

Role Description			
Position Title:	Research Assistant	Employee Name:	TBC
Group:	Shannon Weickert	Level:	RA-B
Status:	Full-time	Location:	Margarete Ainsworth Building, Randwick
Reports to:	Prof Cyndi Shannon Weickert	Positions reporting to this role:	None
Research Theme:	Mental Illness	Project title:	Schizophrenia Research Laboratory

Position Overview

To support research projects on the elucidation of molecular and cellular pathology in schizophrenia utilizing rodent and human post-mortem brain tissue. To provide support to Postdoctoral staff.

This position will entail: 1) providing technical support, using various different molecular biology techniques including cDNA synthesis, quantitative PCR, immunohistochemistry, microscopy, histology and western blotting; 2) routine laboratory duties including equipment maintenance, cleaning, ordering, and record keeping.

Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA)

Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) is a leading independent medical research institute whose vision is to prevent and cure disease and disability of the brain and nervous system through leadership, excellence and innovation in neuroscience research. NeuRA has world-class research facilities and is based at Randwick in Sydney.

NeuRA's Objectives

"Our vision is to prevent and cure disease and disability of the brain and nervous system through leadership, excellence and innovation in neuroscience research."

NeuRA is committed to improving research quality. Our goals are to:

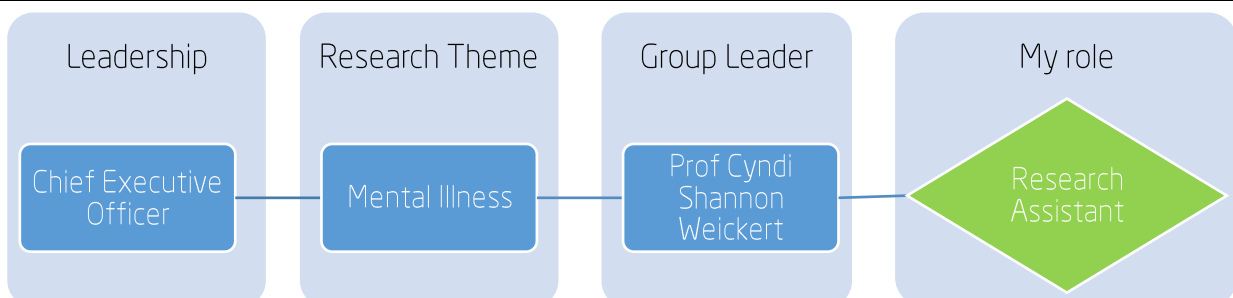
- Raise awareness
- Educate, Train & Foster
- Promote Openness
- Adopt Improvement

NeuRA's Values

Our values are the essence of our organisation – they are the principles that we live by and are at the core of everything we do. NeuRA's values are:

Impact. Collaboration. Respect. Excellence. Integrity. Innovation.

Organisational Structure



Key Responsibilities

- Extract total RNA from various areas of human and animal post-mortem brains. This includes RNA quality assessment with RIN evaluations, aliquoting and inventorying total RNA, and further purifying RNA as needed. Perform cDNA synthesis for laboratory projects. Perform qPCR analysis of gene expression.
- Provide technical support for experiments using antibodies including protein isolation from brain, Bradford assays, Western blot, immunohistochemistry. Maintain and inventory antibody supplies.
- Image acquisition and microscopy along with cellular and molecular quantitation via confocal, epi-fluorescent, and light microscopes utilising a variety of quantitation software (Image J, Stereo Investigator, Zeiss Zen).
- Maintain a detailed laboratory notebook.
- Conduct data analysis as required.
- Perform daily laboratory duties that include maintaining cleanliness of lab & equipment, maintain solutions, lab supplies, freezer & tissue inventories.
- Other duties commensurate with the role, as reasonably required

Measures of Success (outcomes & deliverables)

- Technical support for a variety of research experiments.
- Laboratory stocks and equipment are well maintained and records are kept up-to-date.

Core Competencies, Requirements and Experience

Essential:	Desirable:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor's degree in neuroscience or related science-based disciplines with Honours and/or a minimum of one-year experience in a laboratory environment. • Knowledge of brain neuroanatomy. • Experience of molecular biology techniques such as nucleic acid and protein isolation, quantitative RT-PCR, and western blotting. • Working knowledge or experience in histological and immunohistochemical techniques and microscopy (e.g. epifluorescence, confocal). • Proven ability to show attention to detail, and to accurately plan, execute and document experimental research. • Experience in laboratory administration. • Excellent verbal and written communication skills. • Demonstrated ability to work both independently and as part of a team. • Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience working with post-mortem human and rodent brain tissue. • Experience working in mental health research. • Experience in the use of statistical packages such as IBM SPSS Statistics. • Experience in the use of microscopy and imaging software such as Stereo Investigator and Image J.

Relationships and Interactions

- Internally will interact with Schizophrenia Research Laboratory Staff, including Postdoctoral Fellows, Laboratory manager and Laboratory Head.
- Interaction with all NeuRA staff and students.

Performance Reviews

All staff should undergo a Performance Review with their supervisor annually to ensure they are being supported to exceed in their role. This Position Description will be used to inform the Performance Review.

Workplace Health and Safety Responsibilities

Familiarisation and Compliance with NeuRA general Policies and all NeuRA Work Health and Safety Policies

Responsibilities of all workers:

- Be familiar with and ensure compliance with the WHS Act 2011 and Regulation 2017
- Co-operate with WHS policies and procedures to ensure your own health and safety and that of others within the workplace
- Attend and complete 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 managers and supervisors:

- Managers and supervisors, have a duty of care for the health, safety and welfare of all persons in the workplace
- Managers and supervisors must adopt a risk management approach to managing health and safety. This includes undertaking necessary risk assessments
- Attend all required training sessions

Diversity

NeuRA is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity and eliminating discrimination in all our employment policies and practices.

NeuRA acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work, and extends respect to all Elders past, present, and emerging.

Right to Work

You must have the right to live and work in Australia for the duration of your appointment at NeuRA.

Privacy Notification

The collection and handling of declarations and personal information relevant to your employment or appointment will be consistent with the requirements of the Privacy Act 1988.

Changes

Changes to this role description may be made from time to time to suit the requirements of the organisation.

Acceptance

I have read and understood the requirements of the role and expectations outlined in this Role Description

Name:	
Signed:	
Date:	