

Position Description – Research Assistant

Updated 24 April 2026

POSITION DETAILS	
College/Portfolio	College of Medicine and Public Health
Organisational Unit	Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute (FHMRI)
Supervisor (Title)	Associate Professor and Matthew Flinders Fellow
Classification	Higher Education Officer Level 5
Employment Type	Fixed-term, full-time

POSITION SUMMARY
<p>Based at the Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute (FHMRI) and South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), the MND Centre for Drug Discovery is developing a new generation of therapies for motor neurone disease (MND). The Centre's world-leading research program uses patient-derived induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) disease modelling, automated robotics, and population-scale drug screening to develop disease-modifying therapies for sporadic MND.</p> <p>Reporting to Associate Professor and Matthew Flinders Fellow (Head of the MND Centre for Drug Discovery), the Research Assistant will play a central role in the Centre's 5-million-dollar drug screening research program. Under general supervision, the Research Assistant will assist in the development and application of advanced human iPSC differentiation protocols, phenotypic and mechanistic assays, and longitudinal live-cell imaging to investigate disease biology, therapeutic responses and translational opportunities in MND.</p> <p>Working within a highly collaborative, well-resourced laboratory utilising state-of-the-art research facilities, the Research Assistant will assist the research team with tasks aligned to deliver high-impact discoveries, publications and translational outcomes aimed at delivering effective therapies for people living with MND.</p>

UNIVERSITY EXPECTATIONS AND VALUES
<p>All staff at Flinders are responsible for understanding their obligations and responsibilities as set out in the University's code of conduct and are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate commitment to the University's values of Integrity, Courage, Innovation, Excellence, and the underlying ethos of being Student Centred; contribute to the efficient and effective functioning of the team or work unit to meet the University's objectives. This includes demonstrating appropriate and professional workplace behaviours, providing assistance to team members, if required, and undertaking other key responsibilities or activities as directed by one's supervisor; promote and support an inclusive workplace culture which values diversity and embraces the principles of equal opportunity; perform their responsibilities in a manner which reflects and responds to continuous improvement; and familiarise themselves and comply with the University's <i>Work Health and Safety, Injury Management and Equal Opportunity</i> policies. <p><i>Flinders University is committed to providing a safe, respectful and inclusive environment, free from gender-based violence. Appointment to this role is conditional on the completion of required pre-employment checks and declarations, each of which must be satisfactory to the University. This includes a Gender-Based</i></p>

Violence declaration, in accordance with the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence (2025), and a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check.

Staff working in a health care setting are strongly recommended to be fully vaccinated against COVID in line with the SA Health policy

KEY POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

The Research Assistant is accountable for:

1. Assisting the research team with research data collection (such as assisting with the culture and terminal differentiation of human induced pluripotent stem cells into motor neurons.)
2. Assisting the project team with collection of research data including contributing to experimental research using patient-derived iPSC models to investigate the cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying sporadic MND/ALS
3. Assisting the project team with the implementation and refining of phenotypic, mechanistic and imaging-based assays to support population-scale disease modelling and therapeutic discovery.
4. Contributing to large-scale drug screening experiments conducted directly in human patient motor neurons and assisting in the interpretation of therapeutic response profiles.
5. Assisting the project team in the delivery of research milestones, reporting and outcomes associated with a MRFF Stem Cell Therapies Mission grant.
6. Working collaboratively with colleagues and external partners to support multidisciplinary, translational and discovery-focused research objectives.
7. Any other responsibilities in line with the level of the position as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the University.
8. Some out of hours work (including weekends) as well as interstate and overseas travel, may be required.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Completion of a degree in biological or biomedical science or a closely related discipline or an equivalent combination of experience and/or education and/or training.
- Demonstrated experience in human stem cell culture, including terminal differentiation into specialised cell types is highly regarded.
- Demonstrated capacity to execute complex experimental studies with a strong emphasis on rigour, reproducibility and quantitative analysis.
- Effective to well-developed ability to work within a research environment requiring initiative, sound judgment and problem solving, while contributing to shared scientific goals.
- Effective to well-developed communication and interpersonal skills, with the demonstrated ability to effectively communicate research findings to a wide range of audiences and assist in the preparation of high-quality manuscripts, reports, presentations and research documentation.
- Demonstrated effective to well-developed record of collaboration and the ability to work productively within multidisciplinary research teams.
- *Experience in spinal motor neuron differentiation, neurodegenerative disease research or ALS/MND models (desirable).*