

**UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA**

JOB DESCRIPTION

ROLE TITLE:	Research Technician
DEPARTMENT:	Surgical Sciences
SCHOOL / DIVISION:	Dunedin School of Medicine, Health Sciences
REPORTS TO:	Dr Kari Clifford, Research Fellow
DIRECT REPORTS (FTE):	Nil
INDIRECT REPORTS (FTE):	Nil

1. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

This role is for a research technician who will be trained to carry out a range of clinical research tasks. Some of these are for smaller studies (n=30), so the roles have been combined. The tasks include the following:

- To assist in exercise training and testing within our surgical outcomes group, as part of a project exploring the use of high-intensity interval training (HIIT) to improve postoperative outcomes.
- To recruit patients for a trial examining the effects of prophylactic antibiotics on anastomotic leaks and surgical site infections after elective colorectal surgery. This will include taking rectal swabs and collecting clinical data.
- To recruit patients for the canine cancer detection study, including collecting urine samples and liaising with the K9 research team.
- To recruit patients for a study examining the use of an operative humidification device. This will include data collection and taking photos of surgical sites during an open abdominal procedure.

2. ACCOUNTABILITIES:

HIIT project: be accountable for recruiting patients, setting up laboratory equipment for training and tests, assisting with training and recording data. This technician will work with hospital staff and researchers on this project and report any issues to Dr Clifford.

- Recruit participants identified by clinicians.
- Schedule participants for testing and training.
- Assist with testing participants using cardiopulmonary exercise equipment.
- Supervise the exercise of study participants on stationary exercise bikes.
 - For patients randomised to the hospital training:
 - Organise participants to come to the hospital for training sessions.
 - Monitor the health and safety of participants during training in the hospital
 - For patients randomised to home training:
 - Conduct the first and last training session at Dunedin Hospital
 - Arrange delivery of exercise bike to the participant's home.
 - Liaise with Dr Kari Clifford to organise remote support.

- Collect data (CPET, training, and clinical outcome measures).
- Liaise with members of Research Groups - surgeons, technical staff, postgraduate students and scientists

Colorectal anastomosis project (CABE trial): be accountable for recruiting patients, recording demographic and clinical details, taking rectal swabs. Working with researchers on this project and report any issues to Dr Clifford.

- Recruit participants identified by clinicians.
- Ensure trial medication is available to the clinical team preoperatively
- Participant follow up 30 days postoperative
- For patients who will be part of a microbiome study (approximately 15 in Dunedin): Take rectal swabs at preadmission and day 3 postoperatively (or at discharge, whichever is sooner).
- Liaise with members of Research Groups - surgeons, technical staff, postgraduate students and scientists.

K9MD project: be accountable for recruiting patients, recording demographic and clinical details, taking urine samples. Working with researchers on this project and report any issues to Dr Clifford.

- Recruit participants identified by clinicians.
- Record demographic details and take a urine sample.
- Liaise with members of Research Groups - surgeons, technical staff, postgraduate students and scientists.

Humiguard project: be accountable for recruiting patients, recording demographic and clinical details. Working with researchers on this project and report any issues to Dr Clifford.

- Recruit participants identified by clinicians.
- Record demographic details and blood measurements and to take photos of the wound during surgical procedures
- Record postoperative details.
- Liaise with members of Research Groups - surgeons, technical staff, postgraduate students and scientists.

3. KEY RELATIONSHIPS:

Internal

Lead investigators of the project

Surgeons, technical staff, postgraduate students associated with the project within the Department.

Other researchers and research groups in the Department.

External

Patients.

Surgeons and technical staff in Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora - Southern.

4. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

Essential

First Aid certification is required for this position. An up-to-date first aid certificate prior to starting is preferable but can be obtained before starting.

Some understanding of health issues through health-related study or experience (e.g. medical students, physiotherapy student, nursing student, health assistant). This role may suit medical or allied health student interested in stomatherapy or colorectal surgery.

Preferred

Experience with cardiopulmonary exercise testing and exercise training.

Experience with clinical research or patient interaction (such as a previous summer studentship).

5. TECHNICAL SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE:

Essential

Excellent organisational skills.

Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to establish patient rapport.

Be able to work independently as well as within a strong team environment.

Knowledge of basic health science.

Empathy and sensitivity (able to interact compassionately and tactfully with participants, for example for those who could be embarrassed about their stoma situation).

Preferred

Knowledge and training regarding Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing.

Experience with exercise training.

Knowledge and training regarding clinical research.

Experience with qualitative research.

6. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

N/A

7. DIRECT BUDGET ACCOUNTABILITY:

N/A

8. 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.

9. 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.

10.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.

11.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.