# Position Description

## CSIRO Early Research Career (CERC) Postdoctoral Fellowship– CSOF4

The following information is for applicants

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| Advertised job title**:** | CSIRO Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Image Harmonisation |
| Job reference: | 62259 |
| Relocation assistance**:** | Will be provided to the successful candidate if required. |
| Applications are open to: | Australian Citizens Only  Australian/New Zealand Citizens and Australian Permanent Residents Only   * All Candidates |
| Percentage of client focus - internal: | 60% |
| Percentage of client focus - external: | 40% |
| Reports to the: | Team Leader |
| Number of direct reports: | 0 |
| How to apply: | Please apply online at [jobs.csiro.au](https://jobs.csiro.au/) and enter the requisition number**.** Internal applicants please apply via ‘Jobs Central’ through the ‘People Hub’ icon |
| Contact details to discuss this position: | Sam Burnham via email [Samantha.Burnham@csiro.au](mailto:Samantha.Burnham@csiro.au)  *Please do not email your application directly to Dr Burnham. Applications received via this method may not be considered by the selection panel.* |
| If you have difficulty applying please contact: | Call 1300 984 220 or email [csiro.online@csiro.au](mailto:careers.online@csiro.au) between 8.30 am and 5 pm Australian east coast time. |

## Role Overview:

**CSIRO Early Research Career (CERC) Postdoctoral Fellowships** provide opportunities to scientists and engineers who have completed their doctorate and have less than three years relevant postdoctoral work experience. These fellowships aim to develop the next generation of future leaders of the innovation system through:

* A differentiated career development program to deliver capability excellence and breadth across all facets of the national innovation system.
* Research training via strategic research and development projects with a clear focus that will deliver real impact through science and engineering excellence;
* An innovative culture supporting the development and demonstration of original thinking and expertise leading to peer-recognition; and
* Opportunities to develop skills and experience in collaborative research teams to effectively work within national and global multi/transdisciplinary and multi-stakeholder environments.

CERC Postdoctoral Fellows **are appointed for three years or part time equivalent.**

The CSIRO Postdoctoral Fellowship in Medical Image Harmonisation will conduct research into new harmonisation protocols for Medical Image Quantification, principally in amyloid positron emission tomography (PET). The fellow will develop technology with the aim of achieving a consensus on a gold standard image quantification biomarker that will foster the use of amyloid PET imaging in routine clinical settings.

The successful candidate will join an international task force, that has recently been gathered with the aim of developing a robust understanding of the risk and prospective factors which increase or delay the pathological processes of Alzheimer’s disease (AD). To this aim, the fellow will work with a clinical team in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at Austin Hospital, Heidelberg (VIC) to harmonise an amyloid PET biomarker between the largest Alzheimer’s disease datasets. A protocol for amyloid tracer standardising has been established and now routinely applied (Centiloid). However, a more complex approach considering important variables is required. The fellow will first need to understand the role played by different acquisition parameters (e.g. PET reconstruction algorithms, scanner model, scanning procedure, etc) on the PET scans as well as on their quantification by using phantom and real data. The postdoctoral fellow will then propose an imaging pre-processing filter to robustify the PET scans and their quantification to acquisition parameters.

The postdoctoral fellow will also use machine learning to extract the complementary information provided by different modalities and provide early “combined” features of AD to clinicians. This will not only allow to better understand the early signs of Alzheimer’s disease but also to better identify subjects at risk of developing AD.

CSIRO’s Health and Biosecurity provides an outstanding environment with strong capability in medical image analysis. The fellow will work with a large team of scientists and students (20+) benefiting from existing software platforms and high-performance computing infrastructure (GPU clusters and high-end workstation). The project aims to collect new clinical data and will also have access to existing data from some of the largest and world leading clinical studies such as the Australian Imaging Biomarkers and Lifestyle study of ageing (more than 2000 individuals followed up for more than 10 years).

## Duties and Key Result Areas:

* Under the direction of senior research scientists and engineers, CERC Postdoctoral Fellows:
  + Carry out innovative, impactful research of strategic importance to CSIRO that will, where possible, lead to novel and important scientific outcomes.
  + Set-up and maintain communication between geographically separated grant partners.
  + Develop innovative concepts, theories, tools and techniques related to the analysis of PET and MRI scans of the brain for the diagnosis of neurodegeneration and ageing, with a focus on PET quantification standardisation.
  + Analyse the effect of all the PET reconstruction parameter on the PET quantification.
  + Develop a protocol to harmonise any new camera.
  + Harness the growing volume of publicly available data sources, as well as work on establishing proprietary datasets in collaboration with our partners.
* Undertake regular reviews of relevant journal and patent literature.
* Produce high quality scientific and technical outputs including journal articles, conference papers and presentations, patents and technical reports.
* Represent CSIRO at leading national and international conferences and forums as agreed with your supervisor.
  + Recognise and exploit opportunities for innovation and the generation of new theoretical perspectives, and progress opportunities for the further development or creation of new lines of research.
  + Utilise design thinking methodology to plan and prepare research proposals and apply non-academic impact methodology to research projects.
  + Carry out research investigations requiring originality, creativity and innovation.
  + Record, manage, and analyse data/information using relevant domain data science techniques.
  + Proactively undertake development to grow effective researcher capabilities to support career goals.
* Adhere to the spirit and practice of CSIRO’s Code of Conduct, Health, Safety and Environment plans and policies, Diversity initiatives and Zero Harm goals.
* Other duties as directed.

