

**UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO  
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>ROLE TITLE:</b>	Assistant Research Fellow
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Department of Anatomy
<b>SCHOOL / DIVISION:</b>	School of Biomedical Sciences
<b>REPORTS TO:</b>	Dr Laura Gummy, Senior Lecturer
<b>DIRECT REPORTS (FTE):</b>	N/A

**1. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:**

To provide high-quality research assistance to Dr Laura Gummy in her research programme investigating how proteins underlie the regenerative ability of adult sensory neurons.

**2. MAIN OBJECTIVE:**

To perform experiments with cells in culture to investigate how proteins help neurons develop and regenerate.

**3. KEY TASKS:**

- Experimental design and laboratory research.
- Perform DNA cloning experiments.
- Perform biochemical assays (e.g. western blot, immunoprecipitations).
- Preparation and maintenance of cell cultures.
- Perform and analysis of immunocytochemistry.
- Perform imaging experiments.
- Ensure all laboratory facilities run smoothly and efficiently in support of the research.
- Record keeping, result tabulation and basic data analysis.
- Assistance with literature searches and manuscript preparation.
- Other laboratory tasks, as required.

**4. KEY RELATIONSHIPS:**

Internal

- Members of the Gummy Laboratory.
- Academic and general staff of the Department of Anatomy and University of Otago.

**5. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:**

- Minimum qualification of postgraduate qualification in a relevant field.
- Experience in neurobiology, cell biology or a closely related field is highly desirable.
- Confocal microscopy and immunocytochemistry skills.
- Experience with cell culture.
- Willingness to learn primary neuron cell culture.
- Experience with DNA cloning and biochemical assays.

- A thorough approach to laboratory practice, accurate record-keeping, attention to detail and compliance with all regulatory requirements.
- Ability to work cooperatively with a wide variety of people within a research environment.
- Ability to work independently, without direct supervision, set priorities and allocate own timetable.

#### **6. DIRECT BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY:**

- Supervise ordering of materials required for completion of the research project.

#### **7. 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.

#### **8. 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.

#### **9. 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.

#### **10.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.