

# Victorian Primary Health Care RED Partnership

## The University of Melbourne Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development



### Northern Computerised Research Practice Network (NWCRN)

Building on a number of years working with both the Northern and North West Melbourne Divisions of General Practice we have identified and invited a small number of motivated GPs to join the NWCRN. These practices will collect ongoing longitudinal clinical and health services data and conduct needs-based research for the region. This formal core of the “informal” Northern Research Network offers incentives, training and support to function effectively as a representative source of data for the Research Network and region.

### Alliance with the Health for Kids Network

The Health for Kids Network is a partnership between 5 Divisions of General Practice and 2 hospitals with a common interest and commitment to improving child and adolescent care in the community. It facilitates GP up-skilling and education and most recently has sponsored a RCT (Live, Eat and Play study) of a GP delivered intervention for overweight children. As a part of the PHCRED initiative we have introduced a research capacity building component into the LEAP trial.

### PapScreen Victoria/Department of General Practice Small Grants Program

In 2001, PapScreen Victoria (PSV) and the Department of General Practice developed a small grants program inviting applications from Victorian Divisions to propose programs that would improve cervical screening rates in general practice. This collaborative PHCRED program is an opportunity to respond to Division’s earlier expressed need for development in evaluation and research skills. We will continue to provide support and advice to the three successful divisions in the next year.

### Collaboration with the Victorian College of Pharmacy

We have actively sought collaboration with the College and with the Department of Medicine (St Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne) in establishing a Centre for the Prevention and Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease to demonstrate how the clinical research process should connect hospital based and primary care clinicians in an academic approach to improving patient care through participation in clinical research and the training of clinical researchers.

### Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP) – Northern, North West, and Melbourne Divisions

The department has been successful in receiving funding for a HARP submission to develop an Asthma Best Practice Model with The Northern Hospital. The lead agency is the Northern Division of General Practice, with the department managing and evaluating the project. Other collaborators include Dianella Community Health Centre, and the Darebin Community Health Centre.

A joint HARP proposal with the Royal Children’s Hospital has also been successfully funded. This project will combine three initial sub-projects with the RCH. The main partners include Dianella Community Health Centre, Melbourne Division of General Practice, North West Melbourne Division of General Practice, Doutta Galla Community Health Centre, and their PCP. The primary role of the department will be to evaluate the project.



The Victorian Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Partnership is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.



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## Evaluation of the Victorian rollout of the Enhanced Primary Care MBS items for GPs: GP Education, Support and Community Linkages

A team from the Department of General Practice and the Centre for Health Program Evaluation (The University of Melbourne) were commissioned by General Practice Divisions Victoria (GPDV) to evaluate their GP Education, Support and Community Linkages program, implemented via Victorian Divisions of General Practice. In addition to conducting the evaluation, this was an opportunity to build relationships with all Victorian Divisions of General Practice, whilst strengthening our existing links with several of these Divisions. We have raised our awareness of Divisions' current and future programs/activities. This will enable us to tailor and/or target our PHC RED strategies in a practical, relevant way towards Divisions.



## GP Liaison Officer – Mercy Hospital

As a PHCRED initiative we will be providing research and evaluation support to the GP Liaison Officer at the Mercy Hospital for Women. Hospital management have agreed that the Liaison Officer can spend one day per week within our department to enhance their research and evaluation skills.



## PHCRED Fellowships

We have awarded three fellowships to primary care practitioners interested in research to enable them to experience an academic environment. We will provide one day funding per week, workspace and resources, supervision and support.

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## *PHC RED*

### Research Fellowships

#### Background

The Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing is currently implementing the Primary Health Care Research Evaluation & Development (PHC RED) Strategy which aims to build research capacity in primary care. As part of the strategy, Monash University's Department of General Practice and Melbourne University's Department of General Practice and Department of Rural Health have joined together to form the Victorian PHC RED partnership. The partnership is committed to building expertise in primary health care research and is pleased to invite applications for the PHC Research Fellowships.

The Fellowships are designed to enable GPs and other primary care practitioners to gain 'hands on' experience of the research process. The Fellowship serves to remunerate a practitioner for time away from clinical commitments and to conduct research in conjunction with a university department. 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, statistical analyses and writing research papers. During the Fellowship successful candidates will develop a research project that can either be submitted to an external funding body or may form the basis of a Masters by Research, MD or PhD. Candidates will be encouraged to join with existing university department projects if such projects are consistent with the candidates' area of interest.

Fellowships are being offered by each of the three departments involved in the PHC RED partnership. The Fellowships will provide financial support to practitioners for one day per week for between nine to twelve months. An experienced primary care researcher will supervise each PHC RED Fellow.

Staff working in the primary health care sector who have an interest in learning about research as part of their professional development are encouraged to apply.

