

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

JOB DESCRIPTION

ROLE TITLE:	Research Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	Surgery and Critical Care, Wellington
SCHOOL / DIVISION:	Health Sciences
REPORTS TO:	Kirsty Danielson, HoD
DIRECT REPORTS (FTE):	NA
INDIRECT REPORTS (FTE):	NA

1. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

This Research Assistant role supports participant recruitment for biobanking and assists with laboratory studies related to surgical cancers and cardiovascular disease.

2. ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Recruitment and consenting of research participants
- The collection of tissue for biobanking
- Assisting with the management of the laboratory space
- Isolation, culture, and characterisation of primary human tissues
- Running laboratory assays including ELISAs, Western blots, and RT-qPCR

3. KEY RELATIONSHIPS:

Internal:

- Academic staff
- Research nurses
- Graduate students in the Department of Surgery & Critical Care
- The Research Manager, UOW

External:

- Clinical teams in Te Whatu Ora, Health New Zealand
- Research participants recruited from Wellington Hospital

4. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

Essential:

- BBioMedSc, BMedLab Sci, BSc or equivalent
- Experience in sterile techniques, cell culture, and/or molecular biology
- Enthusiasm for learning new skills and an ability to work across a variety of tasks

Preferred

- Previous experience with research involving human participants

5. TECHNICAL SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE:

Essential:

Understanding of and commitment to confidentiality and ethics in dealing with clinical information for patients involved in research studies

6. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

NA

7. DIRECT BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY:

NA

9. MĀORI STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

Act in a manner consistent with the principles and implications, as well as the University's commitment to the Treaty as articulated in the Māori Strategic Framework.

10. PACIFIC STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

Act in a manner consistent with the strategies and goals contained in the University's Pacific Strategic Framework, role-modelling and promoting Pacific values, equity and diversity principles and cultural safety practices.

11. HEALTH & SAFETY:

Act and work in a manner compliant with current health and safety at work legislation and University procedures, frameworks and guidelines. Role model safe behaviour and practices, share the responsibility to prevent harm and contribute to a safe campus and work environment, including raising workplace health and safety concerns for self, students, visitors and other staff.

12. SUSTAINABILITY:

Act in a manner consistent with the University's sustainability commitments; role-modelling sustainable practices, with a particular emphasis on minimising the environmental impact of day-to-day activities.