



Primary Health Care

Research, Evaluation and Development

2011 Early Career Research Fellowships

The Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) program at Bond University offers Research Fellowships for early career researchers to conduct a small research project relevant to primary health care or to develop research skills and experience by joining with an existing project.

The Researcher Development Program (RDP) is primarily designed to increase research skills, but a Fellowship under the Researcher Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) program may also be used to undertake a research higher degree or develop a research career. Research undertaken as part of the RDP program should address national health priority areas from a primary care perspective. The priority areas for Research include: Improving access and reducing inequity, better management of chronic conditions, increasing the focus on prevention and improving quality, safety, performance and accountability.

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 consumers including members of consumer groups and/or community organisations and graduates of other relevant disciplines currently working in primary health care.

Candidates will be encouraged to join with existing projects or research areas in the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine. Priority will be given to research addressing evidence-based practice or clinical questions relevant to primary health care and evaluation.

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 our PHCRED program at Bond University.

The Fellowships are intended for those who wish to obtain and develop their research skills within a supportive environment. Fellows can extend their skills in literature searching, study design, development of study protocols, ethics applications, conducting focus groups and in-depth interviews, data analyses and writing research papers.

In general the Fellowships will provide financial support of approximately 1 day/week of up to 12 month in lieu of their normal work, but alternative arrangements of, e.g. 2 day/week for shorter periods, can be negotiated. In addition, a small amount of funding may be available to support the research that is undertaken. An experienced primary care researcher will supervise each PHCRED Fellow.

Selection Process

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate:

- A viable project idea
- Motivation to develop a career in primary health care research and to contribute to the primary health care evidence base
- A good academic record, prior research interest or equivalent experience in Primary Care
- Ability to fulfil the Fellowship's aims and adhere to the Bond University ethics and conduct
- Commitment to attend and present at the annual Fellows Meeting in November 2011
- Ability to show initiative as well as work collaboratively with other researchers

A list of research interests at Bond University with a focus on evidence-based practice & General Practice in general

Acute Respiratory Infections
Chronic Diseases
Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS)
Clinical Decision Making
Cochrane Systematic Reviews
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) Populations
Evidence-based Practice
Indigenous Health Care
Management and Care of People with Syndromes or Intellectual Impairment
Mental Health

We are especially interested in qualitative research with patients with CFS and with CaLD communities. We are also focussing on analysing perceptions of health professionals & consumers about medication

Interested applicants are advised to discuss their area of potential research interest before submitting their application. Please contact:

- PHCRED Coordinator, Dr Elly Scheermeyer (escheerm@bond.edu.au, ph: 07 5595 4411) or
- Director PHCRED, Professor Mieke Van Driel (mvandrie@bond.edu.au)

Application Process

Applicants should provide the following:

- 1) **A cover letter** indicating:
 - Your contact details, email and phone number
 - Your motivation to pursue primary care research as part of your career development
 - How the Fellowship would facilitate your career
- 2) **A Curriculum vitae**. This will include your contact details, qualifications, your employment history, research or project-based experience, publications and any awards or grants you have obtained. 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 two A4 pages**, including the following headings:
 - **Research question**
 - **Background** of the area of interest. Why you consider this an issue?
 - **Aim of study** and how will the study address the issue?
 - **Method** How will the study be conducted? For example, are you interested in quantitative research (analysing numerical data) or qualitative research (interviews or focus groups). Please include procedure, participants, method of data collection and data analysis.)
 - **What is the outcome** you expect from the study?
 - 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 close: 31st of October 2010
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Please submit your application to PHCRED Coordinator:

Dr Elly Scheermeyer

PHCRED/ Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine

Bond University

Gold Coast, QLD 4229

[Email: escheerm@bond.edu.au](mailto:escheerm@bond.edu.au),

phone: 07 5595 4411

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