



Position Description & Performance Criteria – RA1

Employee Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Position Title: Research Assistant **Job Classification & Grade:** RA1

Program: (or DSG Group) Neuroscience Program, Neurodegenerative Research Group

Reports to (title): Dr Bryce Vissel

Remuneration: _____

Summary *(this is a summary of the position you currently hold)*

The Research Assistant, Level 1, is accountable under supervision for conducting experiments within his/her Research Program.

Organisational Environment *(this is a summary of the project, department and program you are currently working in)*

The Neurodegenerative Disease Research Group aims to identify, characterise and study mechanisms believed to underlie neurological diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, including mechanisms underlying the function and formation of synapses and the mechanisms underlying neurodegeneration and neurogenesis (stem cells). The group is ultimately interested in how mechanisms that regulate neural plasticity contribute to the outcomes of neurological diseases, especially movement and memory disorders such as spinal cord disorders, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. In sum, the group studies how neural plasticity is regulated at the level of stem cells and/or synapses and aims to understand how these processes contribute to higher order brain functions and how they could potentially contribute to disease cures.

Section A - Essential Duties & Responsibilities of your position

Performs under supervision

- Conduct experiments **under supervision** such as tissue culture, genotyping, maintenance and monitoring of mouse colonies and routine assays
- Record experimental procedures and results;
- Regularly attend meetings with the wider Research Program community as required
- Be involved in junior lab responsibilities such as:
 - Store duties, wash-up and cleaning of shared rooms;
 - Stock control: monitoring and ordering consumables under supervision
 - Media preparation
- Responsible for imparting knowledge in relation to limited skills or experimental expertise
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Self-Rating

Reviewer Rating

Section B - Other measurable criteria *(This can be sole responsibilities, or criteria on a team basis such as publications and their impact factors)*

By When
(date)

Self-Rating

Reviewer Rating

One or two years of experience with a strong background in mouse related work and demonstrated competence in biochemistry type analysis. Knowledge in basic molecular biology techniques, in situ hybridisation immunohistochemistry and other related localisation techniques are an advantage.

The applicant should be able to demonstrate creativity, team spirit as well as good written and oral communication skills. There will be an opportunity to proceed to PhD studies after one or two years of research experience.

Performance Appraisal Rating System

During the reporting period, on average, this individual's performance:

N/A	1	2	3	4
Is new to the role	Requires further development in this area	Is satisfactory	Is excellent	Is outstanding



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Section C - Personal Attributes	Self-Rating	Reviewer Rating
<p>Research Assistants, Level 1 within the Garvan are expected to possess the following attributes as shown below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong commitment to quality; • Team-focused approach; • High degree of flexibility; • Ability to take direction well • Showing ability to time manage • Appropriate prioritisation of workload • Good communication skills • Comfortable with basic decision making • 		

Section D - Key Communications <i>(Who are the people you interact with as part of your role)</i>	Self-Rating	Reviewer Rating
<p>Research Assistants, Level 1 within Garvan are expected to possess sound interpersonal and social skills</p> <p>Internal: Research Program staff – particularly his/her supervisor and the Program Head; Garvan Institute staff members for specific techniques as required;</p> <p>External: Collaborators of the Research Program.</p>		

Section E - Decision Making <i>(What is the level of decision making you are required to perform?)</i>	Self-Rating	Reviewer Rating
<p>The Research Assistant, Level 1 is responsible for and should be comfortable with making decisions under supervision, which have an impact on experimental procedures.</p>		

Skills & Qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelors Degree in Science or Medicine (preferably with honours) • Competent computer skills (excel, word & PowerPoint) •

General
<p>All Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • must adhere to all health and safety policies, procedures and programs of the Garvan and take all reasonable care that their actions or omission of actions do not impact on the health and safety of others in the Institute; • have a responsibility to cooperate with management and staff with nominated or elected OHS functions; • not misuse, damage, refuse to use, or interfere with anything provided in the interest of OHS; • must immediately report any unsafe work conditions or equipment to management; and • must participate in compulsory safety training •

Performance Appraisal Rating System				
During the reporting period, on average, this individual's performance:				
N/A	1	2	3	4
Is new to the role	Requires further development in this area	Is satisfactory	Is excellent	Is outstanding



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Development Plan		
<i>What</i> (activity, action, training, program, course)	<i>By When</i> (date)	<i>What support</i> (who, how, resources)

Comments
1. Reviewer's comments:
2. Staff member's comments:

Sign Off			
<i>Supervisor Name:</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<i>Employee Name:</i>	<i>Date:</i>

Performance Appraisal Rating System				
During the reporting period, on average, this individual's performance:				
N/A	1	2	3	4
Is new to the role	Requires further development in this area	Is satisfactory	Is excellent	Is outstanding