

## RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

March 2011

Office of Medical Research, UNSW Medicine

### Research Grants 2011

*In an effort to assist researchers with grant writing, a new initiative has been put together whereby Research Coordinators will be appointed in each School/Centre to give assistance to researchers with all aspects of their applications. A timetable has been devised to assist in this endeavour, please go to the following website under News for details:  
<http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/medweb.nsf/page/researchne#support>*

*Workshops have been organised (see below), and I advise all researchers to take advantage of the advice and assistance provided at these workshops by experienced and successful researchers.*

*Good luck with your research grants this year - let's see if we can improve on last year's results!!*

*Denis Wakefield  
Associate Dean Research*

### Grant Workshops 2011 – Make a note in your diary!

*Workshops have been organised to assist researchers in preparing NHMRC/ARC grants. Instructions for registration for the first workshop on 14 March are below and also posted on the Faculty website:*

#### **NHMRC Partnership Grants Workshop**

Date: 14 March 2011

Time: 10.00am – 12noon

Venue: LG03, Wallace Wurth Building ([Map Ref C27](#))

[Register Here](#)

#### **Who should attend:**

This workshop is highly relevant to researchers who have projects that could lead to enhancement of evidence-based health policy and service delivery. This workshop will include a presentation by A/Prof Alison Ritter on how to construct a competitive proposal.

The presenters are:

A/Prof L Rivory – Brief overview of scheme

A/Prof Alison Ritter (pictured above) - Strategic considerations to NHMRC Partnerships

Staff of the Research Strategy Office (strategic support) and Grants Management Office (compliance and submission) will be in attendance to clarify deadlines and submission requirements.

**For further information regarding this session please contact:**

[Ms Wendy Wartho](#) (9385 8210)

[Dr Laurent Rivory](#) (9385 7945)



*The following workshops have also been organised, final details and registration will be announced in due course:*

**4 April : 10-12 Development Grants – Response to Assessors : Dr Jim Henderson (NSi)**

Venue : TBA

**20 April : 10-12 : NHMRC/ARC ECR Fellowships : Professors Peter Gunning and Wendy Jessup**

Venue : TBA

**16 June\* : NHMRC Grants – Response to reviewers : Professor Margaret Morris**

Venue : TBA

**4 August\* : NHMRC Project Grants #1 : Prof Andrew Lloyd**

Venue : TBA

**8 December\* : NHMRC Project Grants #2 : Speaker TBA**

Venue : TBA

*\*Date to be confirmed*

*Please note these dates in your diary and check the Faculty website regularly for updates.*

## **Further support for researchers – Ms Deirdre McKay, GMO**

Grants Management Office staff member Ms Deirdre McKay is now located within the Faculty of Medicine for a trial period of 16-20 weeks, as part of the Research Division's new strategy of engagement with researchers in the Faculty of Medicine.

Deirdre has extensive experience with NHMRC funding schemes and a strong working knowledge of the Faculty of Medicine client base. As such she has an excellent background for providing this additional level of support on behalf of the Division of Research. Deirdre can be contacted at [deirdre.mckay@unsw.edu.au](mailto:deirdre.mckay@unsw.edu.au) and is currently located on Level 2 of the AGSM Building (Room 210, tel 9385 1664). While Deirdre is located within the Medicine precinct, she is also available to assist researchers from other Faculties.

Deirdre's role will primarily be to provide editorial support to researchers developing their NHMRC applications. For Project Grants, priority will be given to applicants who are new to NHMRC and to those who received 'fundable' scores in the last round (Category 4 or 5). For editorial assistance to be effective and efficient, applications should be as close to 'final' as possible, and you will need to email Part B as a Word document, as well as the Application Summary snapshot.

Please contact Deirdre for information and general advice relating to NHMRC Schemes and she will provide direct assistance as well as direction to other sources of support at UNSW. She will liaise with RSO and Medicine staff for matters pertaining to strategy and discipline.

Deirdre's role as Team Leader ( Medicine) in the Grants Management Office is being back-filled by Susanne Clark during this period, with compliance and post-award support remaining a GMO Team Medicine responsibility. Susanne has been a member of the Medicine grants team for over 3 years and has provided excellent compliance support and advice to researchers during that period. Additional grants officer support will be provided and team workloads will be closely monitored to ensure GMO services to researchers are not disrupted. Susanne can be contacted at [Susanne.clark@unsw.edu.au](mailto:Susanne.clark@unsw.edu.au)

## **UNSW Higher Degree Research Policy & Procedures**

**Workshop:** UNSW Higher Degree Research Policy & Procedures

**Date:** 9.30-12.30 - Tuesday, 22 March 2011

For more information and to register [click here](#).

**Workshop:** Effective Annual Progress Reviews

**Date:** 9.30-12.30 - Tuesday, 31 May, 2011

For more information and to register [click here](#)

## Pilot Study of Obesity Prevention – Dr Elizabeth Denney-Wilson

Dr. Elizabeth Denney-Wilson, from the UNSW Research Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity writes: In late 2009 I was awarded an Early Career Research grant from the faculty to conduct a pilot study of an obesity prevention intervention delivered by nurses working in General Practice.

