QIMR Berghofer
Medical Research Institute

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: **Research Assistant**

CLASSIFICATION: **QR1-4**

RESPONSIBLE TO: **Group Leader**

LOCATION: **Herston**

POSITION OBJECTIVES

The laboratory of Cancer Metabolism aims to understand how cells adapt to divergent metabolic stressors and how this is related to carcinogenesis. The candidate will develop novel mouse models of breast cancer using intraductal mammary injection of lentivirus.

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
- Brain and Mental Health
- Population Health

The goal of the Cancer Metabolism lab is to understand how cancer cells and the surrounding microenvironment adapt to changes in diet and physiological homeostasis. Our major current focus is to delineate the molecular mechanisms by which obesity causes cancer. This includes obesity-dependent regulation of cell-cell interactions within the tumor ecosystems as well as epigenetic control of cancer cell subpopulation dynamics.

Our Professional Services are organised into departments that provide specialist support for the conduct of internationally competitive research programs and projects. These include People and Culture; Business Development; Finance & Administration; Information & Facilities; Corporate Affairs and Fundraising; Scientific Services; Legal; Research Governance and Funding; Corporate Risk, Governance and Compliance; Growth and Partnerships; and Strategic Planning.

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
- Collaboration
- Accountability

REPORTING AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Research Assistant reports to Nils Halberg; Group Leader of Cancer Metabolism group.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- You will develop new mouse models of breast cancer through intraductal injection of lentivirus.
- You will perform in vivo studies of cancer development in mice challenged with different diets.
- You will perform in vitro cancer studies.
- 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

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential

- You are required to have obtained an Honours or Master's degree in a relevant field.
- Demonstrated record of achievement in:
    - Experience producing and working with lentivirus.
    - Practical experience with intra-ductal mammary injections in mice
    - Experience working laboratory animals
- Experience working in a research environment

Desirable

- Experience working with cancerous and non-cancerous cell lines
- Well-developed and effective written and oral communication skills

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