

Austin Health

Position Description



Position Title: Research Consultant Neurologist- Medical & Cognitive Research Unit

Classification:	Consultant Neurologist HN16
Business Unit/ Department:	Medical Cognitive Research Unit (MCRU)
Agreement:	AMA Victoria - Victorian Public Health Sector Medical Specialists Enterprise Agreement 2022-2026
Employment Type:	Fixed term, part-time (six months)
Hours per week:	3.5 hours
Reports to:	Director of Geriatric Medicine Research, Continuing Care
Direct Reports:	Nil
Financial Management:	Budget: N/A
Date:	December 2024

Austin Health is one of Victoria's largest health care providers. Comprising the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Royal Talbot Rehabilitation, Hospital in the Home and community-based health services; Austin Health is an internationally recognized leader in clinical teaching, training and research, with numerous university and research institute affiliations.

About Austin Health

Austin Health employs near 9,000 staff across its sites; including over 1,600 doctors, 3,000 nurses, and 1,000 therapy & science Allied Health staff, and delivers a full range of leading edge clinical services, including several state-wide services (liver transplant, spinal cord injury service, respiratory support service, child inpatient mental health service). In total, Austin Health provides over 900 beds, including mental health, aged care and rehabilitation beds and a range of community and in the home services. The current annual operating budget is in excess of \$960 million.

Austin Health delivers vital state-wide services to all Victorians, including to diverse multicultural and veteran communities. It also provides community and specialty services to the people of Melbourne's north-eastern corridor in a safety-focused, team oriented and stimulating work environment.

Position Purpose

Austin Health's current vision is to change healthcare for the better through world class research, education and exceptional patient care.

Our values define who we are, shape our culture and the behaviour, practices and mindset of our people. Our values are: Our actions show we care, we bring our best, together we achieve and we shape the future. www.austin.org.au/about-us

Austin Health is committed to providing an inclusive culture where all employees can contribute to the best of their ability and strive to develop further. Find more at <http://www.austin.org.au>

To manage clinical trial patients within the Medical & Cognitive Research Unit to the standards of the department, including participating in the Austin Health performance appraisal program.

To contribute to clinical and translation research within MCRU, Austin Health.

Medical and Cognitive Research Unit [MCRU]

The Medical and Cognitive Research Unit (MCRU) is located at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital Campus of Austin Health and is tiered within the Continuing Care Clinical Service Unit under the Aged Care Services. It is the largest dementia clinical trials centre in the southern hemisphere, and one of the largest in the world.

MCRU has a strong and successful history in conducting numerous clinical trials in various neurodegenerative disorders, with a majority of the trials focusing on Alzheimer's Disease.

Recently refurbished, the atmosphere within MCRU is energetic, friendly, and cohesive, with strong teamwork ethic amongst all staff members. The unit comprises of study coordinators, medical investigators, administrative staff, a recruitment officer and neuropsychologist raters. MCRU has a strong connection with the Cognitive, Dementia and Memory service (CDAMS), a diagnostic and management service for people with cognitive concerns and dementia.

MCRU and CDAMS have strong links with the Australian Dementia Network (ADNeT) and share many collaborative projects.

Purpose and Accountabilities

Role Specific:

1. Clinical Research

- Ensuring that all MCRU requirements for acting as a research clinician are met (i.e. GCP training, etc)

- Attend clinics or other ambulatory care sessions, including those in CDAMS, as needed for the purposes of seeing new referrals for trials and review of patients participating in relevant clinical research activities
- Supervision of patient accrual, clinical follow-up data collection and assisting data analysis for patients participating in clinical trials
- Liaison with study coordinators and Consultants in above duties
- Provision of high-quality documentation regarding patients participating in MCRU trials
- Assist as needed other staff responsible for the development and population of relevant databases
- Facilitate cross-referrals of appropriate patients from external referrals
- Where appropriate, to develop or assist in development of investigator-initiated research protocols.
- Assist with recruitment and implementation of protocol for RACEDD Study, investigating use of digital and blood based biomarkers to assist dementia diagnosis in residential aged care (including travel to residential aged care homes)

2. Meetings and Publications

- Attend and present at educational and operational meetings on relevant topics including but not limited to MCRU internal meetings
- Attend external sites as required for meetings with external stakeholders and protocol development
- Present relevant protocols to the department when appropriate- eg at feasibility stage
- Presentation to local, national or international meetings results of research undertaken and related materials including information on proposed mechanisms of action of the IP
- Assist or lead in preparation of research and related manuscripts that may be suitable to submit for publication
- Lead or assist in the preparation of other research- related materials such as SOPs

3. Clinical Services

- Abide by Austin Health corporate policies and practices
- Participate in Austin health performance appraisal program as required
- Undertake not to reveal to any person or entity dealing and not to make public statements relating to the affairs of Austin Health without prior authority of the Chief Executive Officer
- Participate in the emergency incident response activities, as defined within the Emergency Response Manual, as and when required, at the direction of Management
- If applicable, and if required, participate in leave or emergency cover for clinical roles (by discussion/negotiation)

All Employees:

- Comply with Austin Health policies & procedures.
- Comply with the Code of Conduct.
- Participate in Austin Health's annual Performance Review and Development (PRD) program as required.
- Report incidents or near misses that have or could have impact on safety - participate in identification and prevention of risks.
- Participate in the emergency incident response activities as directed.
- Respect confidential information relating to participants, employees, policies and procedure.

- Undertake not to disclose or reveal to any unauthorized person confidential information relating to participants, staff members, research information, financial information, and business plans, and not to make public statements relating to the affairs of Austin Health without prior approval from the Austin Health.

Selection Criteria

Essential Knowledge and Skills:

- A commitment to Austin Health values
- Registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
- Holds, or is undergoing, specialist qualification for Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians or equivalent in Neurology
- Previous experience in CDAMS setting
- Demonstrated understanding of biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease and their context in clinical decision making for people with cognitive concerns
- Demonstrates, understands and adheres to Good Clinical Practice
- Demonstrates ability to communicate at all levels
- Demonstrates the ability to work in teams and collaborate
- Demonstrates a commitment to research
- Demonstrates a commitment to undergraduate and postgraduate education
- Demonstrates a commitment to Continuous Quality Improvement and commitment to high quality patient care
- Good computer skills including use of email and interne

Desirable but not essential:

- Completed a research higher degree e.g. PhD in Molecular Imaging or Blood Based Biomarkers
- Prior clinical trials experience

General Information

Austin Health is a Child Safe Environment

Austin Health is committed to child safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. Austin Health has zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously in line with legal obligations and our policies and procedures.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are encouraged to apply. For more information about working at Austin Health, please follow this link to Austin Health's Aboriginal Employment website:

<http://www.austin.org.au/careers/Aborigineemployment/>

Document Review Agreement

Manager Signature	
Employee Signature	
Date	