Wesfarmers Chair in Women’s Cancers
Centre for Medical Research
Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES
Appointment of

Wesfarmers Chair in Women’s Cancers
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Introduction

On behalf of the University I welcome your interest in the inaugural Wesfarmers Chair in Women’s Cancers, created to provide academic leadership and direction in world-class cancer research.

The University is now ranked 4th in Australia and has a significant reputation internationally as a result of being ranked 88th in the world by the internationally recognised Academic Ranking of World Universities published by China’s Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Our success continues a trend that has seen UWA leap 39 places globally since 2008.

Building on a fifteen year track record of scientific discovery and with a team of more than 200 researchers and research support staff, the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research has entered a significant phase of growth with a focus on three major disease areas:

- Cancer;
- Cardiovascular disease and diabetes; and
- Molecular medicine.

The Perkins recently relocated into two new research centres each embedded in the heart of an academic and clinical teaching hub. We are embracing this move as a once in a lifetime opportunity and a foundation from which we will expand our research base and drive translational outcomes.

The new buildings also house a number of unique state facilities and provide a stimulating environment for researchers with ease of access to state-of-the-art technologies and a culture of collaboration.

To continue to build our vibrant and innovative research community we are recruiting the world’s best to create a critical mass of talent and expertise dedicated to defeating disease.

The Perkins is seeking an outstanding scientist to lead the newly established Centre for Women’s Cancers. The successful applicant will be recognised at a national and international level as an authority in their discipline.

The Wesfarmers Professor of Women’s Cancers will have the opportunity of making a major impact in the area and will play a key role in creating a world-class team of high quality investigators focused on women’s cancers research.

On behalf of the Perkins, I welcome your application.

Professor Peter Leedman
Director, Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research

The University continues to build on its reputation for excellence and is a major research contributor in the medical and health sectors and other areas that align with national research and innovation priorities.

This new Professorial position in the Centre for Medical Research and the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research provides a challenging and exciting opportunity for a suitably qualified person with an established record of achievement in cancer research. We are seeking to appoint a leading academic to build on the academic presence in this discipline and develop a team in their specific area of interest.

The Professor of Women’s Cancers will facilitate linkages to research projects within the Centre for Medical Research and the Perkins to benefit from substantial collaborative opportunities and augment existing programs.

I invite you to consider the exciting possibilities available for this new position.

Professor Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor

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A dynamic and progressive institution, The University of Western Australia is a member of the prestigious Group-of-Eight partnership of leading Australian research-intensive universities. It is recognised internationally as an excellent teaching and research university, and a leading intellectual and creative resource to the community it serves.

The University of Western Australia is a high-quality research-intensive university with a broad and balanced coverage of disciplines in the arts, science and major professions. It is Western Australia’s oldest university, established in 1911, and currently has a student population of approximately 25,000.

The University has acquired an international reputation for excellence and enterprise and is regarded as one of Australia’s best research institutions. Its strong research culture sees it attract high levels of competitive research funding. At the same time the University places great emphasis on high quality in teaching and learning, and is committed to the development of innovative and responsive programs. It has focused on the teaching research nexus, so that teaching and learning take place in an atmosphere of research scholarship.

The University’s high quality teaching and research ensure it remains the university of preference for Western Australia’s highest achieving school leavers, as well as attracting high-calibre undergraduate and postgraduate students from around the nation and overseas. The quality of the student population is extremely high by national and international standards.

The University is recognised nationally and internationally for the quality of its academic staff and has strong strategic partnerships with industry, the professions and government. It operates in collaboration with other research intensive universities in Australia and around the world. The University of Western Australia graduates are highly competitive internationally, achieving success in higher study and in wide-ranging fields of employment. Many graduates have risen to prominence in leadership roles in industry, government, education and the professions, in Australia and internationally.

uwa.edu.au
Our vision that Western Australia will be a world leader in medical research, is driven by the knowledge that outstanding local medical research will accelerate the delivery of the latest breakthroughs to Western Australians.

