

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

JOB DESCRIPTION

ROLE TITLE: Postdoctoral Fellow

DEPARTMENT: Department of Biochemistry

SCHOOL/DIVISION: Faculty of Biomedical Sciences

REPORTS TO: Directly responsible to Dr. Matthew McNeil and under the overall direction of the Head of Department.

1. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

To carry out the responsibilities as a Postdoctoral Fellow on a research project applying functional genomics to mycobacteria. This is a 1 year + 8 month position at 1 FTE starting between August-October 2026.

2. MAIN OBJECTIVES:

- Plan and execute experiments related to a project funded by the Royal Society of New Zealand.
- Develop workflows for proteomic analysis of mycobacterial species.
- Construct and phenotypically characterize genetic variants of different mycobacterial species.

3. KEY TASKS:

- Carry out research, as specified in objectives of project as listed above.
- Provide scientific expertise in microbiology, molecular biology, genetics and biochemistry.
- Contribute to experimental design, protocol development, data analysis and report/publication preparation.
- Assist in technology transfer activities of the group.
- Assist in the supervision of students.

4. KEY RELATIONSHIPS:

Assist in the supervision of students and technical staff working across diverse projects within the McNeil group.

5. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

- PhD in a relevant biological science and a publication record consistent with that of an active researcher.
- Experience in microbiology, proteomics, bacterial genetics, and analysis of large datasets is highly desirable. Willingness to learn new skill is required.

- An organised, and systematic approach to record keeping is essential.
- Ability to relate to and work with a variety of people within a research environment.
- Self-motivated and ability to work without direct supervision

6. EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Achievement of agreed milestones in projects, including presentation of reports.
- Authorship on conference papers and other publications produced by the group.
- Completion of the objectives listed above to a level sufficient for publication purposes.

7. BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITY:

Contribute to the ordering of materials associated with research.

8. MĀORI STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

Act in a manner consistent with the principles and implications, and the University's commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi 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.

10. SUSTAINABILITY:

Act in a manner consistent with the University's sustainability commitments; role-modelling sustainable 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. EQUITY AND DIVERSITY:

Act in a manner consistent with the University's commitment to anti-racism and the co-creation of accessible, safe, respectful, and welcoming environments where all students and staff are supported to achieve their full potential.