PhD opportunity examining the impact of disturbed sleep on attention mechanisms and academic outcomes.

We are searching for a PhD student wishing to develop a research career in paediatric sleep and developmental child psychology. The successful candidate will work in the Monash Child & Adult Development lab (CADLAB) under the supervision of Professor Kim Cornish, Professor Nicole Rinehart, Associate Professor Shantha Rajaratnam and Dr Russell Conduit.

To date, very little is known about how sleep and attention interact throughout the childhood years or the mechanisms that underpin this relationship. We propose that poor sleep habits may interact with attention mechanisms to produce an “at-risk” triad of sleep disturbance, inattention and poor academic attainment. This ARC funded project will utilise a range of cognitive and attention tasks, academic performance measures, behaviour rating scales, motor performance tasks and a sleep-wake assessment to examine the inter-relationships between sleep disturbance and levels of inattention, arousal and academic performance across the primary school years.

Top-up stipend of $9000 ($3000 per year for three years) will be awarded to the successful candidate provided they are also successful in gaining an APA or equivalent scholarship.

Closing date: 16 October, 2012

For further information, please contact:

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www.med.monash.edu/psych/ students/scholarships.html