

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

**NAME:**

**JOB TITLE:** Research Assistant

### PRIMARY JOB PURPOSE:

To support histological research projects on the elucidation of molecular and cellular pathology in schizophrenia utilising postmortem tissue; To provide technical support to Postdoctoral staff.

### REPORTS TO: (Performance reviewed by):

Professor Cynthia Shannon Weickert, Chair  
Debora Rothmond, Lab Manager

### JOBS REPORTING TO THIS POSITION:

None

### ACCOUNTABILITIES:

Prepare brain postmortem tissue for histology by 1) cutting thin frozen sections on a cryostat, organising and storing of brain slices, pulling of these for experimental sets; 2) prepare homogenates from postmortem tissue for experiments (10%)

Perform laboratory experiments measuring mRNA, protein with a focus on slide-based techniques such as *in situ* hybridisation (radioactive-DIG), RNAScope, immunohistochemistry (DAB and fluorescence (35%)

Scanning, sampling, and analysis of film-based and slide-based *in situ* hybridization experiments of brain; image acquisition and photomicroscopy along with cellular and molecular quantitation via confocal, epi-fluorescent and light microscopes utilising a variety of quantitation software (35%)

Evaluate and write up data results for SRL data management system, conference presentations or manuscript publications (10%).

Maintain a detailed laboratory notebook (5%)

Perform daily laboratory duties that include maintaining cleanliness of lab & equipment, maintain solutions, lab supplies, freezer & tissue inventories. (5%)

### CORE COMPETENCIES/REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor degree with honours preferred in neuroscience, neurobiology, biomedical science or related;
- Experience in histological techniques in either human, primate, and rodent brain tissue;
- Experience with microscopy (confocal, brightfield) and quantitation software;
- Knowledge of human, primate, and/or brain neuroanatomy desirable
- Working knowledge of molecular biology and chemistry.

### KEY RELATIONSHIPS/INTERACTIONS:

- Internally will interact with all Schizophrenia Research Laboratory Staff.
- Interaction with all NeuRA staff and students.
- Interact with the larger Australian neuroscience community by presenting data at local scientific meetings

### WHS RESPONSIBILITIES:

Familiarisation and compliance with NeuRA general policies and all NeuRA Work Health & Safety Policies

Responsibilities of all workers:

- Be familiar with and ensure compliance with the WHS Act 2011 and Regulation 2011
- Co-operate with WHS policies and procedures to ensure your own health and safety and that of others within the workplace
- Attend all training sessions as required
- Do not interfere or misuse equipment provided for the health, safety and welfare of persons at work

Additional responsibilities for supervisors: (PCBU)

- Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) i.e. managers and supervisors, have a duty of care for the health, safety and welfare of all persons in the workplace
- PCBUs must adopt a risk management approach to managing health and safety. This includes undertaking necessary risk assessments
- Attend all required training sessions

**Signed by employee:**

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....