

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

SECTION A: Position Context

Position Title	Postdoctoral Fellow
Position Number	
Classification	Senior Research Officer – SRO1 – SRO2 (\$91,755-\$95,196)
Location	85 Commercial Road Melbourne
Effective Date	November 2018

Purpose:

The purpose of this position is to lead the planning, implementation and management of key research projects that aim to increase the numbers of people accessing hepatitis C treatment across Australia. This role is part of the Eliminate Hepatitis C (EC) Australia Partnership, supported by an NHMRC Program Grant.

As part of this role, you will work with the Partnership Investigators to achieve the overall aim of the EC Australia Partnership, which is to ensure high numbers of people with hepatitis C infection have treatment so Australia meets the 2030 elimination targets.

You will establish pilot research programs that will explore the use of Rapid point of care HCV testing to increase uptake in hepatitis testing, diagnosis and treatment among key risk populations and explore the role of Peer workers in increasing awareness and engagement in hepatitis C care both community & correctional settings.

Specific research projects include:

- **Peer EC:** There is little information and evidence about the effectiveness of peers and people's social networks in diffusing critical information about hepatitis C prevention, testing, care and cure to increase engagement in care. PEER EC will undertake a series of implementation research studies to understand how best to use peers to increase engagement in hepatitis C care. This will include overseeing the development of a peer education and workforce development program that will target key affected populations to deliver information and/or provide community-based peer hepatitis C testing and/or provide support/linkage to care for their networks. This study will work closely with community organisations, including Hepatitis Councils, drug user organisations and primary care services and providers, to demonstrate the utility of involving peers in the delivery of hepatitis C services to mitigate structural, societal and psycho-social barriers and increase engagement in care.
- **Rapid EC:** A key barrier to treatment uptake for many people is the multi-stage process of conventional hepatitis C testing and liver assessment. Current clinical guidelines and Medicare funding rules require that all individuals living with chronic HCV complete several assessments before starting treatment, which have been shown to reduce the number of people accessing hepatitis C testing and treatment services. Rapid EC will undertake a series of implementation research studies to assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of point-of-care hepatitis C antibody and RNA testing, including tests that use oral fluid or finger prick specimens. These studies will also explore the utility of these point-of-care tests to facilitate same-day commencement of treatment (adapting learning's from HIV clinical care models) to reduce loss to follow-up care even further. This study will work closely with community organisations, including Hepatitis Councils, drug user organisations and primary care services and providers, to demonstrate the utility of point-of-care hepatitis C testing in outreach settings, primary care services and potentially in peer-led models of care. The results of this work will be used to inform Australian guidelines for hepatitis C testing, as

well as submission to the MBS to ensure Medicare billing is available for point-of-care tests if they are shown to be effective in maintaining people in the care cascade.

The position is funded for a period of 3 years during which time the role will be responsible for overseeing the oversight, implementation and management of these key implementation research studies, including day-to-day management of study staff and site engagement, development of study protocols and operations manuals, data management and analyses using traditional and advanced statistical methods, ensuring milestones and timelines are met and support for translational and operational research, policy development, teaching and capacity development and reporting and problem solving for the full length of these projects. You will also be responsible for coordination of ethics/governance and reporting and to primary investigators and relevant health services.

Participation in the wider activities of the Viral Hepatitis Research Programs and the Public Health discipline more broadly is expected. Training will be provided in all aspects of the position and work will be undertaken under the supervision of the project investigators.

Supervision Reporting Relationships:

This positions' supervisor/manager	Professor Margaret Hellard
Other key management relationships	Professor Mark Stooze, Dr Alisa Pedrana, Dr Joseph Doyle
Other positions reporting to <u>this</u> position	

SECTION B: Key Responsibility Areas

The key responsibility areas (KRAs) are the major outputs for which the position is responsible and are not a comprehensive statement of the position activities.

Key Responsibility Areas		
1.	Project Management & Research Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directly oversee the development and integration of all project activities. Assist in the development and management of implementation research studies that will explore the use of Rapid point of care HCV testing to increase uptake in hepatitis testing, diagnosis and treatment among key risk populations and explore the role of Peer workers in increasing awareness and engagement in hepatitis C care both community & correctional settings. • Establish and manage relationships with partner organisations and technical advisors, including regular stakeholder meetings, to collect and communicate study requirements, milestones and report problems in the field. • Provide follow up support in the field to partner organisations as required and supervise the work of the project staff/coordinators, manage projects timelines. • Assist and contribute information and data to the overall evaluation of the EC Australia Partnership, which aims to achieve hepatitis C elimination in Australia by 2030, through the translations of outcomes from the implementation research studies to inform the Australian hepatitis C testing policy, as well as submission to the MBS to ensure Medicare billing is available for point-of-care tests if they are shown to be effective in maintaining people in the care cascade. • Facilitate and lead regular meetings, to collect input and feedback about the EC Australia implementation research studies and communicate study requirements, milestones and problems in the field to the primary investigators and executive committee. • Develop and maintain project management plans in consultation with the study principal investigators and program coordinator. • Support study design, statistical power and sample size, and analyses for the implementation research studies. • Ensure maintenance of high scientific and ethical standards across projects. • Present project progress reports.

