

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:	Research Officer
CLASSIFICATION:	QR2
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Dr Simon Foster
LOCATION:	Herston

POSITION OBJECTIVES

This position involves research to discover and validate new therapeutic targets for human cardiovascular diseases, including cardiac fibrosis and heart failure. We use a variety of experimental approaches on human heart tissue and stem-cell derived human cardiac organoids to identify novel drug targets, characterise their mechanism-of-action and test putative therapeutics.

The successful applicant will work on projects related to human cardiovascular disease mechanisms, which will involve working independently and alongside others in the lab, as well as external collaborators.

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:

- Infection & Inflammation
- Cancer Research
- Brain and Mental Health
- Population Health

Our research focusses on understanding the signalling mechanisms that underpin human cardiovascular disease. Combining experiments on patient-derived human heart tissues with state-of-the art human cardiac organoids pioneered in the Cardiac Bioengineering Group, we aim to use a systems biology approach to identify critical cardiac-specific signalling nodes to discover new cardiovascular therapeutics for human disease.

REPORTING AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Research Officer reports to Senior Research Officer Dr Simon Foster, and is a member of the Cardiac Bioengineering Group within the Infection & Inflammation Program at QIMR Berghofer.

The Research Officer works closely with laboratory staff and students and is expected to provide assistance with training and supervision. The position requires the Research Officer to engage with staff from Scientific Services at QIMR Berghofer.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Undertake research in the area of cardiovascular disease with a view to publishing original and innovative results in refereed journals
- Present research at academic seminars and at national and international conferences, and collaborate with other researchers at a national & international level
- Assist in general laboratory tasks, training and supervision of research staff
- Contribute to student supervision, as needed
- Actively contribute to the QIMR Berghofer Infection & Inflammation Program by attending seminars and meetings
- Maintain excellent lab book/record keeping practices
- Model and promote excellence and integrity, adhering to the highest quality and ethical standards
- 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

This position will involve helping with laboratory tasks over a range of different areas:

- Human pluripotent stem cell culture
 - Cardiac cell differentiation, culture and experimentation
 - Cardiac organoid culture and experimentation
 - Microscopy, histology, molecular biology and biochemical approaches to analyse protein function
 - Gene editing/therapeutic modulation/drug delivery
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KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- PhD (or submitted for examination) in cardiac research, pharmacology or a related field
- Experience in cardiovascular research in a laboratory setting
- Willingness to learn
- Ability to integrate into a social lab environment and willingness to share ideas
- Outstanding oral and written communication and intrapersonal skills with the ability to work effectively independently and as part of a team in a collaborative research environment
- Data analysis skills and experience working with experimental data
- Demonstrated ability to produce high-quality written work
- Demonstrated ability to prioritise activities and meet deadlines in an ever-evolving environment

Desirable

- Experience in fluorescence microscopy (highly desired)
 - Experience in confocal microscopy (highly desired)
 - Experience in microscopy-based spatial biology approaches
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- Experience in molecular biology
 - Experience in drug testing
 - Experience in lab administration
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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