Position Description

Associate Professor – Biostatistics

Level: D  Date: December 2014

School/Unit: NDARC  Faculty/Division: UNSW Medicine

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POSITION SUMMARY
The position of Associate Professor – Biostatistics will develop, enhance and provide strategic leadership in the conduct of cutting edge biostatistical methods and support across NDARC. In addition to his/her own research portfolio, the biostatistician will provide highly developed leadership including supervision, training, education, mentoring and assistance to research staff and students in order to achieve high quality research publications; obtain competitive grant funding; and work closely with partners at NDARC and across the fields of drug and alcohol, public health and epidemiology. The position is intended to provide high-level leadership in the area of cutting-edge methods in biostatistics, to develop and lead collaborative, multi-disciplinary research activities with both internal and external research groups in order to build research capacity for NDARC. Particular areas of interest are linked datasets, prospective cohort study designs, randomised controlled trials, time series analysis and innovative evaluation designs.

ORGANISATIONAL ENVIRONMENT
Overview of the Faculty/School/Divisional Work Unit
UNSW Medicine is a national leader in learning, teaching and research, with close affiliations to a number of Australia’s finest hospitals, research institutes and health care organisations. With a strong presence at UNSW Kensington campus, the faculty have staff and students in teaching hospitals in Sydney as well as regional and rural areas of NSW including Albury/Wodonga, Wagga Wagga, Coffs Harbour and Port Macquarie.

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) was established at the University of New South Wales by the Commonwealth Government in 1986 to extend the knowledge base required for effective treatment of individuals with alcohol and other drug related problems and to enhance the overall research capacity in the drug and alcohol field. The Centre is highly regarded, both nationally and internationally, for its contribution to drug and alcohol research.
NDARC is a dynamic research centre, with approximately 140 staff and 28 PhD students. There are currently over 90 different projects in progress.

**Reporting Relationships**

Supervisor’s title: Director

**KEY DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

- With a particular focus on the area of statistics and research study design, provide academic leadership, mentoring and statistical advice to NDARC staff as required.
- Provide leadership in guiding new work involving novel statistical and evaluation methods to the analysis of data from a range of study designs, including linked datasets, prospective cohort study designs, randomised controlled trials and time series analysis.
- Conduct statistical analyses of research data as required and contribute to the design of new studies, particularly providing advice regarding sample size calculations and appropriate statistical analysis procedures.
- Undertake service activities to benefit the Centre, the University, the community and the profession.
- Produce high quality research, suitable for publication in high quality outputs.
- Apply for research grants and contribute to the established research programs within the Centre and other related research centres.
- Contribute to the preparation of tender documents and/or grant applications for external review.
- Supervision of postgraduate research projects.
- High level administrative functions.
- Cooperate with all health and safety policies and procedures of the university and take all reasonable care to ensure that your actions or omissions do not impact on the health and safety of yourself or others.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

- A doctoral qualification (or equivalent).
- Demonstrated experience in academic leadership in relation to research and scholarship, with a strong record of mentoring other staff, especially early career researchers.
- A sustained track record of excellence in biostatistics in public health research.
- Demonstrated capacity for teaching and supervision of students and researchers in biostatistics and public health research using novel study designs and statistical methods.
- A research focus that contributes to the research strengths of the Centre, including prospective evaluation trials and epidemiology, with a demonstrated capacity for attracting external funding.
• Substantial experience with postgraduate research students with a strong record of successful completions of higher degree research students
• A strong track record of collaborating with industry and community groups and the ability to develop these networks at national and international levels.
• Excellent interpersonal skills including the ability to advocate ideas in a supportive and collaborative environment
• Ability and capacity to implement required UNSW health and safety policies and procedures

It is not the intention of the position description to limit the scope or accountabilities of the position but to highlight the most important aspects of the position. The aspects mentioned above may be altered in accordance with the changing requirements of the role.