

NEW RESEARCH STREAM ANNOUNCED

Stream 13 - Drivers of successful primary health care

The Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute announces a new stream of research funding - Stream 13. This stream aims to address the question: What do we know about the drivers of successful primary health care service delivery in the Australian context?

The Institute aims to look at four main indicators to assess this broad question:

Topic One: Quality of primary health care

Topic Two: Access to primary health care

Topic Three: Linkages and collaboration in the provision of primary health care

Topic Four: Knowledgeable, skilled and motivated patients.

Stream 13 will focus on drivers of successful provision of primary health care in a clinical environment (encompassing all clinical primary care, including nursing, dental care, allied health and medical care).

Funding for this research is open to interested primary health care researchers from around Australia and is one of three new research grants announced by the Institute this year, the Institute has also re-funded the APHCRI/Robert Graham Center Visiting Fellowship program.

Applications close 29 August 2008

[Information for applicants](#)

This research stream is expected to commence work in November 2008.

2008 APHCRI/ROBERT GRAHAM CENTER VISITING FELLOWSHIP AWARDED

Dr Rachel Lee has been awarded the APHCRI/Robert Graham Center Visiting Fellowship 2008. The fellowship provides an emerging GP researcher with an opportunity to travel to Washington DC and undertake a project of mutual interest to APHCRI and the Robert Graham Center.

In 2008 Dr Lee will question: What about primary care workforce in urban areas of need?

Dr Lee's question resulted from her own practice in urban Melbourne, where disadvantaged populations in the inner city

have difficulty accessing health care, and few incentives exist to attract primary health care staff to work in these areas.

Dr Lee will travel to Washington in September for six weeks and her report will be presented at a Department of Health and Ageing meeting in April next year and also published on the APHCRI website.

As part of the fellowship APHCRI provides airfares and support for the project, while the Robert Graham Center provides an apartment and stipend to the recipient.

APHCRI VISITING FELLOW - DR ELLEN NOLTE



Ellen Nolte

In a wake up call for Australia, Dr Ellen Nolte described health systems without a tradition of patient choice of provider, no patient enrolment and fee-for-service payment in primary care as the most challenged in providing effective care to the chronically ill.

During a seminar in Canberra Dr Nolte, from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said an international comparison study found these factors created barriers to good care.

The research, which included six European nations along with Australia and Canada, found each country had developed its own models to address the disease burden to fit with its system. Despite the differences, she said, countries could learn from each others successes and failures.

The book, which includes a chapter on decision support by former APHCRI Director Professor Nicholas Glasgow will be published next month. A companion book outlining case studies of care models, with input from APHCRI research leaders Professor Nicholas Zwar and Professor Mark Harris will be published in August.

Dr Ellen Nolte was a Visiting Fellow to APHCRI in June, she was also a keynote speaker at the General Practice & Primary Health Care Research Conference.

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APHCRI VISITING FELLOW – ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SUSAN DOVEY

One of APHCRI's founding team members returned to Canberra as a Visiting Fellow in June in her first visit to the Hub for several years.

Professor Susan Dovey spent three days with the Institute in Canberra and provided feedback to the Hub regarding the Institute's progress.

She noted the progress of the research and the research program and the large number of completed projects. She also commented on potential new directions for the Institute should funding be renewed.

Professor Dovey was also attended the General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Conference in Tasmania.

GENERAL PRACTICE & PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Tasmania was the setting for this year's Primary Health Care and General Practice Research (GP&PHC Research) conference, which took the theme Health for All?, recognising Alma Ata's 30-year anniversary.

Yet again the Primary Health Care Research and Information Service (PHC RIS) brought together a rich program of primary health care research and researchers, both Australian and international, covering a variety of topics.

The Institute was again a major sponsor of this conference and led two sessions, a workshop on linkage and exchange and a plenary on chronic illness.

The workshop session was conducted with the help of APHCRI researchers Dr Sarah Dennis, Associate Professor Gawaine Powell Davies, Professor John Humphreys and Professor John Wakerman who gave their perspectives and shared their experience of linkage and exchange activities as part of APHCRI and internationally.

A number of APHCRI research projects were presented at the conference. In particular, the Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study, a joint University of Sydney and ANU project, whose ACT team is largely based at APHCRI had several presentations on their five-year study.

The APHCRI plenary brought Dr Ellen Nolte to the conference. She spoke on the findings from a European Observatory study which examined methods of chronic disease management in six European countries as well as Australia and Canada.

She was joined by Dr Paul Grinzi, the inaugural recipient of the APHCRI/Robert Graham Center Visiting Fellowship in 2007. Dr Grinzi considered the potential for GIS mapping in identifying chronic illness clusters in general practice populations.

APHCRI Acting Director, Associate Professor Kirsty Douglas, added to the debate considering the recent developments of the Rudd Government's in primary health care and a possible future climate for primary health care research.

1ST INTERNATIONAL VISITING FELLOWSHIP AWARDED

Professor James Buchan, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, will be the Institute's first International Visiting Fellow under the new, rolling research stream (Steam 12) announced in April.

This research stream enables primary health care research teams to apply for assistance to bring international expertise to Australia, and facilitates a meeting in Canberra to share their knowledge with interested parties based in the capital and in the Department of Health and Ageing.

Professor Buchan has expertise in health services management, policy research and health workforce planning, including 20 years experience in practice, policy research and consultancy on human resources strategy and planning in health care workforce.

He will join the Australian Health Workforce Institute (AHWI) in November contributing to meetings in Victoria and giving the AHWI Colloquium. He will also meet with Department of Health and Ageing staff in Canberra, Canberra-based primary health care organisations and give an APHCRI seminar. In Queensland he will present at the University of Queensland and meet with Queensland Health.

His visit will be jointly funded by APHCRI and AHWI.

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

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