#### Selection Process

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate:

- 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;
- Ability to fulfill the Fellowship's aims.

# Education Program 2002



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Date	Workshop/Course	Location
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Research methods in general practice	Monash University Dept. of General Practice East Bentleigh
Friday-Saturday 9-10 <sup>th</sup> August	Qualitative Research Methods	Melbourne University Dept. of Rural Health Bright
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Introduction to Statistics	Melbourne University Dept. of Rural Health Shepparton
Friday-Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Managing & Analysing Data	Melbourne University Dept. of General Practice Carlton
Friday - Saturday 18-19 <sup>th</sup> October	Research and Evaluation methods in general practice	Melbourne University Dept. of General Practice Carlton

Victorian Partnership

Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne

Department of Rural Health, University of Melbourne

Department of General Practice, Monash University

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<b>Research Methods in General Practice</b>	
<b>A one day workshop by the Department of General Practice Monash University for GPs and Division staff</b>	
<b>Topics include:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Research: its definition and relationship to evidence based general practice</li> <li>❖ Research methodology               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clinical questions arising in general practice</li> <li>• qualitative versus quantitative approaches</li> <li>• choosing a study design</li> <li>• introduction to analysing data</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ Research projects               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the development of research projects in divisions of general practice</li> <li>• research and its relationship to evaluation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>The main emphasis of the workshop is on research methodology, although some discussion about its role in evidence based medicine and evaluation will take place.</p> <p><i>It is at an introductory level.</i></p>	
<b>Presenters:</b>	Associate Professor Peter Schattner Professor Leon Piterman Dr Mark Nelson
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Saturday 27 July 2002</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>9.30 a.m – 5.00 p.m</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	Monash University Department of General Practice 867 Centre Road, East Bentleigh
<b>Cost:</b>	\$150.00 per person (includes lunch, refreshments and course notes) <i>NB: Due to alternative funding arrangements, Divisions may send up to 2 participants free of charge.*</i>
<b>Qualitative Research Methods</b>	
<p>This workshop has two objectives. First, on day one, the seminar will introduce researchers to the broad conceptual frameworks, data gathering methods and analysis of qualitative methodology. Second, on day two, the generic skills will be applied to specific approaches to research with concurrent sessions on narrative analysis, focus group techniques and conversation analysis.</p> <p>The qualitative research methods course complements the other elements of our Education Program and the sessions will locate the relationship of in-depth approaches to research with respect to quantitative approaches.</p>	
<b>Topics include:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Understanding the scope of the interpretive paradigm</li> <li>❖ Grounded theory</li> <li>❖ Narrative analysis and thematic analysis</li> <li>❖ Conversation analysis</li> <li>❖ Focus group techniques</li> </ul>
<b>Who should attend:</b>	This course will use small group learning techniques to engage all those working in the primary care setting, including Divisional staff, GPs and allied health professionals.
<b>Presenters:</b>	A/Prof Barry McGrath Dr Lisa Bourke Dr Netra Khadka

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<b>Date/Time:</b>	<b>Friday 9 August 2002 (10.00 am – 5.30 pm)</b> <b>Saturday 10 August 2002 (9.00 am – Midday)</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	The High Country Inn 13 Great Alpine Rd, Bright 3741 Phone 03 5755 1244
<b>Cost:</b>	Seminar costs \$250.00 per person  Includes: Course notes Accommodation on Friday night Morning and afternoon teas, lunch and dinner on Friday Breakfast and morning tea on Saturday morning <i>The cost of alcoholic drinks and other services is not included in this price.</i> The workshop is limited to 25 attendees. For those wishing to share accommodation the cost will be \$215.00 per person.  <i>NB: Due to alternative funding arrangements the costs for up to two representatives from each division of general practice will be waived.</i>  For those wishing to stay on for Saturday night the cost is \$55.00 for shared accommodation and \$90.00 for single accommodation per person per night. This cost will be the individual responsibility of each who chooses this option.
<b>Introduction to Basic Statistics</b>	
<p>The aim of the short course is to introduce to participants basic statistical concepts and uses of statistical methods and techniques in the broad field of health care services research.</p> <p>At the completion of the short course, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Describe basic statistical definitions and methods, the underlying theoretical, methodological and practical issues in the application of these methods in research;</li> <li>➤ Apply appropriate methods and techniques during data collection, data presentation and data analysis.</li> <li>➤ Interpret statistics and apply appropriately during the writing of research report.</li> </ul>	
<b>Topics include:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Definition and concepts of data, descriptive statistics for populations and samples, probability, statistical inference and level of significance</li> <li>❖ Why researchers need to know statistics in the analysis of data? When should researchers use statistics and data?</li> <li>❖ Convenient and effective way of summarising qualitative and quantitative data, presenting data and comparisons</li> <li>❖ Statistical methods and tests related to analyses, manage and presentation of social science and health data. Using SPSS to demonstrate examples</li> </ul>
<b>Who should attend:</b>	This short course is designed for researchers and staff who are engaged in health care services and delivery and also for health professionals. In particular, the course is designed to up-skill those who have had previous exposure to statistics or performed statistical analyses some years ago. This course will use small group learning techniques to engage all those working in the health care setting, including Divisional staff, GPs and allied health professionals and researchers.
<b>Presenters:</b>	A/Prof Bridget Hsu-Hage Dr Munir A Khan
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Friday 6 September 2002</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>9.30 AM – 5.00 PM</b>

