

PhD Scholarship – Call for Expression of Interest

Falls and Bone Health team
Health Services Research Unit
Centre for Research Excellence in Patient Safety
Division of Health Services and Global Health Research
Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine
School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
Monash University

The Falls and Bone Health team is offering a full-time 3-year PhD scholarship, tenable in 2013, within the Department of Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine, SPH&PM at Monash University.

A PhD scholarship opportunity exists to participate in the research activities of the Falls and Bone Health team within the Health Services Research Unit and the Centre for Research Excellence in Patient Safety. Monash School of Public Health & Preventive Medicine is a teaching and research unit of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and is located at the Alfred Hospital Campus. It plays a prominent role in public health medicine in and works closely with the major Monash affiliated hospitals, research institutes and public health units within Victoria.

The Health Services Research Unit is focused on generating new knowledge to improve policy and clinical practice in health services and health systems. The falls and bone health team within the Health Services Research Unit undertake clinical research and health service evaluations that focus on topics of healthy ageing. These include the NHMRC funded 6-PACK cluster randomised controlled trial of a hospital falls prevention program, the NHMRC funded RESPOND randomised controlled trial of a post-discharge service for older people presenting to and ED with a fall, the Pilates falls and bone health pilot randomised controlled trial, and the Safe Emergency Elderly Discharge (SEED) project.

Eligibility details - You must have:

- a First Class Honours degree and evidence of prior research experience (preferred)
- an undergraduate Bachelor degree, ideally in a health-related field (eg. Allied health, nursing, public health, epidemiology, psychology); and
- well-developed communication and computer skills.

What you receive:

- AUD \$31,000 per annum for living expenses, tax exempt for up to 3 years. Applicants who have, or are subsequently awarded an APA/NHMRC/Monash or other scholarship, will receive an additional \$10,000 top-up scholarship.
- An additional \$4,000 (total) is available for computing / conference attendance.
- Access to support, expertise and mentoring from Australia-wide CRE research investigators.

Available PhD Projects:

There is an opportunity to undertake a PhD project that focuses on the NHMRC funded RESPOND project—a multi-center falls prevention randomised controlled trial that includes an economic and program evaluation. The RESPOND project includes 16 investigators from across Australia and UK and 11 partner organisations and will test an innovative post-ED discharge program designed to reduce secondary falls in older people. It extends current falls prevention research and practice by incorporating patient-centred education with behavior change strategies proven to be effective in the secondary prevention of cardiovascular events. RESPOND aims to improve patients' knowledge and ability to navigate the complex healthcare system.



Application details:

Expressions of interest are invited to be submitted electronically to Dr Anna Barker anna.barker@monash.edu by 30 May 2013 and should include an up-to-date CV and a statement about the applicant's research interests to allow initial consideration of their suitability for enrolment into a PhD and for the award of the scholarship. If more than one suitable applicant applies, then an interview may be conducted.

Queries should be directed to:

Dr Anna Barker
Senior Research Fellow
Falls and Bone Health team
Health Services Research Unit
Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics, SPH&PM, Monash University
M: 0408033287
E: anna.barker@monash.edu