

Position Description

Research Sleep Scientist

Classification:	Grade 3 Medical (Sleep) Scientist
Business unit/department:	(IBAS) Respiratory & Sleep Medicine
Work location:	Austin Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please specify)
Agreement:	Victorian Public Health Sector (Medical Scientists, Pharmacists and Psychologists) Single Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025
	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.
Employment type:	Fixed-Term Full-Time
Hours per week:	38 hours
Reports to:	Breathing Exercise and Sleep Therapies Research Lead
Direct reports:	Nil
Financial management:	Budget: Nil
Date:	01 June 2026

Austin Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Position purpose

The Breathing, Exercise and Sleep Therapies in Neuromuscular Disease group (BEST) are internationally recognised leaders in breathing, exercise and sleep therapy in neuromuscular disease research. The team's vision is to maximise quality of life and longevity for people living with neuromuscular diseases by optimising their breathing and sleep through three interlinked streams of research:

1. Technological Innovation
2. Clinical Innovation
3. Implementation Science

This 12-month fixed-term full-time position is highly suited to a clinical sleep scientist with strong experience in non-invasive ventilation (NIV) titration who is self-motivated and keen to work across a range of projects. Daily tasks will vary but will involve supporting trial investigators and the research team in the running of several research projects. The successful applicant will play a significant role in supporting clinical sleep research activities involving NIV and physiological signal analysis. Primary responsibilities include detailed annotation of patient-ventilator asynchrony (PVA) events from polysomnography data, as well as participation in remote overnight NIV titration studies.

The role requires a strong background in sleep study acquisition and analysis, including patient setup for polysomnography, bilevel ventilation titration, and sleep staging/scoring. The position involves detailed physiological signal interpretation and requires a high level of attention to data accuracy and consistency.

This role may also assist other research projects within the BEST laboratory, specifically those that require physiological assessment of respiration. Tasks may include conducting respiratory and other assessments on participants with neuromuscular disease and providing technical support to researchers developing methodological procedures and with data acquisition equipment.

This position is primarily located at Austin Hospital in Heidelberg; however, as some projects will involve visits to participants' homes, where the successful candidate will be required to travel off-site. Some flexibility in working hours will also be required due to the overnight nature of titration studies.

In consideration of the specific project requirements, a Grade 3 Medical Scientist classification will be applied to the successful applicant; this classification applying for the duration of the of this role.

About the Institute for Breathing and Sleep

IBAS is an incorporated not-for-profit organisation with the mission of promoting, facilitating and co-ordinating research and education in respiratory and sleep health.

The objectives of the Institute are to:

- Promote and provide a focus for research and education in respiratory and sleep health
- Reduce morbidity and mortality and improve quality of life for persons with respiratory and sleep disorders
- Promote occupational health, driver safety and clean air through respiratory and sleep health programs
- Provide leadership and education in respiratory and sleep health
- Attract, co-ordinate and manage funding programs for research and education in respiratory and sleep health

IBAS has been working towards these objectives since its inception in 2000. It has grown from a handful of clinician-researchers to a group of over 150 personnel.

Position responsibilities

General Research Activities

- Contribute to the day-to-day operation of the research project.
- Conduct clinical research according to the requirements of approving Human Research Ethics Committee, institutional governance requirements, Therapeutic Goods Administration guidelines for Good Clinical



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Research Practice, the International Conference on Harmonization guidelines for Good Clinical Practice and all other regulatory requirements.

- Conduct research projects in accordance with the protocol and grant funding requirements.
- Liaise with members of the research team, key stakeholders, students, research participants and Principal Investigators.
- Participate in recruitment of research participants for nominated trials.
- Plan and carry out data collection on nominated projects.
- Maintain accurate and complete research records.
- Support research protocol development, regulatory applications and amendments.
- Contribute to data analysis, and preparation of reports, presentations, manuscripts and other research outputs.
- Attend and contribute actively to lab meetings through participation in discussions and the presentation of research data for discussion.
- Other research and administrative tasks as directed.