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<b>Venue:</b>	School of Rural Health, The University of Melbourne 49 Graham Street, Shepparton Phone 03 5823 4500
<b>Cost:</b>	\$150.00 per person Includes: Course notes, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea The workshop is limited to 25 attendees.  <i>NB: Due to alternative funding arrangements the costs for up to two representatives from each division of general practice will be waived.</i>
<b>Managing and Analysing Data</b>	
<p>Are you going MAD trying to manage, process and analyse your data? Have you set up the database to ensure that you get high quality data entry and minimise your data checking and cleaning processes? Do you want to find out how to transfer your data across to a statistical package, to check and analyse your data? Then this is the course for you.....</p> <p>The aim of the course is to provide participants hands on experience in setting up a database, checking and cleaning the data and then importing the data into a statistical package for analysis. Participants will be shown how to summarise their data and test for associations or differences between two or more groups.</p> <p>Each participant will work on an actual survey derived from a Primary Health Care setting. The course will be conducted in a computer laboratory where participants will develop and set up a database in EPIDATA, enter a few records, and then export data to a statistical package. On the second day participants will gain hands on experience analysing a dataset in a statistical package.</p>	
<p>At the completion of the short course, participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Set up a database in EPIDATA</li> <li>➤ Code responses for data entry</li> <li>➤ Set up validation rules for their data entry</li> <li>➤ Enter data into the database</li> <li>➤ Export data from the database and import data to the statistical package</li> <li>➤ Check for coding or data entry errors in the data</li> <li>➤ Summarise the data using descriptive statistics such as frequencies, means, standard deviations, medians and range</li> <li>➤ Simple graphs such as boxplots, dotplots and scatter plots</li> <li>➤ Analysis of the data including t-tests, cross tabulations with Pearson's Chi-squared statistic, confidence intervals and calculating odds ratios for binary outcomes</li> <li>➤ Reporting results in reports or papers</li> </ul>	
<b>Topics include:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Principles of designing, developing and managing a database</li> <li>❖ Data checking and cleaning of the data</li> <li>❖ How to keep organised including naming of files and structure of directories</li> <li>❖ Descriptive statistics and analysis of the data</li> </ul>
<b>Who should attend:</b>	Anyone interested in up-skilling their management and analysis of datasets. In particular, divisional and community health centre staff, allied health professionals, GPs and their practice staff.

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday 19 September 2002 &amp; Friday 20 September 2002</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>9.30 AM – 5.00 PM</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	Department of General Practice The University of Melbourne 200 Berkeley Street, CARLTON 3053
<b>Presenters:</b>	Patty Chondros, Biostatistician
<b>Cost:</b>	\$250.00 per person Includes: Course notes, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea  The workshop is limited to 12 attendees

## Research and Evaluation Methods in General Practice

This two-day course will be conducted by the Department of General Practice, the University of Melbourne, in Carlton on **18-19<sup>th</sup> October 2002**. It follows successful courses offered by the Department over the last two years that have attracted delegates from across Victoria. The course aims to lay a firm foundation in research and evaluation methodology within the primary health care setting.

<b>Topics include:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Practical issues in defining and organising a research project</li> <li>❖ Epidemiological aspects of study design</li> <li>❖ Statistical aspects of study design: sampling and sample size</li> <li>❖ Searching and using existing information</li> <li>❖ Presenting research findings</li> <li>❖ Small group discussions of specific research problems</li> </ul> <p>Experienced general practice researchers will facilitate the course. It will include both formal lectures and small discussion/practical sessions. To gain hands on experience of the research process, during the course participants will develop a research protocol from a research question and present this to their peers on the final day.</p>
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<b>Who should attend:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ People with a burning question they are unsure how to answer: <i>e.g. Am I managing my depressed patients in the most appropriate way? How can we assess the impact of our diabetes program?</i></li> <li>❖ Those considering conducting research as part of their professional development <i>e.g. I am thinking of studying for a Masters or a PhD at some stage in my career</i></li> </ul> <p>If you have a research idea you would like to follow through in order to assist your clinical or business practice, this could be the course for you. The course is open to all those working in the primary care setting, including Divisional staff, GPs and allied health professionals.</p>
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<b>Cost:</b>	250.00 per person Includes lunches, refreshments and course notes.  <i>NB: Due to alternative funding arrangements*, Divisions may send up to 2 participants free of charge</i>
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This course has been submitted to the RACGP for adjudication under the QACE program. For further details, please see our website [www.gp.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.gp.unimelb.edu.au) or contact Maria Potiriadis (Projects Officer) on (03) 8344 9719, or email [gp\\_phcred@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gp_phcred@unimelb.edu.au).

