



Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development

2009 Novice Researcher Fellowships

Background

The Queensland PHCRED Collaboration comprises four universities and one university department of rural health that are funded through the Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) strategy to build research capacity in the primary health care sector. The universities are: Bond University, Griffith University, James Cook University (JCU), Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health (MICRRH), and The University of Queensland (UQ).

We are pleased to invite applications for 2009 PHCRED Fellowships to be undertaken at the participating partner institutions as follows:

Bond: We offer Research Development Program (RDP) and PHCRED Researcher Fellowships for candidates with little and some research experience respectively. Both RDP and fellowship funding develop research skills, but the latter is especially designed to prepare fellows to undertake a research higher degree or develop a research career.

Griffith: We offer research fellowships for early career researchers to conduct a small research project relevant to primary health care. Candidates should have a sound project idea, realistic time-lines and the motivation to follow-through with the project should it go longer than the fellowship time available.

JCU: A Fellowship is available for a Practice Nurse or General Practitioner to undertake a project with the North Queensland Practice Based Research Network. If you are interested in a Network Fellowship or our Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care Research, please contact JCU directly for details of the application processes.

MICRRH: Like the other sites, MICRRH offers a range of Fellowships aimed at supporting primary health care professionals while they gain research experience and skills. In general priority is given to projects with a focus on issues relevant to primary health care in rural and remote areas. Funding is provided through three streams, the Research Development Program and Primary Health Care Research Fellowships funded through PHCRED plus the Remote Health Research Fellowships funded in collaboration with the Xstrata Community Partnership Program. MICRRH will also consider supporting research projects being undertaken as part of a higher degree.

UQ: We offer research fellowships for novice and early career researchers to develop research skills while doing a small research project of relevance to primary health care. Fellows will be linked to a mentor who will provide guidance and supervision. Please contact Deb Askew if you would like any further information about this opportunity.

The Fellowships are designed to enable primary health care practitioners to gain 'hands on' experience of the research process. Applications are invited from all primary health workers, including GPs, nurses, allied health and health promotion professionals, Aboriginal health workers, primary health care managers, graduates of other relevant disciplines (social and behavioural sciences, health economics) currently working in primary health care, and members of consumer groups, self help groups and community organizations. Candidates will be encouraged to join with existing university department projects if such projects are consistent with the candidates' area of interest. Priority will be given to research addressing clinical questions relevant to primary health care.

The fellowship serves to remunerate professionals working within primary health care for time away from their usual duties (clinical or otherwise) to conduct research in conjunction with one of the PHCRED universities. The Fellowships are intended for those who wish to obtain and/or develop their research skills within a supportive environment. Fellows will extend their skills in literature searching, study design, development of study protocols, data analyses and writing research papers.

In general the Fellowships will provide financial support to practitioners for approximately 40 days over a 12 month period (eg 1 day per week for nine months) in lieu of their normal work. In addition, a small amount of funding may be available to support the research that is undertaken. An experienced primary care researcher from one of the PHCRED universities will supervise each PHCRED Fellow.

The terms of Fellowships differ between organizations, and offers that are made to individuals will include these details.

Selection Process

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate:

- A viable project idea
- Motivation to develop a career in primary health care research
- Interest in a research area that will contribute to the primary health care evidence base
- Commitment to working collaboratively with other researchers and care providers
- A good academic record, and prior research interest or experience if applying for a fellowship
- Ability to fulfil the Fellowship's aims
- Commitment to attend and present at annual Fellows Meeting in November 2009.

Interested professionals are strongly advised to contact the PHCRED coordinator of one of the participating Universities (see below) to discuss their area of potential research interest before submitting their application.

If you are not sure who is the most suitable person to discuss your application, contact the Statewide coordinator, Denise Schultz (07 3346 4905 or email: d.schultz@uq.edu.au).

