

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>POSITION TITLE:</b>	<b>Research Assistant</b>
<b>CLASSIFICATION:</b>	<b>QR1</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE TO:</b>	<b>Group Leader</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Herston</b>

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### POSITION OBJECTIVES

This position has the following objectives:

- Undertake in-vitro culture and maintenance of malaria parasites, tissue culture and general laboratory duties.
  - Preparation of malaria challenge inoculum for malaria volunteer infection studies
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### ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

QIMR Berghofer is a statutory body under the *Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act (1945)*. QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute proudly serves the people of Queensland with better health and wellbeing through impactful medical research. Our collaborative research programs address the foremost health challenges of our time. Our research responds to health challenges arising from social and environmental factors and aims to advance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equity.

QIMR Berghofer has a vision to lead the way to significant innovation in health outcomes, nationally and globally. We are committed to supporting ground-breaking research discoveries, achieving sustainability and conducting impactful research.

The Institute focuses its research within four key Programs:

- Cancer Research
- Infection & Inflammation
- Mental Health & Neuroscience
- Population Health

The primary focus of the Clinical Malaria Group is the conduct of malaria volunteer infection studies to evaluate new drugs for the treatment of malaria.

QIMR Berghofer promotes a *Working Better Together* operating model, recognising that whilst the purpose of the Institute is medical research, and the contribution of researchers is key, it cannot be done without the work of our highly-skilled professional staff. It recognises that we are all here to facilitate the same mission – *Better health through impactful medical research. Working Better Together* is underpinned by the shared understanding and application of our values:

- Excellence
  - Integrity
  - Respect
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- Collaboration
  - Accountability
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## **REPORTING AND RELATIONSHIPS**

The position reports to Dr. Fiona Amante, Laboratory Manager on a day to day basis under the direction of the Associate Professor Bridget Barber.

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## **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Laboratory duties including working under cGMP conditions in tissue culture labs in the Clinical Malaria Group and clean rooms at the Institute's cGMP facility
- Undertake in vitro growth and maintenance of malaria parasite cultures for clinical trials and research purposes
- Perform standard laboratory techniques including general molecular biology and immunology e.g. DNA/RNA extractions and qPCR, sequencing, Flow Cytometry, ELISA, PBMC isolation
- Provide detailed observations, analyse data and interpret results
- Maintain records to comply with cGMP standards and ensure accurate and up to date data entry with clear reporting of results
- Ensure work practices comply with the requirements of the Work Health and Safety Act, related legislative requirements and the Institute's Work Health & Safety (WH&S) policies and procedures
- Assist with laboratory and equipment maintenance duties

## **ADDITION REQUIREMENT**

This role will require working outside of normal hours (Monday to Friday) to ensure tissue culture requirements and inoculum preparation requirements are maintained.

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## **KEY SELECTION CRITERIA**

### ***Essential***

- Minimum of a Bachelors degree in cell biology or other relevant area plus at least 2 year experience
- Extensive experience and demonstrated ability in aseptic tissue culture techniques
- Experience working in research/clinical laboratories and carrying out a wide range of laboratory techniques, including but not limited to DNA/RNA extraction, qPCR/digital PCR, sequencing, Flow Cytometry, ELISA, PBMC isolation and basic microscopy
- Willingness to undertake flexible working hours
- Good interpersonal skills, with the ability to interact with staff and operate as a valuable team member
- Good organisational and time management skills, with the ability to prioritise and coordinate tasks to meet deadlines
- Demonstrated skills working with and knowledge of Microsoft Office suite
- Ability to work effectively with minimal supervision
- Participate in preparing and revising documents such as SOPs and laboratory protocols

### ***Desirable***

- Experience in malaria parasite culture including cell cryopreservation, thawing, expansion and harvest
- Experience working in a clean room in a cGMP regulated environment

- Experience with basic statistical analysis
  - Experience in bioinformatics data analysis and interpretation e.g. NGS, WGS, transcriptomics
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QIMR Berghofer also offers:

- Salary Packaging
- State-of-the-art facilities
- Stimulating work setting focussed on cutting-edge medical research
- Supportive/collaborative team environment
- Parental leave provisions