

GENERAL PRACTICE AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH CONFERENCE, ADELAIDE

On April 26-28 July 2005, individuals and organizations involved in general practice and primary health care research from all across Australia gathered to share ideas, network and form collaborations at the 2005 General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Conference in Adelaide.

The theme for the Conference was 'Getting Research Right for Policy and Practice'. Several members from the *diamond* Consortium spoke on this topic and its relevance to the research that they are involved in. Among them were Associate Professor Jane Gunn, Dr. Gail Gilchrist, Associate Professor Bruce Arroll, Dr. Ruth McNair, Ms. Maria Potiriadis and Dr. Grant Blashki.

Congratulations to Dr. Gail Gilchrist who was awarded a best first speaker prize!



A/Prof Jane Gunn with Dr. Gail Gilchrist, receiving her award

PhD STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

An exciting opportunity to undertake a PhD in a project aimed at re-examining the way in which people experiencing depression are cared for in primary care. A/Prof Jane Gunn will supervise the successful applicant who should have an honours degree (or equivalent) in a health-related area.

The research to be undertaken is part of the APHCRI funded RE-ORDER project.

Queries? Contact Miranda Hindle on (03)8344 7449 or e-mail mhindle@unimelb.edu.au

See also 'Research Projects' at www.diamond.unimelb.edu.au for information on RE-ORDER.

Applications close 30 November, 2005

DR. DAN CHISHOLM'S VISIT TO MELBOURNE 4-20 APRIL, 2005, HOSTED BY THE DIAMOND CONSORTIUM AND PEP COLLABORATION

Dr. Chisholm is a mental health economist currently working in the Department of Health System Financing, Expenditure and Resource Allocation and also the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, WHO Geneva. Dr. Chisholm shed some light on his Melbourne stay.

'We had a great time in Melbourne. What a great city, I must say, and we could not have been better placed than Carlton with all its cafes.

You may be wondering how much time was left to interact professionally with the diamond team, but in fact we managed to fit in one workshop on costing,

As a consortium, you are pressing all the right buttons, and the output of this research is sure to fill some important gaps in the knowledge base concerning key factors that influence access to and outcome of depression treatment in primary care.'

three or four seminars on various aspects of mental health economics, primary care and priority-setting, plus a public lecture on the economic component of a previous observational study of depression in primary care (LIDO). In addition, a number of one-on-one and small group consultations were held, including discussions with colleagues at Monash University, the Program Evaluation Unit and the Australian International Health

Institute. Quite busy, in short! As a consortium, you are pressing all the right buttons, and access to and outcome of depression treatment in primary care.

Thanks to Jane Gunn for inviting me in the first place and extending such a warm welcome to us'.



Dr. Dan Chisholm giving a public lecture in Melbourne

RECENT PRESENTATION: *beyondblue* VICTORIAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE RESEARCH GRANTS

On 12 August, 2005, members of the *diamond* Consortium were invited to attend the *beyondblue* Victorian Centre of Excellence Research Grants Presentation. The event was intended to bring together new and previously successful grant applicants and research stakeholders. The event was attended by the honorable Bronwyn Pike, Minister for Health, who presented awards and listened to progress being made by in the research funded by the Centre of Excellence.

On the day, Associate Professor Jane Gunn and Dr. Grant Blashki spoke about the diamond Consortium and PEP Collaboration. The presentation was dedicated to the memory of the late Professor Jeff Richards who was involved in the development of the *diamond* Consortium/PEP Collaboration.

See below for the grants awarded.

***beyondblue* GRANTS FOR 2005-2006**

Several *diamond* Consortium members were awarded grants for 2005-2006 at the Victorian Centre of Excellence in Depression and Related Disorders Research Forum, 12 August, 2005. Congratulations to the following members and their colleagues:

- Dr. Grant Blashki
- Ms. Ingrid Ozols
- A/Prof Barry McGrath

- A/Prof Kelsey Hegarty
- Dr. Gail Gilchrist .
- Prof. Andree Tylee
- Dr. Lena Sanci
- Dr. Jane Sims— see below for grant profile.

There will be updates on the grants awarded to these recipients in following newsletters.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Seminar by Dr. Frances Griffiths (University of Warwick), 3 February, 2006, 1-2pm, Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne.
- Seminar by Prof. Christopher Dowrick (University of Liverpool), 10 February, 2006, 1-2pm, Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne.

MEMBER PROFILE

MIRANDA HINDLE is currently working as an administrative assistant on the *diamond* Consortium and other research projects directed by A/Prof Jane Gunn, the Director of Research, Dept. of General Practice, University of Melbourne.

Miranda has been at the Department since July after completing Art History and French studies at UoM. She is enjoying learning about medical research although it is very different to her own study background!



Miranda Hindle

REGENERATE: ENHANCING THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF CHRONIC POST STROKE PATIENTS

Researchers from the Universities of Melbourne and LaTrobe have been funded by *beyondblue* to assess factors that influence people's recovery from a stroke and, in particular, to explore whether exercise can improve well-being and reduce depression in those who have had a stroke.

What is the study about?

The study involves following people who have had a stroke over the course of a year and asking about their recovery process and their health at four different times during the year. Some of these people will be invited to help the researchers assess how helpful strength training, that is, exercising with weights, is in helping to improve their well-being and reduce depression. Strength training programs that are suitable for older people and the less able-bodied are available in many localities throughout Victoria. Sites such as the Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre, endorsed by the Council on the Ageing as part of the 'Living Longer, Living Stronger'TM scheme will be used.

The research team is working with doctors, stroke units and stroke support groups, inviting people 18 years or over and who had a stroke 6-12 months ago to participate.

If you have any queries about the study, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Sims, on (03) 9490 7646 or 0409 356 119 or j.sims@unimelb.edu.au

DO YOU HAVE ANY RESEARCH OR BEST PRACTICE YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH US?

Contact: Miranda Hindle on (03) 8344 7449 or e-mail mhindle@unimelb.edu.au