

Position Description

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| Position title | Respiratory Scientist |
| Department / Division | Respiratory & Sleep Medicine / Medicine |
| Classification | Medical Scientist Grade 2 Year 1 to Grade 2 Year 4 (RY4 - RY7) |
| Position reports to | Director, Pulmonary Function Laboratory |
| No. of direct & indirect reports | N/A |
| Location | The Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville |
| Risk category | Category A - works in a direct patient contact role and has or potential to have exposure to blood or body fluids. |

| The Royal Children's Hospital |
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| <p>The Royal Children's Hospital's (RCH) vision is A world where all kids thrive.</p> <p>RCH is located within the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct, with more than 45 world-class biomedical organisations and more than 50,000 of the brightest minds working together to make the Precinct number one in the Asia Pacific region for health, education, research, and training. Within this, RCH is also a cornerstone member of the Melbourne Children's Campus, partnering with Murdoch Children's Research Institute, The University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics and The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation. Each organisation contributes to a paediatric academic health centre which is greater than the sum of its parts.</p> <p>RCH has cared for the children and young people of Victoria for more than 150 years since it was founded in 1870. A full range of paediatric and adolescent health services are provided plus tertiary and quaternary care for the most critically ill and medically complex patients in Victoria. Tasmania, southern NSW and other states around Australia and overseas. The RCH is the only provider of heart transplant services and CAR T-cell therapy for paediatrics in Australia. RCH is an effective advocate for patients and their families with a particular focus on vulnerable children and increasingly, mental health in young people. The hospital also supports many health promotion and prevention programs. The Hospital has more than 6,000 staff, a budget of \$850M, 12 wards and 350 beds. Annually, the RCH has 300,000+ Specialist Clinic appointments, 90,000+ Emergency Department presentations and 20,000 elective surgeries.</p> <p>We work collaboratively with hospitals to deliver the right care, in the right place, at the right time. The RCH is committed to the Child Safe Standards https://www.rch.org.au/quality/child-safety/.</p> <p>RCH enjoys high employee engagement and is committed to staff safety and a positive culture through enactment of our Compact.</p> <p>Further information on RCH is available at www.rch.org.au</p> |

| ROLE PURPOSE |
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| The Respiratory Scientist is required to perform and supervise clinical paediatric respiratory function testing in the Respiratory Laboratory, outpatient clinic and where required throughout the RCH. |

The scientist is also required to assist in detailing laboratory policy, protocol and procedures to satisfy the ongoing requirements for Laboratory accreditation. This includes participating in the quality assurance program as well as the staff development and education curriculum.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Provision of Care

- Deliver excellent evidence-based practice for specialised pulmonary function investigations
- Maintain clinical documentation, records and data as per Pulmonary Function Laboratory guidelines and RCH procedures
- Manage time effectively and help triage and prioritise respiratory investigations appropriately
- Critically assess and evaluate new diagnostic equipment relevant to the clinical service provided by the Pulmonary Function Laboratory

Lifelong Learning

- Participate in professional development activities to ensure that best clinical practice is maintained (e.g. Australian and New Zealand Society of Respiratory Scientist branch meetings, annual scientific meetings, postgraduate courses)
- Support other Respiratory Scientists, including junior staff, to review, reflect on and evaluate their own practice

Collaborative Practice

- Work in collaboration across multiple disciplines including Cardiology, Oncology, Neurology, Allergy and General Medicine to ensure continuity of care
- Provide professional advice within and outside the Laboratory on appropriate scientific and clinical matters
- Provide child centred, family focused care through partnership with parents/families

Continuous Improvement

- Actively contributes, as an individual and as a member of a team, to the continuous improvement of respiratory diagnostic quality and patient safety
- Acts to reduce error and sources of risk within the Pulmonary Function Laboratory
- Escalates risk appropriately within the Laboratory team
- Participate in clinical supervision in accordance with local standard operating procedures and/or the RCH Allied Health Clinical Supervision Guideline which are based on the DHHS Allied Health Clinical Supervision Framework

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Essential:

- Hold a Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Laboratory Science) or Bachelor of Science/ Bachelor of Applied Science or equivalent
- Demonstrated experience and competence in the performance and understanding of a wide range of specialised paediatric respiratory function testing

- Post qualifying clinical experience

Desirable:

- Certified Respiratory Function Scientist (CRFS) credential
- Demonstrated experience and competence using Stata and/or REDCap software
- An understanding of the healthcare sector and/or child development

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated ability to work autonomously and as part of a team
- Well-developed organisation and planning skills
- Demonstrated experience working with children and adolescents
- Demonstrated commitment to work and contribute as part of a team
- Experience in clinical physiology and its application to Respiratory Medicine
- A high level of written and oral communication, and interpersonal skills
- Good computing skills, including advanced knowledge of Microsoft Office

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Employees are required to undertake a National Criminal Record Check and a Working with Children Check prior to commencing employment
- Employees are required to maintain a valid Working with Children Check throughout their employment
- A current, full driver's licence for the State of Victoria which is appropriate for the type of vehicle being driven, and comply with any restrictions on their licence (e.g. wearing glasses) while undertaking hospital duties (If applicable)
- Employees are required to maintain compliance with RCHs "Staff Immunisation - Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases" procedure.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All employees are required to adhere to the Royal Children's Hospital Values:

- Curious - We are creative, playful and collaborative
- Courageous - We pursue our goals with determination, ambition and confidence
- Inclusive - We embrace diversity, communicate well, build connections and celebrate our successes together
- Kind - We are generous, warm and understanding

RCH COMPACT

All new and existing employees commit to the RCH Compact to contribute to a strong and respectful culture.

- We do better work caring for children and families when we also care for each other
- I bring a positive attitude to work – I share, I laugh, I enjoy other's company
- I take responsibility for my behaviour and its impact on others
- I am curious and seek out ways to constantly learn and improve
- I celebrate the good stuff, the small stuff, the big stuff – it all matters
- I speak up when things aren't right
- I value the many different roles it takes to deliver great patient care

- I actively listen because I want to understand others and make better decisions
- I am inclusive and value diversity
- When it comes to teamwork, I don't hold back – I'm all in

QUALITY, SAFETY AND IMPROVEMENT

RCH employees have a responsibility and accountability to contribute to the organisation's commitment to Quality, Safety and Improvement by:

- Acting in accordance and complying with all relevant Safety and Quality policies and procedures
- Identifying risks, reporting and being actively involved in risk mitigation strategies
- Participating in and actively contributing to quality improvement programs
- Complying with the requirements of the National Safety & Quality Health Service Standards
- Complying with all relevant clinical and/or competency standards
- Complying with the principles of Patient and Family Centred Care that relate to this position

The RCH is committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce. We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, all members of the LGBTQI community and people with disability.

Position description last updated

June 2025