

## POSITION DESCRIPTION

<b>POSITION TITLE</b>	Research Fellow
<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	RES 5.5 – 5.7 (currently \$123,466 - \$131,793 base per annum, full time) depending on skills and experience.
<b>ROLE</b>	Full time (36.25 hours per week)
<b>LOCATION</b>	St Vincent's Hospital campus, Fitzroy with flexibility to work from home in accordance with company guidelines

### ABOUT US

The Bionics Institute is an internationally recognised, non-profit medical research institute that solves medical challenges with technology.

Proudly affiliated with Swinburne University of Technology, we lead the world in the research and development of innovative medical devices and therapies to improve human health. Our multidisciplinary team comprises world-class scientists, engineers and researchers, and our laboratories are located at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne, close to our clinical collaborators.

Together we transform the lives of people with a range of conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, hearing impairment, Crohn's disease, chronic pain, Parkinson's disease and arthritis.

### ABOUT THE ROLE

The Vagus Nerve Stimulation Centre of Excellence (VNS CoE) is a multidisciplinary translational research program spanning engineering, neuroscience and physiology, clinical science and consumer partnership, focused on advancing abdominal vagus nerve stimulation (abVNS) as a non-drug therapy. The program currently comprises two key research streams, inflammatory disease and neurological disease, which work collaboratively to accelerate the translation of abVNS into clinical application.

Reporting to the Head of the VNS CoE, the Research Fellow will lead the inflammatory disease research stream, driving studies that investigate abVNS as a potential therapy for conditions such as inflammatory arthritis, endometriosis and multiple sclerosis. This role will focus on understanding clinical unmet needs and major burdens of inflammatory disorders, based on consumer feedback, and designing VNS-based experiments to address them. The incumbent will be expected to understand the commercial potential of the project, as well as analyse data, publish and write grants.

Working closely with several specialised multidisciplinary teams across the Institute, including the animal research, histology, engineering and clinical research teams, this role will significantly contribute to the fast track of translation of abVNS therapy for human diseases.

### Key responsibilities

- Lead the rapid generation of proof-of-principle efficacy data in a range of inflammatory disease models.
- Lead or senior author publications from data generated from your research program
- Identify and capture intellectual property (IP) generated by your research program via engagement with the Bionics Institute's IP committee
- Identify commercial opportunities for your research program by analysing the commercial landscape
- Lead author of large, competitive research grants (>\$1 M) for the inflammatory diseases field.
- Lead author of small, competitive research grants (>\$500k) for the inflammatory diseases field.
- Be involved with the consumer engagement program to ensure our research is shaped and influenced by consumer needs. Form new collaborations with clinical champions and consumers that support a research program
- Engage and effectively disseminate research to both multidisciplinary and lay audience in collaboration with the institute's philanthropy and development team
- Supervise PhD and HRD students and training of staff and collaborators analytically.
- Make original contributions to the preparation of funding body progress reports, and other forms of community engagement.
- Contribute to Good Laboratory Practice, and Intellectual Property development required for device development

### Core Competencies for the Role

#### *Task complexity* – Complex

Work requires the position holder to apply their comprehensive knowledge to tasks and activities. In some cases, at this level specialist or in-depth knowledge of operations will be required.

#### *Knowledge required* – Broad

Substantial theoretical, policy or technical knowledge, may require some knowledge of external environment such as relevant legislation and or government policies.

#### *Judgement and problem solving* – Interpretive

Uses own judgement to solve problems in own work area. Can apply own skills and knowledge to assess best approach to a work task or problem. At this level, position holder is expected to start to show initiative to recommend and apply work process improvements. Has latitude to decide on work scheduling and priorities and can exercise own judgement over when to refer a matter to a higher level.

#### *Level of supervision and independence* – General

Position holder is told what outcomes are expected and when they are expected to be achieved. Position holder can determine own priorities and some work methods and has some scope to be able to choose from established procedures to achieve work goals. Supervision is typically weekly or fortnightly and specific outcomes are reviewed.

### *Organisational relationships and impact* – Strong

Position holder is able to apply their knowledge of their work area and understand the impact of their actions on other work areas and employees. Can provide advice or assistance to others based on in-depth knowledge within field of expertise. Has started to develop ability to recommend changes to processes and procedures to improve operations.

## **ABOUT YOU**

You are a purpose-driven researcher, motivated by translating science into technologies that improve patient outcomes with a demonstrated commitment to maintaining high ethical standards and research integrity. You thrive in fast-paced research environments where the rapid generation of proof-of-principle evidence is critical, balancing scientific rigour with a clear focus on translational impact.

Calm under pressure, you provide clarity and direction to teams, make timely decisions, and create an environment where others can contribute and succeed. You are commercially aware and able to identify opportunities for intellectual property, funding and translation, engaging constructively with governance and commercialisation pathways to help progress research toward real-world application.

An effective and audience-aware communicator, you build trusted relationships across multidisciplinary stakeholders and are motivated by driving programs from discovery through to publication, funding and clinical translation.

## **SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **Essential**

- PhD in immunology, neuroscience and physiology or a closely related discipline, with a focus on inflammatory conditions.
- Minimum of 4 years in a post doctorate position, or equivalent experience.
- Experience working with animal models of inflammation experimentation.
- Evidence of collaborative work within multidisciplinary teams involving clinicians, engineers, and scientists, where you have coordinated and delegated work.
- Demonstrated experience managing multiple research projects simultaneously whilst meeting deadlines with minimal supervision.

### **Desired**

- Knowledge of peripheral interfaces and neuromodulation.
- Strong journal article track record, equivalent to experience.
- Experience engaging in community and consumer involvement.

### **Additional Requirements:**

Prior to any offer being made, and at any point during employment, any of the following may be required to be provided:

- A national police check via Fit2Work or an alternative as identified by Bionics Institute.
- Evidence of holding the legal right to work in Australia with no restrictions.
- Evidence (for sighting) of any vaccinations required by the Bionics Institute under any applicable laws, rules, regulations and government public health orders or directions.

### **OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

As our research transforms the lives of people across all walks of life, we recognise that a diverse, engaged, and united team makes us stronger, and we hire qualified people from all different backgrounds and experience levels.

We encourage employees to speak with your manager or a member of our HR team about the type of working arrangements that would help you thrive in your role at the Bionics Institute.