

STREAM 12 SUCCESSFUL TEAMS

Professor John Humphreys, Dr Grant Blashki and Dr Victoria Palmer have all been successful in securing funding in APHCRI's Stream 12 commissioning round.

This work is an extension of the Stream Six workforce projects with a view to taking the findings from the systematic reviews and giving them a practical application.

Professor Humphreys will build on work examining methods to retain staff in rural and remote areas of Australia. His study will identify sentinel indicators and develop performance benchmarks for measuring workforce retention, organisation and succession. Such integrated, multifaceted approaches are those most likely to result in sustainable health workforce outcomes. The study will develop a framework by which rural and remote PHC services can plan, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of measures designed to improve workforce recruitment and retention, and thereby increase access to quality primary health care

Dr Blashki will conduct a randomised control trial to evaluate the impact of training social workers to perform focused psychological strategies with patients to improve patient mental health outcomes.

And Dr Palmer will develop the work she was involved with as part of Professor Jane Gunn's Stream Six work which examined the role of the 'generalist' in the 2020 health care team.

More information on the projects is available here:

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

NEW ACTING DIRECTOR - ROBERT WELLS



Robert Wells

Mr Robert Wells has been appointed Acting Director of APHCRI until the Institute's future funding is determined.

Mr Wells is well known to many of those involved with the Institute, having not only worked very closely with the team at the Hub since he came to The Australian National University in 2004, but also through his participation in Stream Four and Stream Six as part of the John Wakerman and John Humphreys projects.

Mr Wells is also a Co-Director of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy, a joint ANU and University of Sydney institute.

Prior to joining the ANU Mr Wells had a distinguished career in the public service, rising to the level of First Assistant Secretary of the Department of Health and Ageing.

Mr Wells' appointment brings to an end Associate Professor Kirsty Douglas' tenure as Acting Director, which was extended from July until mid-October.

Professor Douglas has made an enormous contribution to the Institute during her nine months at its head, leading the development of six new streams of work and building the base for others to be developed in the coming months.

APHCRI Research Advisory Board (RAB) chair Professor John Marley thanked Professor Douglas for keeping the Institute on course through its evaluation year.

"The RAB would like to acknowledge the wonderful work Kirsty has done in keeping APHCRI not just running, but running very well and efficiently at full speed in the interim period. We all appreciate the debt we owe to her for her great contribution," he said.

Professor Douglas and Laurann Yen will continue with the Institute, they have been jointly appointed as research fellows.

NATIONAL HEALTH & HOSPITALS REFORM COMMISSION

An APHCRI submission will be made to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission based on a meeting held in Canberra at the end of August.

The Institute brought together a group of primary health care professionals, researchers and students to discuss likely future workforce issues to consider ways to plan for them.

The draft of the submission is due to be circulated to those who took part in the coming weeks, with an expected submission date in November.

The completed submission will be available on the APHCRI website in December.

APHCRI RESEARCH CONVERSATIONS SERIES LAUNCHED

The Institute has launched a new series of seminars which will bring APHCRI-funded research teams to Canberra to present to the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) every six weeks.

The series – APHCRI Research Conversations – will highlight work done by APHCRI funded research groups during the past five years, with the aim of introducing DoHA staff to the work to encourage the development of relationships and knowledge sharing.

Each seminar will involve a short presentation by the research team and then open discussion on the topic. A wide range of DoHA staff from areas of the department with particular interest in the research will be invited to attend.

Dr Christine Phillips, who is one of the lead investigators on the Australian Practice Nurses Study, was the inaugural speaker for this series. She discussed the role of the practice nurse in the 'interdisciplinary community' of general practice and identified PNs as 'agents of connectivity' within the practice and team and as educators, which are roles not normally identified as belonging to them. The presentation was well received by the Department and a second APHCRI Research Conversation's discussion is scheduled for December 9, with Dr Sarah Dennis.

<http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/Presentations/presentations.php>

Other teams will be invited to participate in the conversations series as areas of interest are highlighted by the Department. If you are interested in participating, please contact Frith Rayner (frith.rayner@anu.edu.au). There will be a break in the series during December and January.

INTERNATIONAL VISITING FELLOWS IN CANBERRA



Professor James Buchan

Helen Parker and Judith Smith were APHCRI's first participants in the APHCRI International Visiting Fellowship program. Their presentations are available on the website: www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/presentations.php

APHCRI will be hosting two more visitors before the end of the year, Professor James Buchan and Dr Eric Larson.

Professor Buchan will present on the potential for nurses to fill some of the medical workforce gaps and Dr Larson will examine the developing role of Physicians Assistants in the United States and how this might translate to Australia.

Both will be in Canberra during the week of 10–14 November and will give presentations to the Department of Health and Ageing as well as at The Australian National University.

Details of the visits are available on the Institute website.

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

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