual Surveillance Report and related reports.
- Maintain the multiyear merged ANSPS dataset, including the identification of repeat participants to create i) a de-duplicated dataset ii) a longitudinal dataset containing only repeat participants.
- Update annual estimates of the population size of people who inject drugs in Australia.
- Develop work plans, project protocols, standard operating procedures and other research related administrative functions to ensure that the research projects are conducted in accordance with the study protocol and project milestones are met.
- Oversee the timely preparation and organisation of ethics approvals from appropriate Human Research Ethics Committees, submit annual reports and amendments when required.
- Build and maintain effective working relationships with stakeholders, including State and Territory NSP managers, Needle and Syringe Programs and other relevant stakeholders, including the Commonwealth Department of Health and the NSW Ministry of Health.
- Participate in relevant committees and working groups, including convening the ANSPS National Advisory Group and the National NSP MDS Working Group.
- Support the procurement of equipment and consumables.
- Conduct data management and statistical analyses of qualitative data.
- Provide consultation and support to VHEPP staff and students in relation to epidemiological methods and statistical procedures.
- Present research results at appropriate national and international meetings and publish manuscripts in peer-reviewed scientific journals.
- Coordinate and prepare annual reports to the funding body as part of regular reporting requirements and for Kirby Institute surveillance reports.
- Perform other duties as requested by the supervisor.
- Align with and actively demonstrate the [UNSW Values in Action: Our Behaviours](#) and the [UNSW Code of Conduct](#).
- Ensure hazards and risks are identified and controlled for tasks, projects and activities that pose a health and safety risk within your area of responsibility.

Skills and Experience

- A PhD in epidemiology, public health, biostatistics or a similar relevant field related discipline, and/or relevant work experience.
- Proven commitment to proactively keeping up to date with discipline knowledge and developments.
- Demonstrated track record in research with outcomes of high quality and high impact (peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals) with clear evidence of the desire and ability to continually achieve research excellence as well as the capacity for research leadership.
- Knowledge of infectious disease control and harm reduction programmes, including Australia's national blood-borne virus strategies.
- Demonstrated experience in quantitative research or surveillance with a focus on infectious diseases in people who inject drugs.
- Detailed knowledge and familiarity with all aspects of NSP service delivery, including administration and data collection mechanisms.
- Clear evidence of capacity for research leadership.
- Demonstrated experience writing reports for non-expert stakeholders.
- Demonstrated experience in data management and quantitative analysis of large datasets with statistical analysis packages (e.g., SAS, STATA).
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills with highly developed interpersonal and organisational skills and the ability to work with staff and students from diverse backgrounds.
- Demonstrated ability to work in a team, collaborate across disciplines and build effective relationships.
- An understanding of and commitment to UNSW's aims, objectives and values in action, together with relevant policies and guidelines.
- Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training

PRE-EMPLOYMENT CHECKS REQUIRED FOR THIS POSITION

- Verification of Qualifications

About this document

This Position Description outlines the objectives, desired outcomes, key responsibilities, accountabilities, required skills, experience and desired behaviours required to successfully perform the role.

This template is not intended to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position. Characteristics of the position may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.