



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

POSITION DESCRIPTION #00042557

BUSINESS TITLE: Overnight Research Technician

EMPLOYMENT GROUP: Technicians & Research Assists

JOB FAMILY: Research/Technical - Non Union

JOB CODE: 500603 - Research Asst/Tech 2

VP/FACULTY: Faculty of Medicine

DEPARTMENT: ICORD

PAY GRADE: 3

SALARY LEVEL:

JOB SUMMARY

Performs moderately complex technical tasks in support of research activities for studying spinal cord injury in a large animal model.

ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS

Reports to the Principal Investigator of the laboratory. Works under the general supervision of the senior Research Associate. Works in a team with other research staff and trainees in the lab. Liaises with animal care technicians and Clinical Veterinarians at the Center for Comparative Medicine.

WORK PERFORMED

Assists with spinal cord injury research in a large animal (porcine) model, including providing daily animal care and technical support, sample collection, injections, basic treatments, surgical preparation, pre- and post-operative care; surgery room preparation, and equipment maintenance. Specific duties include

- Performing procedures on laboratory research animals independently or with minimal supervision including: performing daily post-operative care procedures and techniques (inspection and surveillance of animal health, behaviour and welfare, administering medications and other substances by injection, orally, or topically), collecting and processing biosamples (blood, CSF, microdialysates) via thoracic and venous catheters.
- Keeping record of samples collected, including the material source, number, date of sample taken and, the quantity of the sample.
- Providing daily updates on animal health to veterinarians, technicians and laboratory staff to ensure an effective workflow and operations across the whole team of researchers.
- Setting up, operating, maintaining and troubleshooting complex research equipment and software (Iscus flex, ICM+, and labchart).
- Preparing surgical rooms for procedures (ensuring room is clean and orderly, selecting and setting out instruments and supplies);
- Recording medical information on animal clinical records each shift according to established protocols
- Writing reports and data documentation generated during each test, as well as graphs and charts from laboratory instrumentation.
- Keeping an up-to-date inventory of equipment and supplies, and requesting replenishments when needed.
- Performing other related duties from time to time as required.

CONSEQUENCE OF ERROR

Most of the procedures will require following a protocol already in place; however, there is room for innovative thinking to improve upon existing protocols and provide input into the direction of the project. The Overnight Technician is expected to exercise some initiative and judgment in establishing priorities and carrying tasks through to completion.

Carelessness during the performance of research duties could reduce the quality of research conducted in the lab and jeopardize the lab's ability to secure future funding by competing for research grants. Furthermore, incorrect decisions could result in deterioration of animal health, including mortality, and/or disruption or ruination of a research study. Inappropriate judgment exercised by the position may lead to increased expenses and time loss. Inappropriate judgment concerning the use of controlled substances could lead to legal action against the university or revoking of provincial licenses currently held by the university veterinarians.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

The Overnight Technician will report directly to the principal investigator but is expected to work under minimum supervision. The Senior Research Associate will check work frequently.

SUPERVISION GIVEN

This position does not supervise other staff, although may monitor graduate students and volunteers to ensure safe and appropriate use of laboratory equipment.

QUALIFICATIONS

High School graduation. Preference will be given to applicants with an R.V.T. diploma. Minimum of 2 years related experience or the equivalent combination of education and experience. Experience working with small and large animal species in a research capacity required. Must be able to perform the physical demands of the job including: continuous exposure to animal dander, odours, excreta, dust, and noise; must be able to walk and stand for extended period; must be able to lift up to 25 kgs with frequent bending, stooping, twisting and turning. Must be able to work three shifts per week starting at 7pm and ending at 7am, including weekdays, weekends, and statutory holidays. Must be able to work in a laboratory setting with direct exposure to/handling of large laboratory animals. Must be able to identify common medical problems in laboratory animals and take appropriate action. Must demonstrate a detail-oriented approach. Must be able to work effectively independently and in a team environment. Must have excellent attention to detail and good problem-solving skills. Must be able to prioritize and work effectively under pressure to meet deadlines. Must have experience operating equipment including, pulse oximeter, IV fluid pumps, syringe pumps, autoclaves, Iscus Flex. Must possess a thorough understanding of Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) guidelines. Excellent written and oral English communication skills required. Must be able to listen actively and attentively, and obtain clarification as required. Must be able to use MS Word, MS Excel, labchart, and Photoshop at an intermediate level.