

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE:	Histology Scientist / Senior Histology Scientist
CLASSIFICATION:	STO3 / 4
DIVISION:	Support
DEPARTMENT:	Scientific Services
LOCATION:	Herston

POSITION OBJECTIVES

The primary purpose of this position is to support researchers deliver excellent research outcomes. This is achieved by:

- Providing specialised histology testing and consultation services to researchers across the institute, and externally, in an effective and efficient manner
 - Assisting with the management of the human, financial and equipment resources within the Histology Service
 - Strengthening QIMR Berghofer's reputation for scientific excellence.
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ORGANISATION CONTEXT

QIMR Berghofer is a statutory body under the QIMR Act (1945). The mission of QIMR 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.

QIMR Berghofer Support Division includes Human Resources, External Relations, Finance & Administration, Research Support & Governance and Scientific Services. The role of the Support Division is to provide support services to QIMR Berghofer research staff to enable them to effectively conduct research and development.

Scientific Services provides a diverse array of support services to researchers across QIMR Berghofer; including flow cytometry, microscopy, histology, proteomics, GMP production, animal facilities, veterinary services, analytical facilities, sample processing services, building services, scientific equipment management, cryogenics and stores.

REPORTING STRUCTURE

This position reports directly to the Histology Services Manager.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Complete paraffin processing of histology specimens including: dissecting specimens if required and assessing tissue suitability for one of several programs on an automated tissue processor; taking into account correct orientation, tissue fixation, size, species and composition; and recording sample details and allocate identification numbers.
- Complete paraffin and frozen tissue microtomy including: assessing quality of tissue blocks and identifying possible problems such as poor fixation or paraffin/OCT embedding; employing necessary techniques to obtain work of publication quality; and providing advice and assistance to clients in preparation of tissue specimens.
- Complete routine and complex histological stains including: using appropriate protocols and equipment to stain sections for routine morphological assessment; using routine and more complex special stains to ascertain specific composition of tissues; and developing and modifying existing and novel protocols to suit client needs.
- Complete Immunohistochemistry including: using appropriate protocols for routine immunohistochemical labelling of tissues, Tyramide labelling of tissues and optimising and developing novel immunohistochemical staining protocols for new or untried antibodies.
- Ensure work quality and cost effectiveness of projects completed within the daily work agenda.
- Provide consultancy and training in the fundamental principles of histology and operation of specialized equipment to researchers, clients and students.
- Provide interpretation of experimental results and use specialized expertise to establish new techniques and protocols, including rethinking the way a specific body of knowledge is applied in order to solve problems and searching literature on techniques relevant to research projects.
- Maintain specimen database records.
- Monitor work practices within the work area to ensure compliance 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

- Degree in Science, Applied Science or Medical Laboratory Science and 4 to 5 years experience in either histology or electron microscopy laboratories, or an equivalent combination of formal qualifications and experience at a senior position level.
- Highly developed technical and mechanical skills in the field of histology, including routine Immunohistochemical and Tyramide staining of tissues.
- High level problem solving skills and the ability to problem develop and optimise immunohistochemistry and in situ hybridisation processes
- Sound histopathology knowledge of gross anatomy, tissue histology and morphology.
- Well-developed emotional intelligence, evidenced by excellent interpersonal and communication skills.

- Ability to meet deadlines and multitask.

Desirable

- Experience in the delivery of client focussed services, ideally in a core scientific or research services context