

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:	Research Fellow / Senior Research Fellow, MATCH TL project
DIVISION / SECTION:	Global Tropical Health Division
SUPERVISOR:	Menzies Timor-Leste Projects co-lead
CLASSIFICATION LEVEL:	Academic level B/C
SALARY RANGE:	negotiable
STATUS (FTE):	1.0
DIRECT REPORTS:	4
INDIRECT REPORTS:	
• SPECIAL PROVISIONS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Willingness to travel to municipalities (by 4WD or light aircraft) several times per year.• Willingness to comply with the Top End Health Services Staff Immunisation Policy and Menzies Timor-Leste Staff Health Guidelines, and provide proof of compliance (e.g., through serology).• Ability to obtain and maintain a current Working with Children Check (OCHRE card). Ability to obtain a Criminal History Check / Policy Clearance Certificate. Willingness to undertake a medical examination and ability to obtain clearance to fly to and live in Timor-Leste.• Vaccinated against COVID-19 and ability to provide suitable evidence to Human Resources• Ability to obtain working rights in Timor-Leste upon arrival.

ABOUT MENZIES:

As one of Australia's leading medical research institutes dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Australians, and a leader in global and tropical research into life-threatening illnesses, Menzies School of Health Research continues to translate its research into effective partnerships and programs in communities across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

The Menzies Global and Tropical Health (GTH) Division is committed to dealing with key areas of public health concern that impact on the health and wellbeing of people and communities across northern Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. With a focus on translational research, we shape our research program through close collaboration with a diverse range of healthcare providers, policy makers and researchers, to target priority health issues. Our aim is to find meaningful and relevant ways to improve the health of people in our region.

Menzies has an office in Dili, Timor-Leste with around 40 Timorese and expatriate staff employed in-country, supporting the delivery of capacity-building and research projects. Several projects are being conducted through the office under a Memorandum of Understanding between Menzies and the Ministry of Health.

SUMMARY OF POSITION:

The research fellow / senior research fellow will be based in Timor-Leste, providing leadership to the Menzies teams working across clinical, laboratory and public health settings on MATCH TL and other projects. (Strengthening Malaria, TB, COVID_19, HIV diagnosis and surveillance in Timor-Leste)

They will be responsible for oversight of MATCH TL activities, supervision of Menzies staff, mentoring and training Menzies and Ministry of Health staff, and provision of technical advice to the Ministry of Health regarding clinical, laboratory and public health responses to infectious diseases including malaria, tuberculosis, COVID-19, HIV, and antimicrobial resistance. The research fellow / senior research fellow will contribute to leadership of Menzies research projects in Timor-Leste, with opportunities for co-leading relevant studies, with a focus on training and mentoring Timorese health professionals involved in research.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people are strongly encouraged to apply

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Support project leads in providing in-country oversight of MATCH TL project activities across clinical, laboratory and public health settings.
2. Supervise Timor-Leste based Menzies staff working on MATCH TL project activities.
3. Contribute to research study design and implementation across key areas of focus for the MATCH TL project, including malaria, tuberculosis, COVID-19 and HIV, and lead as principal or co-principal investigator on selected projects.
4. Contribute to mentoring and training of Menzies and Ministry of Health staff working in areas relevant to MATCH TL project activities.
5. Support Menzies and Ministry of Health staff to develop their research capability as co-researchers on MATCH TL research projects, and through contributions to research training activities.
6. Liaise with Ministry of Health staff at head of department and director levels, to help coordinate ongoing collaboration between Menzies and key Ministry of Health departments and institutions, and other stakeholders.
7. Provide technical advice to the Ministry of Health regarding clinical, laboratory and public health responses to infectious diseases including malaria, tuberculosis, COVID-19, HIV, and antimicrobial resistance.
8. Contribute to written reports and oral presentations for the Ministry of Health, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and other stakeholders.
9. Any other tasks as reasonably required by the supervisor, manager and/or Director.

Additional responsibilities for appointment at Academic Level C:

1. Provide exemplary research leadership, management and cultural integrity within all allocated projects, including project planning, ethics preparation, recruitment, fieldwork, data analysis and reporting.
2. In conjunction with the Program Leads, lead the development of new priorities and strategic research directions, including the submission of grant proposals.
3. Lead effective and efficient administration and project management of multiple projects, including policy adherence, and reporting to funding bodies, human research and ethics committees and stakeholders.
4. Establish and maintain effective and respectful research partnerships with key stakeholders, including communities, services and organisations.
5. Lead the preparation of high-quality academic papers and reports, suitable for peer-review and publication in top tier journals.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

Essential:

1. Postgraduate or medical specialist qualifications relevant to infectious diseases, microbiology or epidemiology.
2. At least five years' experience in relevant roles.
3. Experience supervising a team of at least five people.
4. Thorough understanding of the issues that affect health in low-resource settings, and the importance of laboratory strengthening activities and coordinated public health responses to infectious diseases challenges.
5. Experience in leading health research, from study design through implementation and publication.
6. Demonstrated respect, and a humble approach to sensitively and effectively communicating with people from diverse cultures and backgrounds.
7. Flexibility and willingness to adapt to challenging and changing circumstances.
8. Ability to take initiative, make sound judgements with strong problem-solving skills.
9. Demonstrated receptiveness to feedback, and willingness to respond positively and change approach when required.
10. Demonstrated capacity to work independently without direct supervision, under broad direction and as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
11. Proven time management skills with ability to meet project deadlines.
12. An understanding and awareness of relevant Workplace Health and Safety as well as Equal Opportunity principles and legislation along with a commitment to maintaining a healthy and safe workplace for all Menzies staff, students, volunteers and visitors.

Additional selection criteria for appointment at Academic Level C:

1. A PhD with a record of relevant research experience or equivalent.
2. Demonstrated experience in leading and managing high-quality, relevant, responsible, and collaborative research projects in a research and/or teaching institution of national standing.
3. Demonstrated experience working independently and showing leadership and initiative within a research context, to set priorities, coordinate tasks and meet deadlines.
4. Exemplary written and verbal communication skills with a proven track record in writing high quality peer-reviewed papers and successful grants; and experience presenting at national and international conferences.

Desirable:

1. Previous experience working in health in low-resource settings
2. Tetun, Bahasa, Spanish, Portuguese language skills would be an advantage.

Approved by: Menzies Human Resources

Date: ...22nd Nov 2021.....

