

NEW RESEARCH STREAMS OPEN

The Institute has announced four new research streams which build on previous research, as well as creating opportunities for groups which have not previously had APHCRI funding, to apply. A summary is below.

APHCRI/Robert Graham Center Visiting Fellowship 2008

The first major funding announcement for 2008 was the repeat of last year's successful APHCRI/Robert Graham Center Visiting Fellowship, which closed at the start of May.

This fellowship provides funding for an early career GP or registrar to spend several weeks with the Robert Graham Center in Washington DC working on a research project of mutual interest to Robert Graham and APHCRI.

The successful APHCRI/Robert Graham Center Visiting Fellow will be announced at the end of June.

Stream 10 - Workforce Travelling Fellowships

Building on the Stream Seven APHCRI Linkage and Exchange Travelling Fellowships commissioned in 2007, this program offers active participants in Stream Six an opportunity to conduct linkage and exchange activities with colleagues overseas.

In a new approach, the Workforce Travelling Fellowship encourages researchers to consider maximising their time overseas by travelling with other Stream Six teams involved in similar work. For example, those teams involved in optimising the workforce might have common interests, as might the teams that looked at primary mental health care. The objective is to increase cross-institutional links between the teams. However, this is not a requirement.

Recipients will be required to write a report based on their travel and a brief reflection on the linkage and exchange experience, and will report back to the Department of Health and Ageing in April 2009.

Stream closes: 30 May 2008

http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Spokes_Research_Program/Stream_Ten.php

Stream 11 - International Visiting Fellowships

This research stream provides rolling funding for primary health care research groups to host international experts.

The funding will be open to all primary health care organisations and aims to build international connections and contribute to the knowledge base and research capacity in primary health care.

Up to \$20,000 will be available to assist hosting institutions with costs. Fellows will be required to spend some time in Canberra and participate in seminars or similar as fits APHCRI and Department of Health and Ageing requirements.

This funding is available until the end of the Institute's funding contract in February 2010. It is anticipated about 14 fellows will be funded during that time and visits will be spread across a number of States and Territories.

Stream closes: this is rolling funding until the end of the current contract

http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Spokes_Research_Program/Stream_Eleven.php

Stream 12 - Extension Funding Stream Six

This research stream provides funding of up to \$150,000 to participants in Stream Six to further develop the work in their earlier research.

The funding will be available to up to three projects which take the 'next logical steps' in the research which examined optimising the workforce, the place of generalism and the number of workers.

Stream closes: 23 June 2008

http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Spokes_Research_Program/Stream_Twelve.php

APHCRI LINKAGE & EXCHANGE TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & AGEING PRESENTATION

In early April recipients of the Institute's travelling fellowship grants were part of a successful presentation to the Department of Health and Ageing in Canberra.

The linkage and exchange fellows reported back on visits to Canada, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the United States and the Netherlands, or a combination of these. Their reports reflected further development of research undertaken in the systematic reviews in Stream Four and two focused specifically on linkage and exchange.

These reports are available on the website.

Dr Paul Grinzi presented on his trip to APHCRI sister institute the Robert Graham Center where he examined opportunities for translating the HealthLandscape's Primary Care Atlas for use in Australia. This system maps where health professionals are located around the country. While Dr Grinzi recognised some utility for the tool, he believes there are still barriers to successfully implementing it here.

The presentation was well attended and feedback on the day is being gathered. Early indicators are very positive and policy advisers commented on the usefulness of the presentations.

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Rebecca Pallavicini

INTRODUCING APHCRI'S NEW INSTITUTE MANAGER - REBECCA PALLAVICINI

I am very pleased to have joined APHCRI as Institute Manager and I would like to thank everyone here at the Hub, in the Spokes, the members of the Research Advisory Board (RAB) and Department of Health and Ageing staff who have made me feel so welcome. I would especially like to acknowledge my predecessor, Elizabeth Kerr, whose systems and processes have made it easier for me to step into this role.

I have joined APHCRI at an exciting and challenging time. The extension of the funding contract to 2010 means that there is lots of work to be done in a short time frame. The RAB met in March and commissioned several research streams. Some have already been announced on our website and others are to follow after the June RAB meeting.

I see my role as being the link or support person handling many behind-the-scenes and administrative obligations to allow APHCRI researchers to concentrate solely on research. I have previously worked as a research assistant so I know that the last thing researchers want to think about is "administration" – hopefully I can assist research teams and their research offices to ease that burden.

I have already had the opportunity to meet some of our spoke researchers personally and talked to others on the telephone. I hope to meet and talk to many more of you in the near future.

GENERAL PRACTICE & PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2008

DR ELLEN NOLTE - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute is again a major sponsor of the GP & PHC Research conference in 2008, and will host both a plenary and workshop session.

The Institute is pleased to be bringing Dr Ellen Nolte from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to present a keynote address.

Dr Nolte is qualified in biology and holds a Master of Public Health degree. In 1998, she was awarded a Marie Curie Fellowship, funded by the European Commission, to undertake her PhD at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine where she is now working as senior lecturer in the Health Services Research Unit. She currently holds a Career Scientist Award from National Institute for Health Research.

Her main research is the field of health systems including approaches to health system performance assessment, health system responses to chronic disease, international health care system comparisons, and trends and determinants of population health in former communist countries of central and eastern Europe. She has published widely on health system performance assessment, European health policy and the health implications of political and socioeconomic transition in central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

APHCRI PLENARY & WORKSHOP

The workshop will examine the APHCRI experience of linkage and exchange, including the experiences of the eight APHCRI Linkage and Exchange Travelling Fellows of 2007.

It will consider what works well, and what is harder to achieve, when researchers and policy advisers attempt to find common ground to build positive health outcomes, through policy, for the community.

Two international viewpoints on chronic disease management, and how Australia might learn from them, will be the focus of the APHCRI plenary session.

Dr Ellen Nolte will report back on European Observatory research which examined the chronic disease management approach of six European countries, plus Australia and New Zealand. The Institute led the Australian component of this research.

She will be joined by Dr Paul Grinzi, who will look at how the HealthLandscape technology used in the United States could influence how we manage chronic disease in Australia.

Dr Grinzi and Dr Nolte will be joined by APHCRI Acting Director Associate Professor Kirsty Douglas who will consider the policy implications of both technology and learning from the international evidence.

Please send all information about your events, publications and presentations to the editor for inclusion in future newsletters.

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