

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position: Technical Officer – Metabolomics (Full-time)

Reports to: Manager Metabolomics SA

Overview: The primary role of the Technical Officer position is to support service provision by the Metabolomics Australia node at the AWRI. This includes performing sample preparation, chemical analysis of metabolites, maintenance and operation of a diverse range of GC, HPLC and MS instruments, data analysis, and assistance with method development, validation and report preparation.

This position is supported through the Australian Government's National Collaborative Infrastructure Scheme (NCRIS), Bioplatforms Australia (BPA), and the South Australian Government, to provide metabolomics capabilities and customised services to researchers and industry partners across a broad range of applications. This position resides at the South Australian node of MA, which is located at, and managed through, the Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI), at the Waite Research Precinct, Adelaide, South Australia.

Qualifications:

A relevant degree in Science, such as BSc, BSc (Hons).

Required experience:

- Relevant Science degree with practical laboratory experience in analytical chemistry
- Experience with, or demonstrated understanding of, chromatography and mass spectrometry techniques, particularly GC/MS and/or LC/MS, including sample preparation, data processing and interpretation.
- Ability to work safely and accurately in a laboratory environment, maintain appropriate records and contribute effectively to a multidisciplinary team.

Desired experience:

- Experience with NMR and other analytical platforms
- Experience in metabolomics or analysis of volatile and non-volatile compounds in food, beverage, plant or biological matrices.
- Experience with R, Python or other data processing and scripting tools.
- Experience with laboratory quality systems, SOPs, risk assessments or technical reporting.

Principal accountabilities:

1. Perform technical duties associated with service provision for clients of the AWRI metabolomics facility. This includes sample collection and preparation, chemical analysis, data processing, data analysis and reporting.
2. Assist with the development and validation of new and innovative metabolomics techniques.
3. Assist with client engagement to ensure a high level of customer service and quality scientific outcomes, and assist in the preparation of reports.
4. Use best practice to record on a daily basis all activities, details of any experimental work and outcomes of data processing and interpretation.
5. Assist in the reporting and dissemination of project progress and outcomes through regular reports, refereed and industry publications, seminars and workshops to a standard expected of AWRI presentations and publications.
6. Assist in drafting and review of relevant risk assessments and standard operating procedures.
7. Responsible for maintaining and ensuring our Quality Management System conforms with the requirements of ISO 9001 standards. This includes maintaining documentation, identifying areas for improvement, and implementing corrective actions when necessary.
8. Work autonomously with a proactive approach.
9. Together with other staff of the AWRI metabolomics facility:
 - a. Support operational activities of the AWRI metabolomics facility, including collaborative activities with other nodes of Metabolomics Australia, AWRI Affinity Labs and other AWRI teams
 - b. Assist in the development of a client base for the AWRI metabolomics facility.
10. Undertake other duties as directed by the Manager Metabolomics SA, Director of Research, Managing Director or their delegated representative(s).
11. Accept that all intellectual property, patents and discovery arising during employment at the AWRI remain the property of the AWRI.
12. Promote the general well-being of the AWRI by ensuring that all contact with clients, staff or the public is performed in a professional and confidential manner.

Person specification:

1. High level of technical proficiency in analytical chemistry, particularly mass spectrometry.
2. Ability to work and communicate successfully within a multi-disciplinary environment.
3. Superior oral and written communication skills.
4. Ability to maintain effective working relationships and contribute positively in a team environment.

Workplace Health and Safety Responsibilities:

Employees and students must take reasonable care to protect their own health and safety, and have responsibilities to:

1. Ensure that they do not increase the risk to the health, safety or welfare of others through any act or omission.
2. Obey reasonable instructions that are designed to protect their health, safety and welfare.
3. Use, in the appropriate manner, equipment that is provided to protect their health, safety or welfare.
4. Not wilfully interfere with, or misuse, items or facilities provided in the interest of health, safety or welfare of employees.
5. Ensure that they are not affected by alcohol or any other drug to such an extent that they endanger themselves or others.
6. Report promptly, any hazards, incidents or injuries to their Manager/Team Leader.