

VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, MONASH UNIVERSITY

Research Assistant / Research Fellow (Level A)

Electrophysiologist

Applications are invited for a full time Research Assistant or Postdoctoral Research Fellow within the Department of Pharmaceutical Biology and Pharmacology at the Victorian College of Pharmacy (Monash University). The successful applicant will work with an established team in the area of electrophysiological and pharmacological characterisation of the spontaneous activity in the prostate.

Applicants for the position must hold an honours degree (Research Assistant) or PhD (Research Fellow) in Physiology, Pharmacology, or a relevant Biological Science and have significant experience in electrophysiological techniques, preferably in the area of intracellular recordings. Prior work experience in immunohistochemical techniques is desirable.

Salary Range – \$41 975 - \$56 965 pa (Academic Staff Level A)

Applications including a curriculum vitae with names, addresses, phone/fax numbers and email addresses (if available) of three referees should be forwarded by Friday 27th January, 2006 to:

Dr Betty Exintaris

Lecturer

Department of Pharmaceutical Biology and Pharmacology

Victorian College of Pharmacy

Monash University (Parkville Campus)

381 Royal Parade

Parkville, Vic 3052

For further information, please contact Dr Betty Exintaris on 9903-9071 or betty.exintaris@vcp.monash.edu.au

Job description

The overall aims of this project include:

1. Elucidating the role that prostatic interstitial cells play in the generation of the spontaneous electrical activity recorded in the prostate gland
2. Establishing the role that Ca^{2+} , K^{+} and Cl^{-} channel populations play in the initiation and/or maintenance of the spontaneous electrical activity recorded in the prostate gland.
3. Establishing the role that intracellular Ca^{2+} stores play in the initiation and/or maintenance of the spontaneous electrical activity recorded in the prostate gland.
4. Ascertaining the function of the noradrenergic, nitrenergic and purinergic innervation in the modulation of the spontaneous 'pacemaker' and 'slow wave' activity upon stimulation of the intrinsic nerves.

The Research Assistant / Research Fellow, to be appointed, will be involved in addressing the above aims by conducting experiments using electrophysiological and immunohistochemical techniques. The Research Assistant / Research Fellow will also be involved in the design and subsequent analysis of the experiments. It is expected that Research Assistant / Research Fellow will present results at national and international conferences and prepare manuscripts for publication in scientific journals. Characterising the electrical activity from the interstitial cells will provide an understanding of the basic functioning of the 'normal' prostate gland. Future studies will include comparative experiments in 'aged' animals.

Position selection criteria

- Honours (Research Assistant) or PhD (Research Fellow) qualification in physiology, pharmacology or equivalent
- Demonstrated research skills in electrophysiology
- Ability to handle laboratory animals
- Ability to conduct research with minimum supervision
- Good communication skills
- Ability to effectively communicate research outcomes to the scientific community
- Ability to tackle complex problems, seeking underlying causes by creating and testing hypothesis and developing novel solutions
- Ability to work as team member

Desirable

- Prior work experience in immunohistochemical techniques