# Monash University

## Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development

2002

### *Peninsula Integration Project*

The Commonwealth (DoHA) has agreed to fund a demonstration project in the Mornington Peninsula region aimed at testing models of integration between primary care and hospitals. The Department of General Practice at Monash University is working with the Peninsula Hospital and the Mornington Peninsula Division of General Practice to provide academic input to the project. The primary role of Monash University is to develop the evaluation aspect of the project. It is likely that the project will involve primary care (not just general practice) and may be around either a chronic disease, aged care or electronic communication as possible themes.



### **Knox Division of General Practice**

The Knox Division of General Practice identified a small group of members who were interested in research. A meeting was set up between this group and researchers from the Department of General Practice to identify potential research projects. Working from a ground up approach, the GPs identified a number of topics they were interested in. It was ultimately agreed to pursue a research project concentrating on the health and wellbeing of their members. Although the project will be fully run by division members, regular meetings with university researchers will be held to provide advice and support. The division will pursue this project using internal funds.



### *Monash Division of General Practice*

An academic in the Department of General Practice is currently working with the Informatics officer at the Monash Division of General Practice to evaluate a training program for GPs to find clinical information on the internet.

### **Bentleigh Bayside Community Health Service**

Our department is developing a relationship with our local Community Health Service to collaborate on research activities. The Health Service has active research groups pursuing topics of interest, however they are aware that their activities do not always have academic rigour. Under the PHCRED banner, the University has reviewed and advised on several questionnaires developed by the Health Service for use with their clients. The university has also developed a strategy to evaluate the effectiveness of a forum coordinated by the Health Service aimed at increasing the meaningfulness of the Primary Care Partnerships to smaller agencies. Up to 25 local agencies will be participating in this forum.

# Victorian Primary Health Care RED Partnership

Summary of PHCRED Activities of The University of Melbourne, Department of Rural Health, Shepparton

Highlights	Issues	Opportunities	Difficulties
<p>1. Education Program</p> <p>Bright seminar &amp; Intro stats</p> <p>Monthly seminars for the Goulburn Valley community PD for DRH, GVH and PCP staff</p> <p>2. <b>Teamwork of Victorian PHCRED State-wide Partnership</b></p> <p>3. <b>Postgraduate Program at DRH</b></p> <p>Master of Rural Health</p> <p>Master of Health Promotion</p> <p>Master of Medicine</p> <p>G/Dip in Health Promotion</p> <p>4. <b>Range of collaborative research projects and partnerships created in:</b></p> <p>Koori health</p> <p>Health Promotion</p> <p>Health Services</p> <p>Consumer issues</p> <p>Communication in consultations</p>	<p>1. <b>Lag-time to develop trust</b></p> <p>Time is needed for staff or research partners to know the answers to ‘what, how, who questions’ about undertaking research internally and externally</p> <p>2. <b>Interconnectedness of academic activities</b></p> <p>Research/teaching/supervision/ management and admin take time and are best conducted in coordinated manner</p> <p>3. <b>Straddling paradigms</b></p> <p>DRH staff operates in several research paradigms.</p> <p>4. <b>Linking with many disciplines</b></p> <p>DRH staff is multidisciplinary</p>	<p>1. Range of disciplines of DRH staff funded under PHCRED create abundant opportunities to build PHC partnerships</p> <p>Sociology/ GP/ Physiotherapy/ Hospital specialist/Nursing/ Health Promotion/Nutrition/ Geography/Statistics/ management/</p> <p>2. <b>Building partnerships with divisions, GVH, community and PCPs in research &amp; training</b></p> <p>3. <b>Victorian PHCRED Partners</b></p> <p>4. <b>International undergraduate and postgraduate rural partners may prove beneficial</b></p> <p>5. <b>Future PHCRED funding</b></p>	<p>1. Conflicting goals of Commonwealth funding pools with respect to research</p> <p><b>Commonwealth funding streams to DRH bear differing values placed on research.</b></p> <p>2. <b>The ‘rural premium’</b></p> <p>The cost of undertaking rural activities</p> <p>3. <b>Workforce issues</b></p> <p>Recruitment/retaining</p> <p>4. <b>Sub-critical mass of researchers in rural settings</b></p> <p>Limited pool of researchers at all levels of expertise and experience</p>



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