Research Data Annotation

- Perform detailed annotation of patient-ventilator asynchrony (PVA) events in previously collected polysomnography and ventilator waveform data.
- Apply established annotation protocols to identify and classify different forms of ventilator asynchrony.
- Maintain accurate and consistent labelling of physiological events within research datasets.
- Document uncertainties, ambiguous events, or discrepancies encountered during annotation.

Remote NIV Titration

- Support remote overnight titration of bilevel non-invasive ventilation (NIV) in accordance with study protocols.
- Remotely monitor physiological signals and ventilator parameters during overnight studies.
- Adjust ventilator settings where appropriate under established clinical protocols and supervision.
- Identify and manage patient-ventilator interactions that may affect therapy.

Sleep Study Analysis

- Perform sleep staging and event scoring for polysomnography studies using standard AASM scoring criteria.
- Review respiratory events, arousals, and other physiological signals relevant to ventilator interaction analysis.
- Ensure accurate and high-quality scored data prior to research analysis.

Patient Setup and Study Support

- Perform or assist with in-home patient preparation and setup for polysomnography where required.
- Ensure appropriate placement of physiological sensors and high-quality signal acquisition.
- Troubleshoot equipment issues during setup or recording.



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- Perform in-home lead removal of polysomnography sensors the morning after overnight sleep studies
- Effectively and respectfully engage with participants and families during study visits.

Support with Respiratory Physiology Assessments

- Perform or assist with respiratory function testing (e.g. spirometry, respiratory muscle strength testing) where required.
- Assist with developing methodological procedures

Selection criteria

Essential skills and experience:

- Extensive experience in a sleep laboratory, evening and overnight duties.
- High level of competency in and knowledge of performing monitoring and treatment methods, with a particular focus on experience performing overnight bilevel ventilation titration.
- Significant expertise in patient-ventilator asynchrony identification and ventilator waveform interpretation.
- Proven competency in sleep staging and event scoring.
- High attention to detail and ability to work independently.
- Ability to troubleshoot technical equipment and learn new technologies.
- Ability to work flexible hours, including occasional overnight monitoring.
- Current full driver's licence with access to own vehicle.

Desirable but not essential:

- Previous involvement in sleep or respiratory research studies.
- Experience in respiratory function testing
- Knowledge of respiratory physiology
- Familiarity with performing in-home sleep studies.
- Data visualisation and statistical analyses skills.
- Experience working with people with neuromuscular dystrophies and neuromuscular diseases.

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Science, Health Science, Biomedical Science, or a related discipline.



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Quality, safety and risk – all roles

All Austin Health employees are required to:

- Maintain a safe working environment for yourself, colleagues and members of the public by following organisational safety, quality and risk policies and guidelines.
- Escalate concerns regarding safety, quality and risk to the appropriate staff member, if unable to rectify yourself.
- Promote and participate in the evaluation and continuous improvement processes.
- Comply with the principles of person-centered care.
- Comply with requirements of National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and other relevant regulatory requirements.

Other conditions – all roles

All Austin Health employees are required to:

- Adhere to Austin Health's core values: *our actions show we care, we bring our best, together we achieve, and we shape the future.*
- Comply with the Austin Health's Code of Conduct policy, as well as all other policies and procedures (as amended from time to time).
- Comply with all Austin Health mandatory training and continuing professional development requirements.
- Provide proof of immunity to nominated vaccine preventable diseases in accordance with Austin Health's immunisation screening policy.
- Work across multiple sites as per work requirements and/or directed by management.

General information

Cultural safety

Austin Health is committed to cultural safety and health equity for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People. We recognise cultural safety as the positive recognition and celebration of cultures. It is more than just the absence of racism or discrimination, and more than cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity. It empowers people and enables them to contribute and feel safe to be themselves.

Equal Opportunity Employer

We celebrate, value, and include people of all backgrounds, genders, identities, cultures, bodies, and abilities. We welcome and support applications from talented people identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, people with disability, neurodiverse people, LGBTQIA+ and people of all ages and cultures.

Austin Health is a child safe environment

We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. Austin Health has zero tolerance for any form of child abuse and commits to protect children. We take allegations of abuse and neglect seriously and will make every effort to mitigate and respond to risk in line with hospital policy and procedures.



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