

EDSPACE



2009 will provide another calendar of HEARNet events to improve and reinforce Primary Health Care (PHC) workers' research skills; a monthly Journal Club meeting provides opportunities to up-skill appraisal of journal articles; research workshops designed to address specific aspects of the research process and a Writing Retreat held mid-year, are examples of our formalised support to PHC workers. We also provide 'informal' support for example, completing ethics applications or preparing conference papers and posters.

The HEARNet News is distributed four times a year. To encourage readership we would like to hear from 'feet on the ground' researchers. If there is research related information that you would like others to know about e.g. a conference date / time or description a current study, you can contact me - Terry Joyce. Contact details are on the last page of this edition.

In this newsletter, we present a profile of two Newcastle staff members - Parker Magin and Terry Joyce. We introduce the 2009 Newcastle Researcher Development Program (RDP) Fellows - Simon Morgan and Se ok Ohr. We also present the new Tamworth PHCRED Coordinator and 2009 RDP Fellows.

Dr Terry Joyce
Editor

Research Development Program

Inside this issue:	
Edspace	1
Newcastle RDP Fellows	2
Tamworth PHCRED	3
Staff Profiles	4
News & Events	5

Research Tip

A study of dithering is one of the very few reasons for retaining 'ahs' 'ums' and 'ohs' in an interview transcription.

The RDP at the University of Newcastle is a Commonwealth funded program run in conjunction with the Primary Health Care and Evaluation Development (PHCRED) program. A limited number of Primary Health care (PHC) practitioners who are inexperienced in conducting research are provided with protected paid-time away from clinical practice. This support is to enable PHC practitioners to commence a Research Higher Degree or undertake a small research project part-time for 10-12 months. Group and individual research training, mentorship, access to infrastructure and specialist advice are part of the RDP. Program participants are encouraged to develop and extend their research skills by presenting their work at venues such as conferences and seminars.

Towards the end of each year, PHC practitioners are invited to apply for a RDP position. Participating in the RDP allows you to explore the possibilities of further qualifications and potential career options as a primary health care researcher.

Introducing Newcastle 2009 RDP Fellows

Simon Morgan

I moved down to Newcastle in July last year after 13 years in the wilderness - a decade in the Northern Territory and a few years in north-west Ireland. I am a GP and medical educator, and have worked in medical student, junior doctor, GP registrar, IMG and supervisor training. I am currently working as a medical educator with GP Training Valley to Coast, the regional GP training provider, with a particular interest in indigenous health and population health.

Through the Discipline, I am undertaking a research project to investigate the content of clinical encounters by GP registrars during their training. The methodology is similar to the well known BEACH study of Australian general practice activity, but differs in its longitudinal nature and direct link to education. The project will inform our approach to vocational training i.e. curriculum development and individual learning plans, act as a quality improvement resource, and provide a platform for a range of other research activities.



Se Ok is pictured on the left with our newsletter editor Dr Terry Joyce.

Se Ok Ohr

I am Se Ok Ohr, a Korean born registered nurse working as a multicultural health liaison officer, multicultural health service, HNE Health. I have two beautiful daughters and a husband who is very supportive of my research activities. I am enrolled in a Research Masters at the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of Newcastle. My research topic is the experiences of Korean nurses and Australian nurses working together within an Australian health care system. With great support from the staff of Discipline of General Practice, I am working on a research proposal. I must say "Thanks" for giving a great start and an opportunity for me to improve my research skills. In my spare time, I manage the Newcastle Korean Language School (voluntary job), learn Chinese calligraphy and Pilates. My motto is "I will be happy".



University Department of Rural Health
& Rural Clinical School
Northern New South Wales

Tamworth PHCRED

Introducing Tamworth 2009 RDP Fellows

Sherylyn Crisp is a psychologist working part time at North West Slopes (NSW) Division of General Practice with Life Solutions North West providing psychological services to Tamworth and an outreach service to Walcha. She has been working with Life Solutions North West since it began in September 2007.

Sherylyn's fellowship will support her research into the role of psychologists as allied health professionals working in rural and

remote locations.



The aim of Sherylyn's research is to explore the perceptions of rural psychologists working in generalist allied health positions. She will conduct a qualitative study using semi structured interviews of psychologists working in allied health positions within the Hunter New England area.

My name is Dr Precious Lusumbami and I currently work as a registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Tamworth Base Hospital. I am originally from Zimbabwe and completed my medical training there before moving to England in 2002. I worked in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in England until 2007 when I moved to Australia.

My research will look at obesity in pregnant Aboriginal women and how this affects the outcome of the pregnancy. I am interested in this area of research because obesity is currently topical and there is very little published data on this issue in pregnant Aboriginal women.

I intend to do this study by looking at the booking body mass index (BMI) in Aboriginal women planning to have their babies at Tamworth Hospital. I will be consulting with the local Aboriginal community, my colleagues and also carrying out a literature review on obesity in pregnant Aboriginal women. The research project may change as I go through the

literature review.

