

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Scientific Officer Pathogen Genomics



Our CORE values
Collaboration Openness Respect Empowerment

Organisation	NSW Health
Local Health District / Agency	Western Sydney Local Health District
Position Classification	Scientific Off
State Award	Hospital Scientists (State) Award
Category	Pathology Hospital Scientist (Scientific Officer)
Vaccination Category	Category A
ANZSCO Code	234611 Medical Laboratory Scientist
Website	www.wslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/

PRIMARY PURPOSE

This position is based in the Centre of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, a large public health microbiology reference centre affiliated with the Sydney Medical School and Marie Bashir Institute of Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity, The University of Sydney.

The primary purpose of the Scientific Officer Pathogen Genomics position is to undertake translational research and development in pathogen genomics in order to uncover mechanisms of disease and drug resistance emergence and spread using state-of-the-art genome sequencing techniques.

ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

Checks: National Police Check

Qualification: Science degree or equivalent qualification

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Maintain a thorough knowledge of the principles, uses and limitations of the laboratory's instruments, methods and procedures, and maintain scientific knowledge and skills sufficient to enable contributions to the improvement of the analytical methodology.

Plan, undertake, supervise, analyse and report results of projects developed in consultation with clinicians and laboratory scientists.

Develop and evaluate novel methods of pathogen detection, identification and characterisation.

Maintain accurate secure records of all procedures and experiments including electronic databases of genome sequences and related data.

Participate in the introduction of new technologies by developing and validating methods, ensuring appropriate evaluation and documentation.

Support collaborative and independent research, participate in research projects, analyse and evaluate results and recommend further research to contribute to research activities, including presentations of such work at meetings, seminars, conferences and in suitable publications. Participate in a range of general laboratory duties as necessary. This may involve sample handling, preparation, calibration and maintenance of equipment, instruments, reagents and standards, assisting with stock control and appropriate storage conditions, and cleaning of laboratory environment.

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Participate actively in quality improvement programs, quality control and assurance procedures to ensure national and international harmonisation of sequencing methods.

Participate in the identification, development and implementation of quality and continuous improvement activities in accordance with National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)/International Standardisation Organisation (ISO)/Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act/National Pathology Accreditation and Advisory Council (NPAAC) requirements, as relevant.

Comply with all Legislative, NSW Health and NSW Health Pathology policies and guidelines related to privacy through the discreet management of confidential information relevant to the role.

KEY CHALLENGES

- Maintaining scientific knowledge and appropriate skills to ensure the application of current and best practice techniques, approaches and methodologies.
- Recommending the implementation of new and innovative practices within pathogen genomics to increase improvement and efficiency practices.
- Managing time effectively to ensure the delivery of high quality outcomes within an environment of competing demands. Maintaining confidentiality and adherence to relevant legislation whilst balancing the need to provide prompt responses to stakeholders.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Who	Why
CIDM-PH Director.	Line manager of the position. Provide advice, information and status updates on the progress of work. Seek guidance, mentoring and direction.
Other staff at CIDM.	Senior Investigators, Laboratory Section Managers, Laboratory Service Senior Hospital Scientists, Registrars, Postdoctoral Research Fellows, junior researchers and students. This position communicates with other researchers and staff with a view to collaborate and develop projects and communicate results and outcomes.
Other staff at WSLHD.	Research and Education Network, Epidemiologists, Statisticians, Postdoctoral Research Fellows, Registrars and students. This position communicates with other researchers and staff with a view to collaborate and develop projects and communicate results and outcomes.
University of Sydney.	Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity Director and staff, Sydney Medical School. This position communicates with other researchers and staff with a view to collaborate and develop projects and communicate results and outcomes.
NSW Health Pathology.	Laboratory Section Managers, Laboratory Service Senior Hospital Scientists and Registrars. This position communicates with other researchers and staff with a view to collaborate and develop projects and communicate results and outcomes.

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SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Advanced skills and extensive experience in biomedical science.
2. Demonstrated experience in medical microbiology.
3. Practical experience in next generation sequencing and/or bioinformatics.
4. Demonstrated understanding of molecular epidemiology of pathogens with epidemic potential.
5. Excellent time management and organisation skills with attention to detail in delivering results within specified timeframes.
6. Demonstrated ability to work in a team environment while working autonomously.
7. Highly developed verbal and written communication skills.
8. Demonstrated skill in the analysis of complex issues, problem solving, formulating new approaches and implementing comprehensive change programs and improvement strategies, including the ability to develop and monitor outcomes.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Understand and practice person centred care. Participate in quality improvement activities. Work in partnership with consumers on improving and evaluating the delivery of services. Ensure timely and accurate reporting of near or actual incidents or patient safety concerns.

You must take all reasonable care for yourself and others and comply with any reasonable instruction, policies and procedures relating to work health safety and wellbeing

Risk Management – Staff should actively identify, communicate and escalate risks and understand their responsibility to manage risk in their day-to-day roles.