

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
Te Whare Wananga o Otago

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: Vision Mātauranga Coordinator
DEPARTMENT: Genomics Aotearoa (GA)
Department of Biochemistry
SCHOOL: School of Biomedical Sciences
DIVISION: Health Sciences

BACKGROUND

Genomics Aotearoa Research Platform (GA)

GA is an alliance between Partners: Universities Auckland, Massey and Otago and Crown Research Institutes AgResearch, ESR, Landcare Research and Plant & Food, together with 32 Associates: organisations including both researchers and end users of genomics and bioinformatics.

GA will cement national collaborations between genomics and bioinformatics researchers and users, across theme areas of health, environment and primary production – covering all life sciences of relevance to New Zealand’s economic, environmental and social wellbeing. Collaboration will be underpinned through delivery of a national genomics data repository and bioinformatics analytical platform. GA will strengthen New Zealand’s international linkages, sharing existing collaborations through research activities and growing new alliances. International linkages will ensure GA operates at a global best practice standard.

Te Ao Māori will be at the centre of GA activities, including development of an indigenous genomics platform which embeds Māori management of indigenous genomics research practice and data. GA will deliver to the goals of Vision Mātauranga (VM), benefiting Māori through improved delivery of indigenous innovation, taiao, hauora and matāuranga, including through research projects and resource development undertaken by and for Māori.

GA will grow skills and capability, supporting and growing research teams and engaging Māori in genomics research.

PRIME FUNCTION

- To be at the cutting edge of the development of genomics and bioinformatics in New Zealand to develop and provide the necessary science communications and operational framework to ensure the Genomics Aotearoa Research Platform meets its Vision Mātauranga objectives.
- To provide a crucial link between GA funded projects, Kāhui Māori, Board and science leadership, and in doing so facilitate ongoing progress of specific outcomes and tools/mechanisms.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

Governance and Liaison

- Represent GA and its research projects at, and attend all meetings of, the Kāhui Māori.
- Represent the Kāhui Māori at, and attend all meetings of, the GA Science Leadership Team.

Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

- Coordinate Māori consultation for the entire GA programme.
- Identify potential research collaborations with Māori communities and end-users.
- Develop mechanisms that ensure that research findings and tools are disseminated to Māori communities and other relevant stakeholders in a culturally appropriate and timely manner.
- Be responsible for outreach to Māori communities.

Māori Data Repository

- Coordinate how the Māori Data Repository can be created, developed and maintained.

Support and Mentorship

- Provide support for all Māori research and/or infrastructure projects.
- Provide support to Māori postdoctoral fellows and PhD students.

KEY TASKS

Governance and Liaison

- Report decisions of the Kāhui Māori back to the Director and Science Leadership Team.
- Ensure the relevance of GA activities is appropriately conveyed to the Kāhui Māori.
- Documentation and reports to record discussions and decisions are prepared to a high standard and in a timely fashion.

Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

- Develop and maintain positive relationships with all the partners of GA.
- Develop and maintain positive relationships with Māori communities, with assistance from VM Science and Theme Leaders.
- Coordinate the development and implementation of appropriate processes, through working with VM science leaders, Kāhui, GA Communications Manager and University of Otago Office of Māori Development, for national consultation on GA activities.
- Working with VM science leaders, Kāhui, GA Communications Manager and Otago Office of Māori development, coordinate the development and implementation of effective pathways for knowledge translation that meet both research requirements and the needs of Māori stakeholder groups.
- Ensure that stakeholder views and interests are communicated to the Science Leadership Team and the Kāhui Māori.
- Collate material for the online Genetics Resource Centre.

Māori Data Repository

- Develop guidelines, with the Kāhui Māori, for access to and usage of the repository which accord with Te Ao Māori.
- Help develop structures and mechanisms, with the Kāhui Māori, for the long-term management of genomic data that is of interest to Māori.

Support and Mentorship

- Develop processes that provide training and support for new Māori researchers including identifying mentors, provision of information and guidance.
- Develop a network for GA Māori staff and students.
- Provide guidance and help to identify appropriate Māori linkages for all GA research groups.
- Coordinate the Summer Internship of Native Peoples in Genomics - Aotearoa (SING-A) programme, including working with VM Science leaders to ensure annual delivery of the programme.
- Contribute to the activities of Genomics Aotearoa and support the Operations Manager and Director as needed.

RELATIONSHIPS

Under the overall direction of:

Director (Genomics Aotearoa).

Directly responsible to:

Operations Manager (Genomics Aotearoa).

Functional relationships with:

GA Communications Manager.

GA Business Support Coordinator.

Science Leadership Team.

Chair, Board of Governance.

Board of Governance Members.

Kāhui Māori.

Advisory Boards.

GA members and students.

Partner key contacts.

External agencies including iwi, other Māori agencies, health providers, businesses, conservation organisations.

University of Otago Office of Māori Development.

Other stakeholders.

BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITY

- Nil

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- There is meaningful involvement of Māori in decision-making in the planning, implementation, evaluation and dissemination of GA research and tools.
- Long-term positive relationships with Māori stakeholders are established.
- The capability of Māori researchers and communities in relation to genomics and bioinformatics research is increased.
- Coordinating a genomic data repository that has embedded guidelines which accord with Te Ao Māori.
- Guidelines are in place to assist researchers to incorporate Te Ao Māori into genomics/bioinformatics research activities.

- Māori researchers are supported in their application of genomics/bioinformatics in projects of specific relevance to them and are driving their own research.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Essential

- A science or similar bachelor's degree, with relevant knowledge in the NZ science research context.
- A sound understanding of Mātauranga Māori, the Treaty of Waitangi, Māori research methodologies and tikanga.
- The ability to engage effectively with the Māori research community.
- The ability to communicate research findings in a culturally appropriate manner.
- The ability to network and to work effectively as a member of a team and independently.

Desirable

- Te Reo ability is highly desirable, or willingness to learn.
- A relevant postgraduate qualification.
- Demonstrated ability in research project management.
- Demonstrated experience in relationship management.
- Strong communications skills across a wide range of audiences.