



Position Description

Position Title:	Research Officer (Postdoctoral- Biostatistics)
Salary Range:	MCRI - Research Salaries - Research Officer Step 1-3 or Research Fellow Steps 1-2
Reporting Managers:	Prof Katherine Lee
Direct Reports:	NA
Home Group:	Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics Unit (CEBU)

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.

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 within the Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit (CEBU) and the Melbourne Children's Trials Centre (MCTC) within the MCRI. CEBU is a core group in the MCRI that provides support and training in epidemiological and clinical research methods, with a particular focus on biostatistics, to researchers on the Melbourne Children's campus. The MCTC is another core group in the MCRI with the mission of supporting high-quality clinical trials on the Melbourne Children's campus.

The individual appointed to this position will be expected to contribute statistical expertise to a portfolio of clinical trials and related projects being conducted on the Melbourne Children's campus within the work program of CEBU and the MCTC. This will involve collaborating with a range of clinical teams and providing direct contributions to the design, conduct, analysis and reporting of randomised trials, including the development of research protocols and grant proposals, and contributing to scientific publications. The successful candidate will also be expected to develop methodological research interests around novel trial designs, in particular related to embedded and adaptive trials. As part of this role, the appointee will also be expected to contribute to CEBU's training program by assisting in the delivery of short courses in biostatistics and statistical computing.

The position will report to the Associate Director (Biostatistics) of the MCTC, within CEBU, and will work closely with other members of the CEBU and MCTC teams.

Key Accountabilities

Collaboration

The appointee will be expected to develop a range of collaborations with applied research teams and provide high-level statistical support throughout the planning, conduct and analysis of a range of studies, primarily randomised trials, including:

- Development of research protocols
- Preparation and implementation of statistical analysis plans
- Contributing to manuscripts for publication
- Development of grant proposals

Research

Develop a portfolio of methodological research around novel trial designs, in particular embedded and adaptive trials. Specifically:

- Read, interpret and synthesise recent statistical/methodological literature around novel trial designs
- Modify and implement existing statistical methods for application to novel clinical trial designs, including contributing to collaborative applied research output
- Lead or contribute to scientific manuscripts based on the methodological research work
- Potentially contribute to writing and obtaining grant applications in methodological research

Engagement in CEBU Teaching & Consulting

The appointee will contribute to the broader activities of CEBU, where appropriate and as time permits (5-10% of the role), by:

- Preparing and delivering occasional lectures and tutorials and computer-based training
- Providing advice in statistical methods to clinical researchers within the MCRI
- Providing supervision and assistance on research methods to undergraduate and postgraduate students

Support and knowledge transfer

- Independently and with minimal supervision contribute to and advise researchers in best practice in data management and statistical analysis

Leadership and Management

- Demonstrate leadership capabilities in providing statistical support and developing and addressing methodological research questions
- Develop the ability to lead a research team/project and develop, manage and mentor employees to create a positive scientific research culture
- Co-supervise, or where appropriate supervise, honours or postgraduate research projects and students in both biostatistics and applied research
- Generate creative solutions to new and existing problems by demonstrating initiative relative to the position
- Undertake professional development activities

Contribution to Scientific Community and MCRI

- Become involved in the promotion of research links with outside bodies
- Contribute to the research culture of the research group through attendance at meetings, and/or membership of a limited number of committees relevant to the group's research outputs
- Participate in regular internal and external conference presentations
- Conduct ethical research at the highest level of integrity and in line with the Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research and MCRI policies
- Conduct research activities in alignment with the strategic direction of the Institute
- Be engaged in the campus culture including professional development activities, membership of campus committees and contributing to/attending internal/external campus conferences and seminars

Selection Criteria

Essential

- A PhD in biostatistics, statistics or closely related discipline (awarded or near completion)
 - Strong understanding and technical knowledge of statistical methods
 - Experience in performing complex data manipulation and analysis in a statistical package with a flexible programming language such as Stata or R
 - Record of publication of peer-reviewed scientific articles
 - Excellent communication skills both written and verbal
 - Aptitude and enthusiasm for supervision of research students
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- Demonstrated ability to work independently and collaboratively to achieve project goals and meet agreed deadlines

For appointment at Level B:

- At least 3 years postdoctoral or equivalent research experience (relative to opportunity) and appropriate level of expertise gained from a combination of experience, training or professional accreditation
- Building a reputation as a successful researcher with the potential to be competitive for grant funding

Desirable

- Experience in collaborative research involving the application of statistical methods in health research, preferably with experience in clinical trials

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.
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