Details of University contacts

Bond University:
Elly Scheermeyer
Email: escheerm@bond.edu.au
Phone: 07 5595 4411

Griffith University:
Libby Holden
Email: l.holden@griffith.edu.au
Phone: 07 3382 1364

James Cook University :
Robyn Preston
Email : robyn.preston@jcu.edu.au
Phone : 07 4796 3383

Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health:
Stephanie De La Rue
Email: stephanie.delarue@jcu.edu.au
Phone: 07 4744 7913

The University of Queensland
Deborah Askew
Email: d.askew@uq.edu.au
Phone: 07 3365 5449

List of research interests currently undertaken

Research area	University
Acute respiratory infections	Bond
Breastfeeding	Bond
Cardiovascular disease	UQ, Bond
Management and Care for people with syndromes with low muscle tone or hypothalamic dysfunction	Bond
Chronic Disease	Bond, Griffith, UQ
Clinical Decision Making	UQ, Bond
Cochrane Systematic Review	Bond, UQ
Diabetes Therapy/Management	Bond, UQ
Diagnostic and Screening Test Evaluation	UQ, Bond
Elderly (residential) Care	Bond
Epidemiology of injury	Griffith
Evidence-based practice	Bond, Griffith, UQ
Exercise and Sports Medicine	Bond
General practice research design and implementation	Bond, JCU, UQ
Health economics	Griffith, Bond
Health promotion	Griffith, JCU
Health services integration	Bond, UQ
Health services Evaluation	Griffith, JCU
Innovative rural and remote health service delivery	MICRRH
Indigenous health care	Bond, MICRRH
Medical education	Bond, JCU, UQ
Medical writing	Bond
Mental Health	Bond
Musculoskeletal medicine	Griffith
Palliative care	UQ
Population health (including remote)	Griffith, JCU, MICRRH, UQ
Primary Care Skin Cancer Medicine	UQ
Randomized controlled trials in populations and in individuals	Griffith, JCU, UQ, Bond
Reliability and validity of clinical tests	Griffith
Rural and remote health	MICRRH, JCU
Sexual Health	JCU
Skin cancer	Bond, JCU, UQ
Women's health	UQ
Workforce recruitment and retention	MICRRH, UQ

Application Process

NB. For those interested in a Fellowship at UQ, please contact Deb Askew direct. For those interested in a Fellowship at JCU, please contact Robyn Preston direct. You are not required to submit an application to the State Coordinator.

Applicants should provide the following:

- 1) **A cover letter** indicating:
 - Your motivation to pursue primary care research as part of your career development
 - How the Fellowship would facilitate your career
 - Your preference for the site of your fellowship
- 2) **A Curriculum vitae**. This will include indications of your employment history, research or project-based experience, publications and any research or program grants you have achieved or managed. Include contact details for two (2) referees who can endorse your suitability to undertake research. (Max 2 pages)
- 3) **A letter of support** from your employer or practice.
- 4) **A brief outline of a research idea**, preferably a maximum of 2 A4 pages, including the following headings:
 - State your **research question**
 - **Background** to area of interest - *Why is this an issue?*
 - **Aim** of study - *How will the study address the issue?*
 - **Method** - *How will the study be conducted? (Be specific about what you propose to do. Please include procedure, participants, method of data collection and data analysis.)*
 - **What are the outcome measures** (e.g. what measures do you expect to change with treatment/therapy or what factors do you expect to be present/absent in your study population?)
 - Potential **impact** of findings – *What is the relevance of this study to primary care?*
 - Up to twenty-five key **literature references** included in the Background.
 - Timeline for the study

Applications (including your phone and email contact details) are to be submitted to the State PHCRED Coordinator:

Denise Schultz
PHCRED Qld Coordinator
Discipline of General Practice
Level 2, Edith Cavell Building
Royal Brisbane Hospital Complex
Herston Road, Herston Qld 4029
Fax (07) 3365 5130
Email: d.schultz@uq.edu.au

Applications close: Friday 17th October 2008

A commencement date and terms of engagement will be negotiated between the partner organisations and successful applicants.