



Position Description

Position Title:	Research Assistant
Salary Range:	MCRI Research Salaries – Research Assistant - Level A Step 1 – Step 5
Reporting Manager:	Team Leader / Senior Research Officer
Direct Reports:	0
Home Group:	Neuroscience

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 operational 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 partnership model amplifies opportunities to quickly translate research into clinical care.

MCRI includes a wholly owned subsidiary, the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services (VCGS), a private not-for profit organisation. VCGS is 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:

Our purpose:

We want all children to have the opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilled life.

Our 2025-2030 Strategy:

Towards Precision Child Health

We exist for a **purpose**, to give all children an opportunity to live a healthy and fulfilled life.

We **value** individuals with the determination to solve complex problems, who thrive on collaboration, and who embody honesty, respect, and accountability.

Our **goals** centre around an inclusive environment in which our people can undertake bold research that can be scaled for impact through strategic partnerships.

We **operate** in a collaborative environment, tackling problems in teams, across disciplines and across boundaries.

Our research generates evidence underpinning changes that **impact** the lives of children in our hospitals, in our communities, and across the globe.

What is it like to work for us?

We are dedicated 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 invest in developing our People and fostering an environment where learning and development is central to our staff reaching their full potential.

The Institute is also committed to the safety of children and young people and takes a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of child abuse, exploitation, and harm. The Institute prioritises child safety in our decision-making at all levels of the Institute and supports our employees to understand and enact their safeguarding responsibilities.

Position Overview

We are seeking a Research Assistant to join the Epilepsy Team in the Neuroscience Group, reporting to the Team Leader/Senior Research Officer and Group Leader/Clinician-Scientist Fellow.

The primary focus of this role is to support the Gene-STEPS program through the culture, differentiation and characterisation of human induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) and neuronal models for functional genomic studies and diagnostic investigations. The role will also support the BRAINtegrate program through the collection, processing and biobanking of human neurosurgical tissue specimens for single-cell and spatial transcriptomic studies and diagnostic investigations.

The successful applicant will contribute to stem cell culture, neuronal differentiation, biospecimen processing, molecular analyses and laboratory operations within a collaborative translational neuroscience research environment. The position is ideally suited to a Research Assistant with experience in iPSC and neuronal cell culture, molecular biology or related laboratory-based biomedical research.

Key Accountabilities

- Culture, maintain, expand, cryopreserve and characterise human iPSC cultures
 - Differentiate, maintain and characterise iPSC-derived neuronal cultures for functional genomic studies and diagnostic investigations
 - Prepare cellular samples for downstream genomic, transcriptomic and proteomic analyses
 - Optimise and troubleshoot stem cell and neuronal culture protocols
 - Collect, process and biobank human neurosurgical tissue specimens
 - Prepare tissue samples for single-cell and spatial transcriptomic workflows and other advanced analytical techniques
 - Support the development and optimisation of laboratory workflows and protocols
 - Maintain laboratory stocks, consumables and equipment
 - Follow standard operating procedures, study protocols and laboratory guidelines
 - Maintain accurate laboratory records, laboratory notebooks and electronic data storage systems
 - Contribute to data generation for research projects and publications
 - Conduct research in accordance with the Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research and MCRI policies
 - Participate in professional development activities and contribute positively to the MCRI research environment
 - 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
 - Supports campus efforts related to gender equity, diversity, inclusion and wellbeing through participation, active learning and/or role modelling our values
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Selection Criteria

- Honours or Masters qualification in Science, Biomedical Science, Molecular Biology, Neuroscience or a related discipline
 - At least 3 years' experience in biomedical research laboratories
 - Mammalian cell culture, including human iPSC and iPSC-derived neuronal culture systems
 - Molecular and cellular biology techniques, including nucleic acid and protein extraction, IHC, ICC, PCR, ddPCR, WB and preparation of samples for downstream genomic, transcriptomic and proteomic analyses
 - Laboratory record keeping and adherence to standard operating procedures
 - Independent and collaborative work within a multidisciplinary team
 - Organisational, time management and analytical problem-solving skills
 - Written and verbal communication skills
 - Proficiency with spreadsheets, databases and standard scientific software applications
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Conditions of Employment

- Keeping children safe is our highest priority. We maintain rigorous safeguarding standards and employ comprehensive screening processes to ensure the safety of the children we work with. This includes mandatory screening processes for all successful candidates, including:
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- Valid Working with Children Check (or equivalent)
 - Satisfactory criminal record check
 - The right to reside and work in Australia and you meeting any applicable visa conditions
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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 Policy
 - The Institute is committed to the safety of children and young people, and takes a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of child abuse, exploitation and harm. The Institute prioritises child safety in our decision-making at all levels of the Institute and supports our employees to understand and enact their safeguarding responsibilities
 - We are committed to a diverse, inclusive workplace where all staff are supported to reach their full potential, regardless of gender, career status, age, disability, cultural background, religion or sexual orientation
 - Specified positions may be subject to medical review to ensure that the inherent requirements of the role can be undertaken safely
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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.