

# PhD Studentship



Applications are invited for a 3-year PhD studentship to study mosquito transmission of medically important alphaviruses.

The project is a collaboration between laboratories in the Peter Doherty Institute at the University of Melbourne and the nearby CSIRO Australian Animal Health Laboratory.

The University of Melbourne is Australia's highest ranked University and has an outstanding international reputation for infectious diseases research. The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity is an international flagship for infectious diseases. The CSIRO is Australia's premier science research organisation and the Australian Animal Health Laboratory is one of the world's largest and most eminent high level biocontainment facilities.

This studentship is open to outstanding candidates of any nationality with a high performance in a relevant degree. A Master's degree would be an advantage.

The successful student will undertake research on determinants within mosquitoes and viruses which control transmission of medically relevant alphaviruses. The project will compare mosquito infections of alphaviruses including chikungunya and Ross River viruses. Both viruses can cause debilitating arthralgia and in recent years, chikungunya has severely affected millions of people worldwide. Other viruses may also be studied. The project will initially use virus infectious clones in cell culture. This will be followed by studies in mosquitoes. A key question will be to determine whether infection with one virus affects transmission of a second and if so, the mechanism involved.

The project will be based between the laboratories of Professor John Fazakerley at the Peter Doherty Institute, University of Melbourne and Dr Prasad Paradkar at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory. Enquiries and applications should be directed to Dr Julio Rodriguez ([julio.Rodriguez@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:julio.Rodriguez@unimelb.edu.au)).

To apply, send: a detailed CV; names and addresses of two referees; academic transcripts of prior studies; the grading scheme structure of the studies and a covering letter highlighting your interest, your research experience, capabilities and any publications, to Dr Rodriguez.

The successful applicant will have an outstanding undergraduate background in a bioscience/biomedicine field with strong molecular/cell biology content. Experience in research, at undergraduate or postgraduate level, involving virology or insect vector biology would be considered favourably. Laboratory experience in techniques including cell culture, Western blot, PCR, virology, mosquito biology would be an advantage. Applicants will be based at the Peter Doherty Institute, University of Melbourne but will also undertake studies at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory.

The studentship is available immediately. The position will remain open until filled. The annual stipend is \$31,000 plus benefits and conditions consistent with the Melbourne Research Scholarship scheme which includes a one-off relocation allowance. In addition, \$10,500 p.a. is available for research support, consumables and conference attendance.

12 January 2017