Biomedical Research Victoria ‘Researcher in Residence’ Scheme

Is a short-term ‘Researcher in Residence’ opportunity for early career researchers from Biomedical Research Victoria Member organisations to be placed part-time in the Victorian office of a range of state and federal parliamentarians and government agencies.

Researchers join the staff of the office on relevant work, such as carrying out a short research project to provide evidence to support the development of science, innovation, health and/or biomedical research policy papers. If applicable, the Researcher may also travel to Canberra with the MP on at least one occasion when parliament is sitting.

Goals of the program

- Provide an opportunity for a postgraduate biomedical research scientist to gain an understanding of political and parliamentary processes
- Enable a parliamentarian to receive background information and advice on current issues in health and medical research
- Establish ongoing, two way, links between the parliamentarian and the health and medical research community

Benefits

For the Researcher in Residence:

- Learn how to work effectively with parliamentarians and government
- Enhance the science and medical research community’s capacity to effectively participate in policy development by learning about parliamentary processes and engaging with parliamentarians and government.
- Establish ongoing links with the parliamentarian

For the MP:

- Clarify policy priorities of relevance to the science and medical research community
- Enhance familiarity with stakeholders and their interests in the science, innovation, health and/or biomedical research community, including developing contacts and relationships
- Receive background briefings and advice on current and future government initiatives and proposed legislation through the provision of up to date, credible information

For both:

- Explore potential solutions to identified problems
- Keep track of the status of relevant issues (e.g. reviews, consultations, legislation) at the State or Commonwealth level.

Tenure

The position will be located in the MP’s Victorian office. Required attendance in the position will be a minimum of 2 days/week, for a maximum of 3 months. Greater contact time over a shorter period could be arranged dependent on the project and priorities in the MP’s office. The Researcher in Residence will be required to commence in the position between May – August 2017.
Funding
The Researcher in Residence’s employment and conditions in their employing research organisation will continue during the period of their participation in the Scheme. Biomedical Research Victoria will reimburse the employing research organisation the equivalent of 50% of the Researcher’s normal salary plus superannuation for the days on which they are engaged in the Scheme (up to 27 days total). In addition, if applicable, return airfare and accommodation costs will be provided for travel to Canberra on at least one occasion.

Candidate application and selection
Applicants must have:
• A PhD and between 2 and 6 years’ postdoctoral experience, excluding career interruptions
• Broad interests and knowledge in health and medical research
• Demonstrated interest in political and general support of the sector
• Interest in the parliamentary process and helping to influence the political agenda
• Good analytical and desktop research skills
• Excellent writing skills and ability to prepare concise briefing papers
• Ability to manage confidential information and deal with potential conflicts of interests
• Excellent people skills
• The approval of their laboratory or Department head to participate in the Scheme

Roles and responsibilities

Biomedical Research Victoria will:
 o Advertise the Scheme via its Member organisations, administer applications, convene the selection panel, and liaise with the MP’s office for their approval of the selected candidate.
 o Pay the appropriate salary and superannuation amount to the Researcher’s employing organisation upon receipt of a Tax Invoice, as well as pay any applicable travel and accommodation costs.

The MP’s office/Government Office will:
 o Identify a program of relevant work and provide to Biomedical Research Victoria a documented outline of this work including specific tasks and likely outcomes.
 o Agree the period and level of contact with the Researcher.
 o If applicable, provide practical assistance in arranging travel to, and accommodation in, Canberra.

The employing research organisation will:
 o Provide Biomedical Research Victoria with written evidence of support for the Researcher to participate in the Scheme.
 o Continue payment of the Researcher’s salary and maintain appropriate work cover and insurances.

The Researcher in Residence will:
 o Carry out the agreed project or schedule of work to the best of their ability.
 o Within two months of conclusion of their residency, provide a written report to Biomedical Research Victoria including a summary of the activities undertaken and the benefits received.
 o Be available to speak at the BioMedVic AGM or other meeting if requested.

All enquires to:
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