



TITLE:	Senior Applications Chemist
CLASSIFICATION:	Grade 5.1
STATUS	Full time, Ongoing
REPORTS TO	Manager, Toxicology
REVIEW DATE	May 2008

CONTEXT

The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) is a body corporate with perpetual succession that was established by the Coroner's Act 1985 and is contained as an administrative unit within the Justice portfolio. The Director of the Institute is the head of this administrative unit and holds the Chair of the Forensic Medicine at Monash University; The Institute also operates as the Department of Forensic Medicine at Monash University.

VIFM is based at the Coronial Services Centre; a purpose built facility that also houses the State Coroner's Office. The work of the Institute can be described as a cycle of three parts:

- Providing forensic medical & scientific services and tissue banking
- Learning from this work
- Researching and teaching

The Senior Applications Chemist within the Institute's toxicology laboratory is responsible for co-ordinating analytical method development to allow best practice analytical toxicology to be conducted. This includes the development of rapid and scientifically valid drug screening tests on cases using LC-MS/MS technologies. These techniques are required to provide an overnight toxicology service to support homicide investigations and to assist coroners in determining the need for an autopsy particularly in cases where the senior next of kin has raised an objection to autopsy. These developments will also allow the laboratory to keep pace with new drugs particularly those of new structural groups and high potency.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The Senior Applications Chemist must have a PhD, or its equivalent, from recognised tertiary institution in the area of analytical chemistry, who has demonstrated experience in clinical or forensic toxicology particularly in rapid liquid chromatographic mass spectrometric (LC-MS/MS) screening and confirmatory techniques.

The successful applicant must be able to write macros to support the rapid and reliable extraction of data from mass spectrometers and to conduct research and development activities to fully understand the limitations of such testing including the interpretation of data in forensic toxicology cases. The successful applicant will need to show a demonstrated capacity to conduct peer reviewed research and to have a substantial publication record.

DUTIES

1. Develop new scientific processes to achieve rapid drug screening and confirmatory drug testing methodologies for use in forensic toxicology, with a focus on LC-MS/MS.
 2. Conduct forensic toxicology investigations requiring advanced analytical skills.
 3. Supervise the conduct of forensic toxicology case work and act as senior case reporter.
 4. Conduct research and other development activities to improve our understanding of the strengths and limitations of drug testing methodologies in forensic toxicology and in the interpretation of toxicology data.
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5. Ensure the policies and technical procedures used in the laboratory meet the minimum requirements set by NATA/RCPA and NATA forensic science for successful accreditation. This includes meeting ISO/IEC 17025 certification and compliance to relevant occupational health and safety regulations.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

1. A PhD, or its equivalent from a recognised tertiary institution in the area of analytical chemistry.
2. Demonstrated expertise in analytical toxicology with a sound knowledge of forensic toxicology requirements.
3. Demonstrated expertise in use of LC-MS/MS technology for rapid drug screening and confirmatory techniques.
4. Sound knowledge of good laboratory practice and forensic science accreditation requirements.
5. Demonstrated ability to work with respect, openness, service, integrity and innovation.
6. Proven track record in the supervision of graduate research students and/or post-doctoral researchers.
7. Excellent written communication and presentation skills including the ability to tailor the message to meet the needs and interests of the audience.
8. Membership of one or more relevant professional associations.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

1. Your application should address the Key Selection Criteria and include a resume.
2. The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine is an Equal Opportunity Employer and actively encourages diversity in the workplace.
3. Safety is everyone's responsibility at VIFM.
4. You will need to disclose any pre-existing illness or injury that you know about which could be reasonably foreseen to be affected by the described work duties. Pursuant to s82 (7) of the Accident Compensation Act, failure to disclose such a condition will mean that if employed, you will not be paid compensation for that condition.
5. An offer of employment will be made to the successful applicant subject to an acceptable Criminal Record Check by Victoria Police.
6. The successful applicant must comply with the VPS Code of Conduct and will be employed pursuant to the Victorian Public Service Agreement 2006 (Federal certified agreement).
7. The successful applicant will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement.
8. The position is located at the Coronial Services Centre, 57-83 Kavanagh Street, Southbank.
9. The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine operates as a smoke free environment.
10. As the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) evolves to meet changing needs, so will the roles required of its staff. Accordingly, staff and applicants should be aware that this document might not necessarily represent the full role that the occupant will perform in the long term. This document is intended to provide an overview of the incumbent's role as at the date of advertisement. In addition to this document,



the specifics of the incumbent's role will be described in the local work area and project plans, and in performance plans developed in conjunction with the relevant supervisor as part of VIFM's performance progression and development system.

11. The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine requires declarations and personal information relevant to your employment. The collection and handling of this information will be consistent with the requirements of the Information Privacy Act 2000.

MANAGER AUTHORISATION

Manager's Name: _____

Signature & Date: _____

EMPLOYEE ACCEPTANCE

Employee's Name: _____

Signature & Date: _____