As Western Australia’s premier adult medical research institute our priority is to recruit and build internationally renowned highly skilled research teams comprising clinicians, scientists, biostatisticians and pathologists, working together within a state-of-the-art facility utilising cutting-edge technologies to make new discoveries and translate this new knowledge into more effective treatments and cures.

Closely linked to Perth’s major teaching hospitals, the Perkins is uniquely positioned to fast track the development of new treatments and diagnostic algorithms supported by its world class preclinical imaging facility and phase one clinical trials facility. The strong collaborative ties with clinical colleagues ensures that each stage of the pipeline from the lab bench to the bedside is fully supported and accessible.

In 2014 we opened our ten story Perkins collaborative research centre on the QEII Medical Centre campus in the heart of Perth’s clinical and academic research hub. In 2015 we will open our second new research facility housed at the new multibillion dollar Fiona Stanley Hospital, Murdoch.

The Wesfarmers Chair in Women’s Cancers will lead the new Centre for Women’s Cancers focused on defeating two of the most challenging cancers facing women, breast and ovarian cancer. The Professorial Chair will significantly contribute to the understanding of women’s cancers resulting in more effective and targeted treatments.

Within the Perkins, several research groups across a range of scientific disciplines collaborate toward a common mission: reducing breast cancer incidence and death. Current project areas include determining the role of hormones in cancer risk, developing new techniques for treatment and, understanding how tumours grow and spread on a cellular level.

Cancer researchers at the Perkins have made significant breakthroughs in breast cancer. The Cancer Program recently discovered three new molecules that are key regulators in the oestrogen receptor signalling pathway. Perkins researchers have also been central investigators in a $5m five year national breast cancer program grant collaborative funded by the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

The appointment of a Chair in Women’s Cancers will provide leadership to develop a new research focus on challenging cancers such as triple negative breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

As the founding sponsor and major supporter of the Perkins, Wesfarmers has made an extraordinary contribution to medical research and the health of the Western Australian community. This investment has resulted in breakthrough discoveries and has also enabled the Perkins to attract high quality researchers and engage in increased clinical trials improving the quality of care received by the community.

With the ongoing support of medical research from Wesfarmers and the formation of the Centre for Women’s Research we anticipate many more inspiring and innovative discoveries will follow.
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

The Faculty of Medicine was initially established in 1956. The medical course is undertaken at the Crawley campus of the University, community health centres, and in 15 teaching hospitals in the Perth metropolitan area.

Research

The establishment of UWA Research Centres within highly successful Research Institutes (Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, Telethon Kids Institute; Lions Eye Institute; Western Australian Neurosciences Research Institute) has provided a vehicle for inter- and intra-Faculty biomedical research.

Major research is conducted within the Faculty in many areas including respiratory diseases, especially asthma, mesothelioma and industrial lung disease; the genetic and environmental contributions of health and disease; causes and prevention of osteoporosis; tissue regeneration; skin and several other cancers; heart disease; ophthalmological disorders; and cellular and molecular biology.

Further specific information on the Faculty may be found at meddent.uwa.edu.au
Role, key responsibilities, selection criteria and conditions of employment

Role
The Chair in Women’s Cancers will provide academic leadership and foster excellence in teaching and play a key role in creating a world class team of high quality investigators focussed on internationally recognised cancer research.

The Chair will be responsible to the Head of the Centre for Medical Research and to the Director of the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research.

Key responsibilities
• Drive a program of internationally recognised innovative cancer research activity, with success in national/international grant funding.
• Provide leadership in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching (fostering PhDs and other degrees) and their research specialty.
• Provide academic leadership and foster and expand collaborative relationships with other clinical and basic research groups locally, nationally and internationally.
• Communicate research findings through scientific publications, reports, meetings and teaching.
• Liaise and effectively communicate with relevant sections of the community and professional bodies.
• Support the University’s commitment to safety, equity and diversity principles.

Selection criteria
Qualifications
• A PhD or equivalent is essential.
• Publication of a substantial body of work in peer reviewed journals.
• Recognition at a national and international level as an authority in their field.

The successful candidate will demonstrate:

Leadership and management
• Ability to provide leadership in an academic environment.
• A capacity to work in a multidisciplinary team.
• High level of interpersonal skills to communicate effectively with members of the academic and medical staff and, where appropriate, professional bodies, industry and the general community.