I intend to join the Obstetrics and Gynaecology training next year and during this training there will be an expectation that I'll conduct research. The research skills I develop from this RDP Fellowship will assist me to meet this obligation. Ultimately, I intend to practise in regional Australia and will therefore, be working with Aboriginal women. This project will also help towards my understanding of the cultural issues in the Aboriginal community.



Staff Profiles

New PHCRED Coordinator in Tamworth

Dr Tony Smith is a radiographer of some 30 years experience. Although he has worked at the University for many years in Medical Radiation Science, he has recently taken on the position of Associate Professor and Deputy Director of the University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) & Rural Clinical School (RCS), Northern NSW, located in Tamworth. Tony has lived in Tamworth for the past six years where his principal role has involved teaching into the final year of the Bachelor of Medical Radiation Science. As well as continuing his teaching role, Tony's new role includes coordination of the PHCRED program that is based in the UDRH.

Tony is interested in health workforce research and new models of service delivery that incorporate interprofessional collaboration.

Academic Qualifications

- PhD (2006, The University of Newcastle) - 'Remote X-ray Operator Radiography in NSW: A Case Study in Interprofessional rural clinical practice'
- MSc (1996, The University of Newcastle) - 'Radiation Dose in Computed Tomography of the Head with Reference to Scanning Protocol'
- Bachelor of Science (1984, The University of Newcastle)
- DipAppSci (Medical Radiography) (1978, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology)

Professional Awards

- Fellowship of the Australian Institute of Radiography (1993)
- Conjoint Board Diploma of the Australian Institute of Radiography & Royal Australian College of Radiologists (1978)

Newcastle

Dr Parker Magin

Previously a full-time GP, from 1998 Parker Magin has also been involved in academic work at the University of Newcastle. Initially this was in teaching. Subsequently, research has been the main focus of his academic work though he continues to work in medical education as a Medical Educator with GP Training Valley to Coast. Parker currently works in clinical practice three sessions per week. His current position at the University of Newcastle is Senior Lecturer and Director, PHCRED Program.

Parker's research training includes a Graduate Diploma of Clinical Epidemiology (2002), and a

PhD (topic, the psychological sequelae of skin disease) completed in 2006. Other postgraduate qualifications include graduate diplomas or Masters in Family Medicine, Psychiatry, Dermatology and Paediatrics.



He held an NHMRC Postgraduate Medical Scholarship 2003-2006 and is currently a member of the 2007-2009 cohort of the Brisbane Initiative International Primary Care Research Leadership Programme, University of Oxford, and of the RACGP National Standing Committee - Research.

Dr Terry Joyce

Terry Joyce has a background in nursing. Her current position is a research academic at the Discipline of General Practice. Her principal role is supporting and mentoring experienced Primary Health Care clinicians who are new to research. In particular, those people who are using a qualitative approach.

Terry's research interests include health-care workers' well-being and mental health issues. In 2004, Terry completed a PhD project. The topic of her research was exploring the workplace experiences of nurses who have a mental illness. Terry is currently the editor of the HEARNET Newsletter.

Contact Us

Newsletter of the Health Evaluation
Research Network

Debbie Mutton
HEARNet Coordinator
Discipline of General Practice
University of Newcastle
CALLAGHAN NSW 2308

Phone: 02 4968 6724
Fax: 02 4968 9065
Email: health-phcnetwork@newcastle.edu.au

2009 Journal Club Meetings

Venue:	Meeting Room, Disc General Practice Newbolds Building, Gavey St Mayfield
Time:	Thursday 9.30 - 10.30am
Meeting Dates:	5 Mar, 9 Apr, 14 May, 4 Jun, 2 Jul, 6 Aug, 10 Sep, 8 Oct, 5 Nov, 3 Dec

National Events

APNA (Aust. Practice Nurses Assoc)
Visionary Conference 2009.
30 Apr - 2 May 2009
<http://www.apna.asn.au/conference>

10th National Rural Health Conference
17-20 May 2009
<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au>

GP & PHC Research Conference
15-17 July
'Driving Change in:.....'
Melbourne Conference Centre
[http://www.phcris.org.au/
conference/2009/index.php](http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2009/index.php)

GP'09 -The Conference for General
Practice (RACGP)
1-4 October 2009
<http://www.gpconference.com.au/>

2009 HEARNet Workshops

Venue:	Meeting Room, Disc General Practice Newbolds Building, Gavey St Mayfield
Time:	Thursdays 10.00 - 12 midday
12 Mar	Searching Electronic Databases
23 Apr	Critical Appraisal
21 May	Literature Reviews
11 Jun	Questionnaire Design
23 Jul	Ethics
13 Aug	Research Proposals
3 Sep	Qualitative Data Collection
15 Oct	Qualitative Data Analysis
19 Nov	Writing up Results