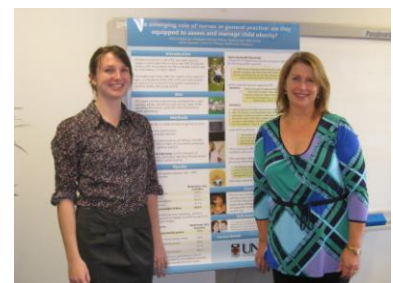
In 2010, 18.7 % of NSW Kindergarten children (mean age 5.3yrs) were overweight or obese; an average annual increase of approximately 0.3% since 2004; early intervention is needed to prevent children starting school already overweight. Recently, a “Healthy Kids Check” (HKC) was added to the Medicare schedule to provide children with a comprehensive health screen to identify problems before they started school. We developed a research proposal to establish the feasibility and impact of an obesity prevention module for inclusion in the HKC.

Nurses are increasingly employed in general practice and have a major role in offering preventive care and health checks to patients of all ages. To establish whether our proposed intervention was feasible, we surveyed nurses in three divisions of general practice (N=59) to establish how much time they spend on preventive care, what barriers they encounter and how confident they feel in offering advice around energy balance and healthy weight. We also asked about their interest in preventive care and what, if any, further training would be of interest. We then conducted in depth interviews with a sub-set of these nurses (N=10) to further explore their capacity to offer obesity prevention as part of a healthy kids check. We found a high level of interest in further training to enable nurses to prevent and manage child obesity (85%). Barriers to preventive care included competing priorities, concern regarding patient’s inability to make lifestyle changes due to socioeconomic factors and lack of confidence discussing healthy eating and activity with parents of overweight children.

The next step was to deliver a workshop to nurses, with topics including calculating body mass index, assessing parent readiness to change, healthy eating and activity recommendations, suggestions for parents and raising the issue of overweight. Nurses were able to role play a consultation with an actor and were provided with brochures and other resources to offer parents. They agreed to incorporate the intervention into their next 10 healthy kids’ checks and provide us with feedback. Nurses were reimbursed for attending the workshop and for the additional time taken to incorporate the obesity prevention messages. Post-intervention interviews with nurses suggest that the workshop increased their knowledge and confidence and that the intervention is feasible.

The funding enabled me to employ Alison Robinson, a research dietician, who has continued to work at CPHCE on other projects. Alison has presented a poster at last year’s Australia New Zealand Obesity Society meeting and has had an abstract accepted for an oral presentation at the Dietitians’ Association of Australia meeting. I have had an abstract accepted to speak at the International Society for Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity conference and we have two manuscripts in preparation. The pilot data has been included in an application for an NHMRC project grant.

*Elizabeth is pictured (right) with Alison Robinson and the poster presented at the ANZOS meeting last year.*



## Postdoctoral Academy Program – First workshop - 3 March 2011 - 4pm

It is with great pleasure that we announce the launch of the **Postdoctoral Academy Program**. This initiative is a collaboration between the Faculties of Medicine, Science and Engineering. The Program is a professional development and education series of weekly workshops delivered by senior UNSW staff who are leaders in their field. Each workshop focuses on key topics chosen as a result of feedback received from our postdoctoral community.

Scheduled to commence on **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 4:00pm in the Lowy Cancer Research Centre, Level 4**, the first seminar will be presented by the Dean of Science, Professor Merlin Crossley on **“Leading a Research Team.”** The seminar will be followed by a **networking opportunity** to meet your fellow postdocs with light refreshments provided.

The timetable will be placed on the Faculty website and we encourage everyone to attend as many seminars as possible. It is a great opportunity for researchers to meet their contemporaries in these fields across the University, to get to know each other, build professional networks and find new prospects for research collaboration.

The Program consists of two semesters (Semester 2 builds upon Semester 1) of 13 weekly seminar and discussion-style workshops covering key topics with a social function following each session. Participants who attend 80% of the workshops will receive a formal certificate. This can be achieved over a 2 year cycle of workshops.

**To register, simply log into MyUNSW, select ‘My Staff Profile’ tab and choose ‘Training Registration’ in the left hand menu. Select the course type ‘Postdoctoral Academy’ and choose the courses you wish to attend.** You will be sent an email confirming your registration.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Please do not hesitate to contact Karen Walker ([k.walker@unsw.edu.au](mailto:k.walker@unsw.edu.au)) if you have any questions.

## Publications of the Month

### Book Chapter

Braithwaite J. (2010) The next health reforms and the role of Area Health Service arrangements in Australia. In: Matsuyama, Y. (ed) Reform of medical systems and economic growth, Tokyo, 199-206.

### Journal Article

Braithwaite J. (2010) [Between-group behaviour in healthcare: gaps, edges, boundaries, disconnections, weak ties, spaces and holes. A systematic review.](#) BMC Health Services Research, 10, 330.

**CONTACT DETAILS:** Please contact Wendy Wartho at [w.wartho@unsw.edu.au](mailto:w.wartho@unsw.edu.au) or 9385 8210 with any news/information.