Research
• A personal commitment to, and achievement in, scholarly research.
• Ability to foster the research of others and to work harmoniously with colleagues and students.
• Evidence of successful supervision of postgraduate students and willingness to supervise honours or postgraduate research projects.
• Ability to attract significant research resources.

Teaching
• A proven track-record of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
• A personal commitment to, and a high quality of, teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

General
• Demonstrated commitment to the principles of equity and diversity.
Conditions of employment

The appointment will be for a fixed term period of five years with the possibility for further periods. A competitive remuneration package will be offered and will include:

- Employer contribution to superannuation of 17% (standard employee contribution is 7%);
- Recreation leave of 20 working days per annum;
- Long service leave;
- Eligibility for sabbatical leave;
- A substantial funding package comprising an attractive allowance for research support staff, consumables and a generous start-up budget;
- Relocation assistance including air fares will be offered for the appointee and dependants.
Western Australia and Perth

The resource-rich State of Western Australia is the economic powerhouse of Australia. Western Australia is the principal Australian supplier of natural resources and energy to international partners, including China, India, Japan, South Korea and much of South-East Asia. Western Australia's diverse inventory of minerals and energy, as well as its agricultural and fisheries resources, account for 25 per cent of the nation’s exports and place the State at the heart of Australian economic growth and transformation.

Western Australia and its capital Perth occupy the same time zone as 60 per cent of the world’s population and the nations that promise the greatest economic growth of the 21st century. Western Australia is also Australia’s largest state, covering some 2.5 million square kilometres and 12,500 kilometres of coastline, including some of the most ancient landscapes in the world. The State’s population is matching the rapid growth of the economy and is over two million.

Perth is a cosmopolitan city, with wide ethnic and cultural diversity. The city centre is on the Swan River 12 kilometres from the Indian Ocean port of Fremantle.

The city enjoys a Mediterranean climate, with more hours of sunshine than any other capital city in Australia. Summers are hot and dry and the winters mild and wet. Perth’s world-famous beaches and rivers, extensive parklands and variety of restaurants and cafes provide a superb living environment. For more information see: tourism.wa.gov.au

Perth is well served with art galleries, theatres and cinemas and is home to the WA Symphony Orchestra, the WA Ballet and the WA Opera. The cultural highlight of the year is the Perth International Arts Festival, founded and owned by The University of Western Australia – uwa.edu.au/perthfestival

Western Australia’s five universities and wide variety of public and private schools, vocational institutions and English language colleges provide quality assured education with flexible study pathways and state-of-the-art facilities. Perth continues to build its reputation as a destination for international students seeking a quality education – studyperth.com.au
Thank you for your interest. If you wish to proceed, the following information will assist you with your application. Refer also to the selection criteria on page 6.

There are no specific application forms to complete. Your application must include the following:

- A statement that clearly demonstrates the extent to which you satisfy each of the selection criteria;
- Evidence of the impact of your research beyond academia, such as through contributions made to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life;
- A curriculum vitae that provides your personal details, qualifications and work history;
- A list of publications;
- The names, email, mailing addresses and the telephone contact details of six referees who can be contacted for a confidential report. Please note that your permission will be sought before referees are contacted.

Please also note: If you are the successful candidate for this position and you are not an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent resident of Australia, you will be required to obtain an entry visa to work here. The University of Western Australia will sponsor you for employment in Australia under the Employer Nomination Scheme.

Lodging your application

Applications must be submitted by email to:
Dr Rachel Lucas
RLCSearch
rachel@rlcsearch.com

Please include in the subject line:
Chair in Women’s Cancers

Referees

Please submit contact details for 6 referees

Enquiries and further information (including closing date)

For further details or to discuss the position in confidence please contact:

Dr Rachel Lucas
Director, RLCSearch
rachel@rlcsearch.com
+61 402 891 029

OR

Dr Kathryn Buller
Senior Consultant, RLCSearch
kathryn@rlcsearch.com
+61 406 320 281