Research Officer
(Bioinformatics Analyst)

Position title: Research Officer
Division/Department: Bioinformatics
Position reference: WEHI/MKSU
Remuneration range: $83,953 - $90,114
Position reports to: Division Head
Positions reporting to this one: None

Classification: A6-A8
Work location: Parkville
Employment type: Full time contract
Further information: smyth@wehi.edu.au
Closing date: 14 November 2016

Position overview
The appointee will join the Bioinformatics Support Unit in the Bioinformatics Division. The WEHI Bioinformatics Division is one of the largest bioinformatics research groups in Australia, with a reputation for developing statistical and computational methodology that has become widely used around the world. The Bioinformatics Support Unit is initiative aimed at increasing the Division’s capacity to support genomic research being conducted in the WEHI’s biological research divisions.

The appointee will work with other members of the Support Unit, undertaking bioinformatics analyses of a wide variety of genomic data generated by research groups at the WEHI. The data analysed will especially include next generation sequencing data designed to profile gene expression patterns, gene regulatory mechanisms or DNA structure. The analyst will use advanced bioinformatics tools developed at the WEHI and elsewhere and will have access to high quality computing facilities.

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 analysis pipelines 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 members of the Support Unit on joint projects.
- Help prepare reports for publication in refereed journals.
- Present work at lab meetings and seminars.
- Attend weekly division and institute seminars and biweekly lab meetings.
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/MKSU 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.