**The CERC Postdoctoral Fellow learning and development program**is developed between the CERC Postdoctoral Fellow and their CSIRO supervisor. The program will focus on enhancing the Fellows’ capabilities to the level expected of an independent researcher and will include on-the-job and course-based development encompassing:

* Discipline-specific techniques and protocols
* Professional growth
* Project management
* Communication and influencing skills
* Working and collaborating with others

<http://www.csiro.au/en/Careers/Student-and-graduate-programs/Postdoctoral-fellowships>

## CSIRO Competencies:

1. **Teamwork and Collaboration: Cooperates with others to achieve organisational objectives and may share team resources in order to do this. Collaborates with other teams as well as industry colleagues.**
2. **Influence and Communication: Uses knowledge of other party's priorities and adapts presentations or discussions to appeal to the interests and level of the audience. Anticipates and prepares for others reactions.**
3. **Resource Management/Leadership: Allocates activities, directs tasks and manages resources to meet objectives. Provides coaching and on the job training, recognises and supports staff achievements and fosters open communication in the team.**
4. **Judgement and Problem Solving:** Investigates underlying issues of complex and ill-defined problems and develops appropriate response by adapting/creating and testing alternative solutions.
5. **Independence: Recognise and makes immediate changes to improve performance (faster, better, lower cost, more efficiently, better quality, improved client satisfaction).**
6. **Adaptability:** Copes with ambiguity or situations that lack clarity. Adapts readily to changing circumstances and new responsibilities (which may include activities outside own preferences) in the interests of achieving team objectives. Recognises the need for and undertakes personal development as a result of changes.

## Selection Criteria:

*Under CSIRO policy only those who meet all selection criteria can be appointed.*

1. A doctorate (or will shortly satisfy the requirements of a PhD) in a relevant discipline area, such as medical image analysis or related discipline.

***Please note:*** *To be eligible for this role you must have* ***no more than 3 years (or part time equivalent)*** *of postdoctoral research experience.*

1. Demonstrated evidence of advanced programming skills and software design in languages relevant for medical image analysis research (e.g. C/C++, Python, MATLAB, R).
2. **High level written and oral communication skills with the ability to represent the research team effectively internally and externally, including the presentation of research outcomes at national and international conferences.**
3. **A sound history of publication in peer reviewed journals and/or authorship of scientific papers, reports, grant applications or patents.**
4. A record of science innovation and creativity, including the ability & willingness to incorporate novel ideas and approaches into scientific investigations.
5. A history of professional and respectful behaviours and attitudes in a collaborative environment**.**

## Desirable Criteria:

1. A good understanding of PET image acquisition, reconstruction and demonstrated experience in PET image analysis.
2. A strong mathematical/analytical background, in areas related to image analysis.
3. A strong background in statistical inference in biomarker estimation models.
4. Interest in the translation of new technology into clinical use.
5. Experience with deep learning using Convolutional Neural Networks.
6. Remain productive, positive and resilient in complex, ambiguous and/or uncertain environments.
7. **The ability to work effectively as part of a multi-disciplinary, potentially regionally dispersed research team, plus the motivation and discipline to carry out autonomous research.**

To be appointed as a CERC Postdoctoral Fellow within CSIRO, candidates are required to have **submitted** their PhD at the time of commencement, as a minimum requirement, if PhD conferment has not been obtained. If a candidate has submitted, but their PhD has not yet been formally attained, the starting salary will be CSOF4-1 *(*($83,687*).* Upon CSIRO receiving written confirmation that the PhD has been awarded (within a six month period from commencement date), the salary will be increased to the negotiated level and the difference will be back-paid to the Officer’s start date.

## Special Requirements:

Appointment to this role may be subject to conditions including security/national police/medical/character clearance requirements. Applicants who are not Australian Citizens or Permanent Residents may be required to undergo additional security clearances, which may include medical examinations and an international standardised test of English language proficiency (i.e. IELTS test).- <https://ielts.com.au/>

**Our value proposition**

We want CERC Postdoc Fellows to join our world class science, engineering and digital teams to solve big, complex problems that make a real difference to the future of Australia and the world.

You'll get to work with some of the most talented minds in their fields, not just in Australia, but in the world. At CSIRO, we spark off each other, learn from each other, trust each other and collaborate closely to achieve more than we could individually.

CSIRO Early Research Career (CERC) Postdoctoral Fellow Experience Employee Value Proposition (EVP). Find out more! <https://www.csiro.au/en/careers/postdoctoral-fellowships>

## About CSIRO:

At CSIRO we solve the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology. See more [online](http://www.csiro.au/)!

Find out more about CSIRO [Health and Biosecurity](https://www.csiro.au/en/Research/BF)