

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:	Insectary Technician
CLASSIFICATION:	TO2
DIVISION:	Biology
DEPARTMENT:	Clinical Tropical Medicine (CTM)
PROGRAM:	Infectious Diseases
LOCATION:	Herston

POSITION OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this position are to:

1. Rear and maintain mosquitoes for use in clinical trials and experimental malaria research
 2. Contribute to the efficient day-to-day running of the mosquito insectary
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ORGANISATION CONTEXT

QIMR Berghofer is a statutory body under the QIMR Act (1945). The mission of QIMR Berghofer is to promote the wellbeing of humankind through medical research, to maintain within the State of Queensland an internationally recognised Centre for Medical Research, to develop that Centre as the primary focus of Medical Research within the State and to co-operate with, and where possible assist the work of other medical research establishments within the State and throughout the world.

Clinical Tropical Medicine investigates how parasites such as the malaria parasite, hookworm, threadworm and scabies cause disease and how they become resistant to drugs used to treat them. The group also tests new drugs and develops novel diagnostic techniques. A program of human clinical trials testing malaria drugs and vaccines involves infecting human volunteers with malaria. As such, a comprehensive suite of documentation needs to be prepared for each study and careful project management is required.

REPORTING STRUCTURE

The Insectary Technician will report to the Insectary Manager, Clinical Tropical Medicine. In addition, the role will work closely with Research Officers, Research Assistants and the PC3 Facility Manager.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

Following training, the Insectary Technician will be required to work within the restricted Physical Containment (PC3) laboratory and Quarantine approved Insectary located at QIMR Berghofer.

Responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:

- Establishment, rearing and maintenance of healthy uninfected mosquito colonies under PC3 and quarantine conditions;
- Provide a continuous supply of healthy mosquitoes for use in human clinical trials and experimental research;
- Infection of mosquitoes with malaria parasites;
- Assist in the smooth running of the insectary, including performing insectary maintenance activities, sourcing and ordering insectary supplies, operation of steam autoclaves for cleaning and disposal of waste material in accordance with Quarantine and PC3 requirements and maintaining accurate records for all mosquitoes handled;
- Assist in drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs);
- Ensure work practices comply with the requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act*, related legislative requirements and the Institute's WH&S policies and procedures

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA (Qualifications, Experience, Skills and Abilities)

Essential

- A minimum of Certificate III or equivalent in science or an equivalent combination of demonstrated relevant laboratory experience and/or education training;
- Good organisational and time management skills, with the ability to prioritise and coordinate tasks to meet deadlines;
- Good attention to detail and accuracy in particular up-to date record keeping and reporting;
- Clear written and verbal communication skills;
- Good interpersonal skills, with the ability to interact with staff across levels of the organisation;
- Ability to work independently and as member of a team;
- The role will involve working flexible hours (including weekends on a rotational basis) to support mosquito rearing. It is also essential that you are willing to work in hot and humid conditions;
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Adobe.

Desirable

- Previous experience with mosquito handling or insectary experience;
- Knowledge of Good Clinical Practice or Good Manufacturing Practice.

POSITION LOCATION

This position is located at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Herston.

Employee:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Manager:

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____