

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: Research Fellowship in the area of
Preclinical modelling of new therapies for treatment-resistant cancers**

Sydney Vital is a Translational Cancer Research Centre based at the Kolling Institute of Medical Research, Royal North Shore Hospital, in partnership with the Northern Sydney Cancer Centre, Macquarie University and Private Hospital, the Mater Hospital and the Sydney Adventist Hospital. Sydney Vital is funded by the Cancer Institute NSW, with the University of Sydney as a co-funder and the administrator of the grant.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified researchers for a Research Fellowship under Sydney Vital Flagship Program 1: *Preclinical modelling of new therapies for treatment-resistant cancers*. The fellowship will be primarily suited to a postdoctoral researcher with experience in an area relating to preclinical development of new cancer therapies and/or development of new biomarkers. The position will be based in the laboratory of a preclinical researcher who is a member of Sydney Vital.

Applications are invited in the following project areas, but projects mentored by a Sydney Vital researcher in other relevant areas will also be considered.

Project leader: Rob Baxter, Kolling Institute

Recent attempts to target IGF-related signalling pathways as new therapies for breast and other cancers have generally shown poor results. This project will investigate factors regulating sensitivity to therapies that modulate IGF or IGFBP signalling, and will search for biomarkers that predict responsiveness to treatments that target these pathways.

Project leader: Mark Molloy, Macquarie University

Protein kinase CK2 is a constitutively active driver of many growth pathways and a putative cancer drug target. This project will investigate how blocking CK2 potentiates the anti-proliferative effect of MAPK pathway inhibitors in BRAF cancers. The utility of this controlling mechanism will be explored in mutation-specific melanomas, colon and ovarian cancers.

Project leader: Deborah Marsh, Kolling Institute

There is a need to improve our knowledge of inherent and developed drug resistance in order to impact on treatment of ovarian cancer. This project seeks to create and analyse models of resistance to both new molecular target drugs such as PARP inhibitors, and also platinum-based therapeutics given as standard-of-care in the clinic.

The appointment will be offered for 6 months in the first instance but opportunities to extend the position will be discussed with interviewed applicants.

Selection Criteria:

1. Experienced researcher with PhD or equivalent training and experience in pre-clinical translational cancer research.
2. Demonstrated achievement including publications in translational research, particularly in an area relating to preclinical development of new cancer therapies and/or development of new biomarkers.
3. Demonstrated high level written and verbal communication skills
4. Ability to work effectively within a multidisciplinary team and interact with the wider hospital community.

Conditions of the Award:

1. It is expected that the fellowship will be taken up no later than March 31, 2015 and will run for 6 months. Any variation from this must be explicitly requested under Section A(v) of the application.
2. The recipient will be required to submit a written report within 1 month of the end of this fellowship and present the findings of their research at a forum to be determined by Sydney Vital. It is a requirement of this funding that this fellowship be acknowledged on all publications and research outputs associated with its award.

The appointment is expected to be in the range of Level A Academic, Step 6-8 (i.e. up to 3 years post-PhD), depending on years of postdoctoral experience, with exact salary and conditions in accordance with the relevant employing organisation.

Submission and Closing Date:

Applications must be submitted by email in *pdf form* to Sydney Vital Administration at: SydneyVital.admin@sydney.edu.au, by Friday November 28, 2014. Professor Rob Baxter, can be contacted on (02) 9926 4730 or email robert.baxter@sydney.edu.au to assist with any queries.

Applications received after **Friday November 28, 2014** will not be accepted.

The single pdf document must include the following:

SECTION A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

- (i) Name
- (ii) Degrees and other postgraduate qualifications (including institutions and dates of award)
- (iii) Current position including level of appointment
- (iv) Past positions/appointments since January 2010
- (v) Expected starting date if awarded the fellowship.

SECTION B: TRACK RECORD (assessed relative to opportunity).

- (i) **Statement not exceeding 1 page**, outlining (a) evidence of your capacity to conduct high quality, innovative translational research – this may include comments on research training, awards received, significant publications, student supervision and other teaching, collaborations, other research highlights, career interruptions, etc., and (b) your career research objectives with specific description of the translational nature of this proposal.
- (ii) Publications (career total) are to be listed under the following headings: refereed journal articles, scholarly book chapters, peer-reviewed reviews, and other. Include citations and impact factors where appropriate.
- (iii) Research conference, symposium and other research speaking opportunities.
- (iv) Research grants and funding (career total): Investigators, title, years funded, funds each year, indicating proportion of funds going to you if multi-investigator grants.

SECTION C: RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

- (i) Institution and Department where this Fellowship will be held.
- (ii) Name and qualifications of mentor/supervisor (must be a Sydney Vital member).
- (iii) Brief description (**maximum 0.5 page**) of research facilities, academic activities etc. within the host department/campus, opportunities for you to be mentored by senior staff, etc.

SECTION D: RESEARCH PROPOSAL

(**not to exceed 3 pages**, including any figures and references).

- (i) Proposal Title
- (ii) Summary of proposal: in no more than 100 words of **plain language**, summarise aims, significance and expected outcomes.
- (iii) Brief Project Description including Background, Aims, Research Plan, Translational Significance and References.

REFEREES REPORTS (*not part of the single pdf document*)

Please arrange for reports from two referees, who may comment on both your research proposal and your suitability for fellowship funding, to be emailed directly to SydneyVital.admin@sydney.edu.au, by Friday November 28, 2014.

One of these two referees should be the head of the laboratory or unit where you intend to hold this Fellowship. This report must include confirmation of the mentoring/supervisory arrangements for the nominated project, the source of any additional salary funds if relevant, and an assurance that the necessary facilities and funding will be available to undertake the proposed research.