Position title: Research Officer
Division/Department: Bioinformatics
Position reference: WEHI/MKGS
Remuneration range: 
Position reports to: Laboratory Head
Positions reporting to this one: None

Classification: dependent upon experience
Work location: Parkville
Employment type: Full time
Further information: 
Closing date: 14 November 2016

Position overview
The Research Officer will join the Smyth Laboratory and will take part in collaborative biomedical research projects involving genomic data as prioritized by the Laboratory Head. The appointee will undertake bioinformatics analyses of genomic data generated by research groups at the WEHI and elsewhere and will develop new statistical methods and computational algorithms for analysing such data. The appointee will particularly work on RNA-seq analysis, cross-species expression data, breast cancer and stem cells.

Organisational environment
The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
The institute, established in 1915, currently houses 15 research divisions, containing around 81 laboratories and around 1,000 staff and students, with an annual budget of approximately $100 million (AUD).

The institute’s research focuses on cancer (breast, cancer, leukaemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, lung cancer, colon cancer, and ovarian cancer), infectious disease (malaria, tuberculosis, HIV, and hepatitis) and chronic inflammatory and immune diseases (coeliac disease, type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and transplantation) and continues a strong tradition of collaboration and interdisciplinary programs. The institute has a strong national and international reputation for performing highly influential research and for translation that leads to long term improvements in disease, diagnosis and treatment.

The institute’s main laboratories are located within the Parkville precinct, a vibrant hub for life science research, education and healthcare provision. In addition, the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute Biotechnology Centre is located 30 minutes from Parkville at La Trobe University’s R&D Park in Bundoora. The Biotechnology Centre features facilities for high-throughput chemical screening, medicinal chemistry, antibody production and malaria containment. The centre also functions as an incubator for the institute’s biotechnology companies.
Organisational objectives

Discovery and translation
To make discoveries that shape contemporary scientific thinking, increase understanding and improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer, immune disorders and infectious diseases.

Education and training
To educate and train world class scientists and to attract, develop and retain the best and brightest workforce.

Organizational culture
To provide a vibrant and inspiring organizational culture that encourages, promotes and rewards excellence, collaboration, innovation, creativity and respect.

Engagement
To engage with our stakeholders to improve outcomes, building support and secure resources for medical research.

Sustainability
To build an infrastructure, professional services and funding that sustains our research and maximizes the time our scientists can spend making discoveries.

Organisational values

- Pursuit of excellence
- Integrity and mutual respect
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Creativity
- Contribution to society
- Accountability

Key responsibilities

- Undertake bioinformatic analyses of genomic data, using the R programming environment and other tools.
- Manage and store large datasets.
- Develop effective novel statistical and computational techniques for analysing genomic data.
- Prepare reports and communicate effectively with biological collaborators.
- Develop an understanding of the biological problems being studied.
- Work effectively with other lab members on joint projects.
- Prepare research for publication in refereed journals.
- Present work at lab meetings, seminars and conferences.
- Produce and maintain high quality software.
- Help prepare applications for research funding.
- Attend weekly division and institute seminars.
Key selection criteria

- A higher degree, preferably a PhD, in a relevant discipline such as statistics, mathematics, computer science, computational biology or genetics.
- Strong programming and data analysis skills. Good knowledge of R and Unix would be an advantage.
- Excellent management, writing and communication skills.
- Either experience in bioinformatics analysis or strong motivation to work on biomedical problems.

Occupational Health and Safety

- Comply with institute Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.
- Take reasonable care of own safety and the safety of others around.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and safety devices appropriately.
- Report all hazards, incidents and injuries.
- Attend training programs as documented in individual training needs matrices.

How and where to apply

Applications should be emailed to jobapplications@wehi.edu.au quoting WEHI/MKGS in the subject line. Applications should include a cover letter, a document addressing each of the key selection criteria, a current resume and contact details of three referees.

Diversity

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

The institute encourages and welcomes interest from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders for roles within the institute.

Privacy notification

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