



Our vision

To be a great children's hospital

Our values

Unity, passion, integrity, respect, excellence

Our goals

Excellence in healthcare
Leadership in research and education
Focus on quality and safety
Partners in paediatric care
Improved organisational environment

Position Description

Title:	Research Fellowship in Developmental Medicine
Department:	Developmental Medicine
Agreement:	AMA Heads of Agreement 2002, HoA 2008
Classification:	HM28+
Responsible to:	Head of Developmental Medicine

The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) in Melbourne is a leading provider of specialist public health services for children and adolescents and is the major specialist paediatric hospital in Victoria, caring for children from Tasmania and southern New South Wales as well as other states around Australia and overseas.

The Royal Children's Hospital is embarking on an exciting chapter in its history with the State Government announcing it would build a state-of-art, "world class" children's hospital for Victoria. In order to design a new hospital we must first consider the health needs of Victorian children and their families in 2011 and beyond. The care they need, will determine the type of facilities required. In redesigning the care we provide we must look at RCH as an organisation - the people, processes and systems must fit as well as the facilities. Therefore, the *Building our Future* program has been established to coordinate a large number of projects relating to building the new hospital and organisational development projects associated with designing a renewed organisation.

With a staff of over 3,900 and an annual operating budget of \$270m RCH has an international reputation as a centre of clinical excellence and is a state-wide teaching, training and research hospital providing tertiary, secondary and primary infant, child and adolescent health services.

RCH is committed to a philosophy and practice of Patient and Family Centred Care and quality management to ensure the best possible services to patients. This entails an organisational structure which:

- Devolves decision making and accountability to patient care providers as close as possible to the consumer
- Encourages and supports teamwork, professional development and growth of its staff
- Seeks input and participation of consumers and employees in the planning and evaluation processes.

RCH has a variety of research and academic partners including Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI), The University of Melbourne, La Trobe University and RMIT University for teaching medical and postgraduate nursing students and for postgraduate study and medical research as well as a number of community based partners.

Further information on RCH is available at <http://www.rch.org.au/>

The Department of Developmental Medicine is committed to the care of children with disabilities, aims to conduct and promote educational programs and research activities in the area of childhood disability, and strives to promote policies and principles that will best meet the needs of children and empower their families. The Department has over 5000 outpatient contacts each year in addition to an inpatient unit. Children with cerebral palsy, spina bifida, developmental delay, intellectual disability, the autism spectrum disorders, multiple disabilities and other more unusual conditions, attend the department, some for assessment only and others for ongoing care.

Purpose

The position will provide opportunity for excellent training for those considering a career in, or a substantial commitment, to the field of Developmental Medicine. The Fellow's position is for a twelve month term but there may be opportunities for this to be extended for a second twelve month period. The Fellow will undertake a substantial research project, preferably commencing study towards and MD or PhD. He / she will also be responsible for patient care. It is anticipated that the Fellow will spend approximately 70% of his /her time in research and 30% in clinical activities.

Responsibilities

- Undertake a substantial research study in any field of developmental disability.
- Be responsible for the care of children with developmental disabilities, both inpatients and outpatients.
- Develop an understanding of the facilities available in the community to assist these children and their families.
- Contribute to the teaching activities of the department.

Other responsibilities

- Be aware of and work in accordance with Hospital policies and procedures, including Occupational Health and Safety, Equal Employment Opportunity, Confidentiality, Consumer and Community Participation.
- Be respectful of the needs of patients, visitors and other staff and maintain a professional approach to all interactions.

Duties (operational roles)

- To undertake a discreet research project in the area of disability in childhood. The project should be designed and either completed or written up during the 12 month period or preferably be the first year of an MD or PhD degree.
- As part of developing the requisite research skills, the Fellow should attend relevant courses conducted by the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, the University of Melbourne and other training sessions / courses deemed helpful.
- To assess and manage children with disabilities, and to complete all correspondence and paperwork in a timely fashion.
- To undertake regular inpatient ward rounds and to be available to the resident and registrar for advice.
- To consult and liaise with community facilities that care for children with disabilities.
- To participate in the educational activities of the department, particularly the department journal club.
- To avail oneself of the educational opportunities available through the Royal Children's Hospital, the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute and the University of Melbourne.
- To be involved in the teaching of medical students, paediatric residents and registrars, and other groups as requested in the area of disability in childhood.

Qualifications / Experience

- MBBS or equivalent plus Part 1 FRACP or completed FRACP.
- Strong interest in, and commitment to, the field of developmental disability in childhood.
- Interest in research and the importance of evidence based practice.
- Preference will be given to a Trainee wishing to undertake a higher degree (MD or PhD) within the Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne.

Skills (operational roles)

- Demonstrated skills in paediatric medicine.
- Well developed interpersonal skills.
- Good time management skills.
- A flexible positive approach to work.
- Ability to relate to children with disabilities and their families.
- Ability to work in multidisciplinary teams, respecting the input of all team members.

Organisational relationship

The Fellow will be responsible to the Director of Developmental Medicine and through him / her to the Chief of Medicine.

Developed: June 2009
Developed by: Director of Developmental Medicine
Date of next Review: June 2010

For further details: Contact Dinah Reddihough
Department of Developmental Medicine
Phone 03 9345 5898
Email dinah.reddihough@rch.org.au