UTR2.243 - THE VERONIKA SACCO POSTDOCTORAL CLINICAL CANCER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Background –

A. Veronika Sacco (‘donor’) died on 22 March 2010 and by her will dated 22 June 2007, she bequeathed her residuary estate ($2,200,000 approx) to the University of Adelaide (‘bequest’) to be administered in the following manner:

‘…the balance of the trust then remaining (comprising both income and capital) shall be paid to The Florey Medical Research Foundation, University of Adelaide to be applied for the general purposes thereof in such manner as the trustees of that foundation may determine…’

B. To fulfil the wishes of the donor, the University established the ‘Veronika Sacco Postdoctoral Clinical Cancer Research Fellowship’. The purpose of the Fellowship is to support an outstanding postdoctoral researcher seeking to commence an academic/research career in the area of clinical cancer research.

C. The aims of the Fellowship are:

- to enhance the Faculty of Health Sciences’ capacity in clinical cancer research.
- to enable advanced research training in a high quality and supportive environment.
- to become competitive in external research grant programs and fellowships.
- to assist eligible postdoctoral clinical cancer researchers to transition from a mentored position to independent investigator in patient-oriented research.


E. The University accepted the bequest upon the trusts specified by the donor and the bequest therefore became the capital subject to those trusts (‘capital sum’).

Name of the fund

1. The capital sum, all income arising from the capital sum and any accumulations and additions thereto together form a fund called the ‘Veronika Sacco Postdoctoral Clinical Cancer Research Fellowship’ (‘fund’).

Investment of the fund

2. The fund is to be amalgamated for the purposes of investment, and held in a common fund, and the net income earned by the common fund shall be credited, rateably, to the funds so amalgamated and thereafter distributed according to the bequest of the donor.

Obligations

3. In administering the fund, the University must adhere to the terms specified and is obliged:

    (a) to invest the capital sum according to the directions of the donor; and
to establish a fellowship in the manner described in the following Rules.

**Rules**

4. The Veronika Sacco Postdoctoral Clinical Cancer Research Fellowship is administered according to the following Rules:

**Qualifications and Eligibility**

The successful candidate should present the following attributes:

- a PhD in either a health, medical or a biomedical related field awarded between July 2010 and July 2012 (unless exceptional circumstances apply: e.g. period of significant career interruption for maternity or parental leave; carer’s responsibility; illness; or non-research employment – but must not exceed two years) - applicants who will submit their completed doctoral thesis before the end of 2012 will be considered, but the Fellowship cannot be taken up by the applicant until the thesis has been passed.

- the ability to undertake, complete and write up scientific research within agreed timeframes.

- strong evidence of a commitment to research and well-developed research skills, demonstrated by publications in refereed journals, presentations at conferences, research grants received and/or other appropriate measures.

- the ability to work with a research group while also demonstrating independence under the limited direction of its supervisor.

- the ability to assist graduate, honours students and HDR students.

**Desirable attributes:**

- experience in delivering oral presentations at national/international meetings.

- experience with external competitive funding from national or international funding organisations (e.g. travel and project grants, prizes and awards).

**Salary**

- The salary offered is Level A, Step 6 ($74,001).

- Plus a superannuation contribution of 17% applies.

- Any salary gap associated with the successful candidate being offered a higher level of appointment by the hosting School, or because of promotion during the period of the Fellowship above Level A, will be the responsibility of the hosting School. The letter of support from the Head of the hosting School must clearly acknowledge this responsibility.

**Terms of Position**
The fixed-term, full-time position is available immediately for a period of three years. A part-time option is possible (50% or more) for the successful applicant who wishes to combine the Fellowship with family care responsibilities.

**Duration of Funding**

Fixed-term for three years.

**Selection**

Applications for appointment will be assessed and evaluated by a peer review panel. Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview. Applicants will be reviewed and selected based on:

1. **Personal track record**
   - quality of academic record including undergraduate, honours and other degrees, research experience and professional skills.
   - quality, quantity and impact of publications (peer-reviewed journal articles, some of which should be as first author, including participation in writing a review/s).
   - poster and/or oral presentations at national/international meetings.
   - external competitive funding from national or international funding organisations (eg travel and project grants, prizes and awards).
   - positive referee reports and the evidence of the applicant’s potential to succeed in a health and medical research career.

2. **Strength of the research team as indicated by**:
   - track record of team leaders.
   - collaborative relationships with other researchers (local, national and international).
   - access to necessary research infrastructure and supportive research environment.

3. **Merit of research proposal**
   - its innovative quality and competiveness.

4. **Intention for mentoring and career development**
   - plans for personal mentoring and career development.
   - plans for supervising Higher Degree by Research students.

**Conditions**

The successful Fellow will be appointed in the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Adelaide.

The successful Fellow must forward a copy of the relevant Ethics approval for the research project, if applicable.
The Fellow is required to apply for nationally competitive research fellowships (National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council) in the final year of the their Fellowship. The Fellow is expected to inform the Florey Medical Research Foundation of such applications.

Applicants may withdraw an application at any time by notifying the Fundraising Manager.

Reporting and other requirements

- An annual progress report is to be submitted 12 months after commencement of the Fellowship or as otherwise requested by the Florey Medical Research Foundation. This report and any further reports should be presented in simple language that the general public can understand.

- A Final Report must be submitted for the project within 6 months of completion of the Fellowship term. The final report must outline how data arising from the project has been made publicly accessible. The final report should show outcomes and publications, research income achieved and any Honours students supervised in the duration. Any publications from the project that have not been published or submitted in appropriate peer reviewed journals must be justified in the Final Report.

- From time to time, the Florey Medical Research Foundation may invite the Fellow to attend relevant events, or provide information pertaining to the Fellowship.

- Information provided by the Fellow may be used for media, online promotional, fundraising and public relations purposes. Failure to submit requested reports may preclude the applicant from receiving further or additional funding from the Faculty of Health Sciences. The Fellow is requested to acknowledge the funding provided by the Florey Medical Research Foundation in all forms of publication and media promotions relating to the work conducted as part of this Fellowship.

- The Fellow will be requested to provide a recent photograph to be used for promotional purposes.

Responsible Conduct of Research

Applicants are reminded that research at the University of Adelaide must comply with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, which can be found at: http://www.adelaide.edu.au/research/integrity/code/.

Applicants must not contact Peer Review Panel members in relation to their application, or the peer review process. Similarly, peer review members must not contact applicants.