

PhD Fellowship

Systems biology: Complementary feeding to nourish infant health at weaning

We are seeking a PhD candidate who is an enthusiastic learner and has demonstrated academic excellence across appropriate disciplines to undertake research on complementary feeding strategies (feeding of foods/food ingredients that complement breast milk/infant formula) in early human life to develop nutritional interventions that support sustained health and wellbeing. The project will integrate “omics” data from multiple platforms (microbiomics, metabolomics) so a “systems biology” approach, to visualise and interpret changes in biological pathways and networks in the infant that are important to health and wellbeing outcomes. Therefore, the PhD candidate will need to have an interest in data systems and integration of clinical data and high-dimensional biological datasets.

The 3.5-year scholarship includes an annual tax-free stipend of NZD\$30,000, tuition fees and consumables. It is open to candidates who are currently located in New Zealand only.

The research will be undertaken at the Riddet Institute (www.riddet.ac.nz) and AgResearch Ltd (www.agresearch.co.nz) in Palmerston North. The Riddet Institute is a New Zealand Centre of Research Excellence hosted by Massey University and the student will be enrolled in the College of Science at Massey University.

This project is collaborative and involves researchers from AgResearch Ltd, Riddet Institute, University of Auckland and University of Otago. The project will complement clinical nutritional studies with infants undertaken at the University of Auckland.

The project is funded by the High Value Nutrition National Science Challenge (www.highvaluenutrition.co.nz).

The ideal candidates must have:

- Applicants should have a First-Class Honours or Second-Class Honours (Division I) MSc degree (or equivalent) or BSc degree with Honours (or equivalent) in an area of science (e.g. biochemistry, microbiology or clinical nutrition).
- Excellent written and communication skills.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills.
- Ability to learn and retain information, work independently and collaboratively, adapt to change, and plan, organise and implement projects in a timely manner; and
- Demonstrated high ethical standards, diligence, integrity, professionalism, politeness and courteousness, and be able to effectively work in a diverse community.

The intended start date for the project is 1 February 2021, or as soon as possible after this date. The closing date for applications is **23 November 2020**.

The application must include:

- Cover letter (1-2 pages), explaining your interest and why you think you are suited to the position.
- CV (summarising education, employment, scientific outputs, names of 3 references)
- Copies of educational certificates and transcript of records.

Your application (relevant documents mentioned above) must be submitted to: riddet.info@massey.ac.nz. Additional information regarding the requirements as a PhD student can be requested by contacting Terri Palmer email t.m.palmer@massey.ac.nz.

If you would like to know more about this opportunity, please contact Prof Warren McNabb by email W.McNabb@massey.ac.nz. Do not submit your application to this email address.