

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position: Research Fellow (CED.50N)
Reports To: Principal Research Fellow
Classification: Band F

CANCER COUNCIL VICTORIA

Every year, more than 30,500 Victorians will be diagnosed with cancer, and nearly 11,000 will die from cancer. The number of cases will increase as our population grows and ages. Survival will also improve as we get better at [early detection](#) and [treatment of cancer](#).

Since our establishment in 1936, [Cancer Council Victoria](#) has developed an international reputation for our innovative work in [cancer research](#), [prevention](#) and [support](#). As an independent, not-for-profit organisation, we play a leading role in reducing the impact of all cancers on all people.

Our people work and volunteer at Cancer Council Victoria to contribute to an organisation that makes a real difference in people's lives and is valued by the community we serve. In return we are proud to foster a culture that supports individuals to reach their full potential, in an environment that reflects our values of **Excellence, Integrity and Compassion**

DIVISION OVERVIEW

The Cancer Epidemiology Division (CED) conducts a broad range of research aimed at expanding our understanding of the factors that contribute to or protect against the development of cancer, or survival following a cancer diagnosis. It comprises a multidisciplinary team of epidemiologists, statisticians, dieticians, data managers and support staff, committed to understanding how to improve our efforts at cancer control.

CED research is based on several research platforms and programs that contribute to the generation of knowledge about cancer. These include the *Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study (Health 2020)*; the *Australian Breakthrough Cancer (ABC) Study*; the *Rare or Under-Researched Cancers Program*; the *Prostate Cancer Program*; the *Lifestyle Epidemiology Program* which contains two major sub-programs, *Diet and Nutrition* and *Physical Activity*; the *Genomic and Molecular Epidemiology Program* which encompasses germline and tumour genetics, epigenetics and other omics. CED researchers collaborate extensively with other researchers in Australia and overseas.

RESEARCH PROJECT OVERVIEW

A postdoctoral Research Fellow is sought to contribute to a programme of research that aims to:

- (i) assess a range of potentially modifiable risk factors for oesophageal adenocarcinoma and oesophageal squamous cell carcinoma, and
- (ii) investigate whether the estimates of association are modified by smoking status, alcohol use, body fatness, and geographical region, using pooled data from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cohort Consortium Oesophageal Cancer Pooling

Project, an international consortium of approximately 22 prospective cohort studies participating in the Pooling Project of Prospective Studies of Diet and Cancer. The study is administered by the World Cancer Research Fund International and co-funded by the Wereld Kanker Onderzoek Fonds, a member of the World Cancer Research Fund network based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and Cancer Australia.

POSITION SUMMARY

This position is aimed at an aspiring Research Fellow who is pursuing a career as an independent epidemiologist. The incumbent of this role will be responsible for computing descriptive statistics, planning and implementing analyses, as directed, preparing manuscripts for submission, and presenting work at conferences. The Research Fellow will also have the opportunity to identify novel hypotheses and design and conduct analyses to address these hypotheses either using existing data within CED research platforms or obtained from other sources. All work will be completed collaboratively with principal investigator of the project and other investigators, as well as other researchers and students in CED.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Research Management

- Manage research projects as required according to best practice
- Prepare submissions and grant applications for funding by external bodies
- Obtain data use agreements for research projects, as appropriate
- Develop and maintain collaborative relationships internally and with other health organisations, academic institutions, external researchers and industry partners

Research Outputs

- Conceive, formulate and design epidemiological research projects assessing risk factors for oesophageal cancer
- Conduct statistical analyses of harmonised and pooled epidemiological data to address specific research questions
- Write manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals
- Prepare and deliver presentations at research meetings and conferences

Vision and Leadership

- Foster an environment of collaboration and sharing of best practice within the Division
- Supervise students and research support staff

Such other duties as directed and consistent with an employee's level of skill, competence and training.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential Criteria

- PhD in a relevant discipline
- Demonstrated experience in a research-related role
- Sound understanding of epidemiological theory and research methods
- Ability to develop and contribute to the development of research projects and protocols
- Demonstrated ability to write refereed journal publications and present research findings at meetings and conferences
- Demonstrated ability to write or contribute to the writing of grant applications
- Ability and willingness to work independently and as part of a team
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills including the ability to develop and maintain strong collaborative partnerships with individuals and groups
- Excellent familiarity with statistical packages such as SAS and Stata

Desirable Criteria

- Skills in meta-analysis and in the analysis of pooled data
- Experience supervising and managing research staff and students

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Non-smoker
- Right to work in Australia
- Satisfactory completion of National Police Check