

Position Description – Research Fellow

Updated 12 May 2026

POSITION DETAILS	
College	College of Medicine and Public Health
Organisational Unit	Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute (FHMRI)
Supervisor	Dean, People and Resources (or Delegate)
Classification	Research (Academic) Level B
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 Fellow will play a central role in the Centre's 5-million-dollar drug screening research program by assisting in leading the design and execution of the research project. This includes contributing to 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 Fellow will contribute to high-impact discoveries, publications and translational outcomes aimed at delivering effective therapies for people living with MND.</p> <p>The Research Fellow will actively report on new and current research related to the research program, through generation of high quality publications and conference presentations. In addition the position will contribute to the preparation of applications for externally funded research funding.</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 in order 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 Work Health and Safety, Injury Management and Equal Opportunity 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</i></p>

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 Research Fellow is accountable for:

- Actively contributing to the research project by collaborating with the Research Team to successfully deliver project milestones and Key Performance Indicators.
- Independently contributing to the planning and execution of research by offering new and innovative ideas, reviewing relevant literature and other sources of information, actively participating in the production of data, contributing to the writing and editing of grant applications and attending seminars, meetings and conferences.
- Playing a lead role in coordinating, planning and executing the project tasks required to collaborate with industry partners.
- Independently contributing to ethical, high quality and innovative research and evaluation through activities such as scholarship, publishing in recognised high quality journals and assisting the preparation and submission of bids for external research funding.
- Supervision of honours and post graduate research projects.
- Establishing and maintaining collaborations within the University, and at State, national and international levels in order to improve research outputs, patents and publications.
- Some out of hours work (including weekends) as well as rural SA, interstate and overseas travel, may be required.
- 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.
- Demonstrated experience in human stem cell culture, including terminal differentiation into specialised cell types is highly regarded.
- Demonstrated 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 research experience in terms of publications in high quality publications, attraction of external competitive grants and presentations at a national and/or international level in a relevant field.
- Demonstrated experience in qualitative and quantitative research methodology.
- Demonstrated experience delivering project targets on time.
- Demonstrated ability to plan and execute data collection and analysis.
- Demonstrated well-developed interpersonal skills and experience in collaborating and engaging with diverse stakeholders and industry partners.
- Demonstrated ability to critically review the literature in relevant fields.

- Demonstrated experience to undertake collaborative research and establish and maintain effective relationships with staff and industry.
- Demonstrated excellent oral and written communication skills in an academic environment.

FLINDERS