Key Responsibility Areas		
2.	Reporting and publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summarize and communicate progress, milestones and outcomes to principal investigators, program coordinator, colleagues and partners. Write full manuscripts related to outcomes of the implementation research studies, including results analyses, their interpretation, implication for academic publication. Translate outcomes of the implementation research studies into relevant outputs and publications, including manuscripts, policy briefs, and guidelines. Work with surveillance and evaluation team to facilitate access to data and analyses for stakeholders.
3.	Training and capacity strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directly support capacity building through technical mentorship, direct training and systems support in relevant areas. Conduct training workshops on epidemiological data analysis and report generation. Directly oversee the integration of this training and capacity into the program.
4.	People Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide project and operational support, administrative tasks completion, contribute to project plans, organise and coordinate meetings. Lead and motivate staff as required and supervise the work of the project staff, manage work plans and help build their capacity; and, encourage and support their professional and personal development. Plan and coordinate events in project development and conduct stakeholder engagement. Develop and maintain good relationships with wider Burnet Institute and EC Australia staff. Ensure that the activities performed under their responsibility are carried out in ways that safeguard the OHS of staff or students.
5.	Stakeholder Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain good relationships with external stakeholders. Represent the Burnet Institute at project meetings with collaborators, external stakeholders and/or funding agencies. Liaise with participating institutions, clinicians and pharmaceutical companies as required. Attend conferences, seminars and forums as requested. Identify appropriate representational opportunities for the Burnet Institute at conferences, seminars and forums.
6.	Occupational Health & Safety	Refer to the "Burnet OHS responsibilities and roles" document for full details on specific OHS obligations and responsibilities of Employees.
7.	Training	Responsible for completing all required training in line with the position / role.

Occupational Health and Safety

The Burnet has a commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace in accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004. All staff are obliged to take all reasonable care to ensure that their actions do not place themselves or others at risk.

SECTION C: Key Selection Criteria

Qualifications		
	Bachelor Degree in science, medicine or related discipline	Essential
	A PhD and developing track record relative to opportunity in a relevant field	Essential
	Experience in relevant research and related methodologies	Essential
	Minimum of 5 years of relevant professional work experience in clinical research, epidemiological field studies, or public health research	Essential

Experience / Knowledge / Attributes		
1.	High-level research and data analysis skills	Essential

2.	Demonstrated experience in a research / program management role	Essential
3.	Demonstrated capacity to conduct independent research with high quality research outputs including publication and translation into policy or practice.	Essential
4.	Statistical analysis skills and experience in the use of statistical software such as Stata/SPSS	Essential
5.	Previous experience with undertaking research in development, implementation and evaluation of evidence-based materials and activities	Essential
6.	Excellent interpersonal and communication skills including and the ability to engage professionally with stakeholders and display empathy and understanding in dealing with marginalised people	Essential
7.	Previous experience leading the development and writing of academic publications	Essential
8.	Demonstrated understanding of ethical principles underpinning research with marginalised populations	Essential
9.	Excellent organisational and time management skills, including being able to manage multiple research-related tasks	Essential
10.	Experience in the supervision of students undertaking undergraduate projects and higher degrees	Preferable
11.	Experience working in community based settings and with vulnerable and marginalised populations	Preferable
12.	Experience working with vulnerable and marginalised populations	Preferable
13.	Experience in the dissemination of research findings	Preferable
14.	Excellent working knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite and other database packages	Preferable

Other Requirements

The Burnet Institute is a child safe organisation. The incumbent of this position may be required to undergo a Police Check or Working with Children Check as a condition of their employment.

SECTION D: Burnet Overview

Burnet Institute is a leading Australian medical research and public health organisation focused on achieving better health for vulnerable communities in Australia and internationally by accelerating the translation of research, discovery and evidence into sustainable health solutions. The Institute is headquartered in Melbourne with programs that operate across Asia, the Pacific and in Africa.

Burnet's culture links innovative discovery-oriented research and implementation research with development and humanitarian action. World-class laboratory and field-based research is integrated into multidisciplinary programs aimed at the prevention, detection and treatment of diseases of global significance. This unique approach allows the Institute to make a tangible and sustainable impact on health in both developed and developing countries.

The Institute has three major thematic programs – Disease Elimination, Behaviours and Health Risk, and Maternal and Child Health, and two expansion programs – Healthy Ageing and Health Security. Staff within these Programs are supported by cross-cutting communities of practice; the Disciplines of Life Sciences, Public Health and International Development.

Further Information:

For further information, please contact Dr Alisa Pedrana