

Position Description – Postdoctoral Research Associate

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	Academic Level A
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 Postdoctoral Research Associate will play a central role in the Centre's 5-million-dollar drug screening research program. The Postdoctoral Research Associate, under the direction of the Chief Investigator, will assist in leading the design and execution of the research project. This includes assisting 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 Postdoctoral Research Associate will contribute to high-impact discoveries, publications and translational outcomes aimed at delivering effective therapies for people living with MND.</p> <p>The Postdoctoral Research Associate may assist in leading students involved in the research Project, according to the University's policies, practices and standards.</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.

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 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 Postdoctoral Research Associate is accountable for:

1. Assisting in leading the Project by collaborating with the Project Research Team to successfully deliver project milestones and Key Performance Indicators.
2. Contribute to the planning and execution of research by offering new ideas, reviewing relevant literature and other sources of information, actively participating in the production of data and attending seminars, meetings and conferences.
3. Contributing to the coordinating, planning and executing the project tasks required to collaborate with industry partners.
4. Contributing to ethical, high quality and innovative research and evaluation through activities such as scholarship, quality publication, external grant acquisition and presentations that aligns with the College areas of research strength and focus.
5. Assisting principal supervisors with supervision of postgraduate students.
6. Establishing and maintaining collaborations within the University, and at State, national and international levels in order to improve research outputs, patents and publications.
7. Some out of hours work (including weekends) as well as interstate and overseas travel, may be required.
8. Any other responsibilities in line with the level of the position as assigned by the Supervisor and/or the University.

KEY POSITION CAPABILITIES

- Completion of a PhD in neuroscience, stem cell biology, biomedical science or a closely related discipline or significant progress towards completion of a PhD.
- Demonstrated experience in human stem cell culture, including terminal differentiation into specialised cell types is highly regarded.
- Experience applying experimental techniques relevant to cellular disease modelling, such as imaging-based phenotyping, live-cell analysis or high-content quantification.
- Experience in spinal motor neuron differentiation, neurodegenerative disease research or ALS/MND models (desirable).
- Demonstrated emerging research experience in terms of publications and presentations at a national and/or international level in a relevant field.
- Demonstrated experience in qualitative research methodology.
- Demonstrated capacity to design, execute and analyse experimental studies with a strong emphasis on rigour, reproducibility and quantitative analysis
- Demonstrated ability to deliver project targets on time.

- Demonstrated well-developed interpersonal skills and the capacity to collaborate and engage with diverse stakeholders and industry partners.
- Demonstrated ability to critically review the literature in relevant fields.
- Demonstrated ability to undertake collaborative research and establish and maintain effective relationships with staff and industry, while demonstrating initiative, sound judgement and problem solving while contributing to shared scientific goals.
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills in an academic environment.

FLINDERS