

30 December 2014

Dr. Richard Simpson

✉ Chair, Exercise Physiologist Search Committee
Department of Health and Human Performance
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Houston, Texas 77204-6015
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Dear Dr. Simpson,

I am writing to apply for the position of Associate/Assistant Professor of Exercise Physiology in the Department of Health and Human Performance at the University of Houston. I completed a Bachelor of Sports Science at the University of New South Wales in 1998, a Bachelor of Applied Science (Honours) at the University of South Australia in 1999, and a Doctorate (PhD) in Human Movement at the University of South Australia in 2004. I am a Senior Lecturer in the School of Health Sciences at the University of South Australia and have been employed full-time at Lecturer/Senior Lecturer level since 2004. I am very interested in this position given the University of Houston's high academic standing, ranked in the Top 50 American research universities and the Top 300 globally.

My main research activities include: (a) time trends in the physical fitness, activity and adiposity of young people, and (b) anthropometry, with a particular focus on 3-dimensional (3D) anthropometry. I have published and presented widely on time trends in young people's physical fitness, dating back to my PhD research when I started to gather historical data on over 75 million young people from 50 countries. Using novel mathematical techniques, my research was the first to conclusively show that young people's aerobic fitness has declined globally since about 1975. This work rekindled a global interest in fitness and is now informing policy in several countries, with contributions to policy in Canada and the United Kingdom, and to the International Olympic Committee's consensus statement on Fitness and Health of Young People through Sport and Physical Activity. My key publication in the top-ranked Sports Science journal *Sports Medicine* has 318 citations. I have published 31 refereed journal articles, of which a dozen were co-published with over 60 international researchers, and have delivered 11 keynote/invited addresses at conferences and symposia in seven different countries. I have won AU\$3.8 million in research grants and have led research projects that have depended on close collaborations with a growing number of national and international researchers and government departments. I am a Young Tall Poppy, am the Chair of Active Healthy Kids Australia, and the Asia-Pacific Lead for the Active Healthy Kids Global Alliance. I hope to continue and expand my current research activities and believe they would complement and advance research within the Department of Health and Human Performance at the University of Houston, as well as provide research and learning opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

As a Senior Lecturer at the University of South Australia I have gained considerable undergraduate teaching and course coordination experience across several courses in the Bachelor of Applied Science (Human Movement and Health Studies) and Bachelor of Clinical Exercise Physiology programs. I have postgraduate research supervision experience having supervised three PhD students and 11 Honours students to completion. I demonstrate a high level of performance in teaching and learning, having consistently received outstanding course and teaching evaluations from my students and have won Faculty and University teaching awards. I am an engaging media performer and have regularly communicated scientific information through the mass media. For example, I have been responsible for the two largest media stories in the history of the University of South Australia, as a result of research presented at the 2013 American Heart Association Scientific Sessions (Dallas, TX) that generated more than 760 international media reports and 400 million media impressions, and the release of Australia's first Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Young People in 2014 that generated more than 870 national media stories and 11 million media impressions.

I am also active at the coalface of fitness training and testing too, and have worked with elite sporting teams such as the Australian Men's Basketball Team and with school and community youth teams. I happily combine high-level theoretical analysis with grass roots practical experience, bringing ideas from my research onto the playing field and experience from the playing field into my research. Keen to engage broadly, I have also been keynote speaker for many professional groups and still run fitness training sessions for local schools and attend community events such as the South Australian Premier's *Science Outside the Square* initiative, where I led an enormously popular 3D scanning experience for young people.

Please find attached a copy of my curriculum vitae, copies of my academic transcripts, a 1-page statement outlining current and future research plans, and the contact details of at least three academic referees. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish for additional materials or information. Thank you in advance for your time and effort.

Yours sincerely,



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