



**The Royal
Melbourne
Hospital**

**Advancing
health
for everyone,
every day.**

Could this be you?

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Melbourne
Hospital team**



Position Description

**Medical Diagnostic and Research
Scientist**

Our reputation for caring for all Melburnians is as essential to who we are as any scientific breakthrough we make. We're here when it matters most, and we'll continue to be the first to speak out for our diverse community's wellbeing.

Advancing health for everyone, every day.

True excellence is only possible when we work as one Royal Melbourne Hospital community. Through collaboration, we set the highest of standards and achieve our goals.

1. Be a great place to work and a great place to receive care
2. Grow our Home First approach
3. Realise the potential of the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct
4. Become a digital health service
5. Strive for sustainability

Position Description

Position Title:	Medical Diagnostic and Research Scientist
Service:	Clinical Governance & Medical Service
Location:	The Doherty Institute
Reports To:	MRL Section Head
Enterprise Agreement:	4. Medical Scientists, Pharmacists and Psychologists Victorian Public Health Sector (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025
Classification:	Grade 2
Employment Status:	Fixed Term 9 months, 0.5 FTE
Immunisation Risk Category:	Category A
Date of Review:	October 2025

POSITION SUMMARY

The Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory (VIDRL) is a leading Australian infectious diseases reference laboratory located in Melbourne, Victoria. VIDRL is part of the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (the Doherty). The Doherty is a joint venture between Melbourne Health and the University of Melbourne. VIDRL provides the Victorian Department of Health with virology and Mycobacteria public health reference laboratory services, including surveillance, outbreak investigations, reference testing and research. VIDRL also performs diagnostic testing in virology, bacteriology, mycology and parasitology for Victorian hospitals. VIDRL has national reference laboratory designations to the Commonwealth Department of Health for polio and enteroviruses, measles, viral haemorrhagic fevers and smallpox. VIDRL also has a strong commitment to international health programs through WHO now in its 48th year. VIDRL has WHO Collaborating Centre designations for Reference and Research on Influenza, Mycobacterium ulcerans, and Viral Hepatitis together with WHO Regional Reference Laboratory designations for poliovirus, measles and hepatitis B, and is a WHO National Influenza Centre.

This role will support VIDRL's Mycobacterium Reference Laboratory (MRL) which provides rapid-turnaround diagnostic testing from primary specimens for all mycobacteria – especially *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Mycobacterium ulcerans*. The MRL also provides reference functions for mycobacteria for the state of Victoria, specifically performing identification and susceptibility testing utilising both conventional and molecular methods from submitted isolates within Victoria and the Northern Territory. The MRL works closely with the Victorian Tuberculosis Program.

The role will also involve scientific research project-based work related to the DEMIST project, a collaborative project between the MRL, Burnet Institute, University of Melbourne and Monash University.

Broad responsibilities will include:

- To participate in the performance of specific laboratory tasks within the MRL
- Perform other laboratory duties as directed by the Senior Scientist or equivalent
- Assist with the performance of laboratory maintenance
- Assist with staff training
- To perform and understand diagnostic workflow within a NATA accredited laboratory.
- Conduct work at Physical containment level 3 (PC3) and containment level 2 (PC2).
- To develop research related Standard Operating Procedures
- To independently undertake specific research related laboratory activities and tasks
- To keep concise, auditable and timely documentation of research records

KEY RMH ACCOUNTABILITIES

- To perform diagnostic testing for mycobacteria using culture, microscopy, and molecular techniques.
 - To perform research related testing including, but not limited to, preparation of Mycobacteria inocula, utilisation of aerosolization chamber, determination of colony forming units, manipulation of reporter MTBC strains and flow cytometry.
 - To participate in ongoing training, education and individual personal development
 - Have an understanding of VIDRL standard operating practices, best Laboratory practice at PC2 and PC3, Quality Management System and other compliance requirements from external organizations as required (eg NATA, OGTR, DAFF etc).
 - Provide quality work, service provision, teaching and research as directed
 - Assist students and visiting scientists.
 - Maintain equipment in the MRL.
 - To participate in performance appraisal.
 - To assist in the performance of quality control procedures and the monitoring of reagents.
 - Work collaboratively and professionally with VIDRL laboratory staff and external partners.

Internal

- ## External

- Doherty Institute members
- Clinicians
- VIDRL Clients
- DEMIST project staff
 - Burnet Institute
 - University of Melbourne
 - Monash University

Formal Qualifications

- ### Essential:

- Proven track record of research, including publications and grant funding
- Excellent organisational skills and time management
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Excellent attention to detail
- Proven ability to work well within a team
- Commitment to live the Melbourne Way - putting people first, leading with kindness and achieving excellence together

Desirable:

- PhD in microbiology or related field
- Previous laboratory experience working with mycobacteria
- Previous experience with working in a high containment facility
- Relevant knowledge of microbiological standards, including NATA, Department of Agriculture (Quarantine Accredited Premises), The National Health Security Act (DoH)
- Good Clinical Practice Credentialing

Your performance will be measured through your successful:

- Attention to detail
- Work well with team members
- Follow all laboratory protocols and laboratory compliances

- AT THE RMH WE:**

- ACCEPTANCE

I acknowledge and accept that this position description represents the duties, responsibilities and accountabilities that are expected of me in my employment in the position. I understand that the RMH reserves the right to modify position descriptions as required, however I will be consulted when this occurs.

Employee Signature

Employee Name (please print)

/ /

Date _____