

***diamond* Consortium Research Higher Degree Network, 9 February 2006**

In total, 31 people attended the Colloquium, 18 Research Higher Degree students and 13 academics/ Consortium members. The Research Higher Degree Students who attended the ***diamond*** Consortium Colloquium at The University of Melbourne on 9 February 2006, discussed their requirements and expectations of developing a Network for Research Higher Degree (RHD) students conducting research in the area of **depression and related disorders**.

Caroline Johnson (PhD candidate, The University of Melbourne) facilitated the discussion on what the network could offer RHD students. The consensus was around ***“knowledge, networking, dissemination and support”***. The list below is a more detailed account of the discussion regarding what RHD students felt the network would provide.

1. ask other network members (simple, embarrassing) questions
2. articulation
3. avoidance of isolation
4. avoid re-inventing the wheel
5. learning about other research being undertaken in the area
6. progression of work/ sharing difficulties and challenges throughout the research
7. developing relationships and future collaborations
8. sharing knowledge and experience
9. finding out how other researchers are analyzing similar problems
10. communication
11. encouragement, support and morale
12. mentorship

Discussion followed on how the network would function. The following options were discussed

1. individual communication (all RHD students details were circulated at the meeting). Students discussed treating emails and their personal details as confidential and not to be forwarded etc to others without their consent.
2. bulletin board or e-list. Those present favoured the e-list over the bulletin board but requested that others are careful when replying that they reply only to the individual with the request to avoid e-mail overload (i.e. don't automatically *“reply to all”* if it is appropriate to only reply to the individual who asked the question).
3. Annual meetings. Most felt that the network would not function if there was not at least one (preferably two if funding were available) meeting annually. The suggestion of tacking the meeting/ event onto another event or conference was raised, potentially The GP & PHC Conference will be held at the Perth Convention Centre 5-7 July 2006. www.phcris.org.au/conference/2006/index.php.

4. Specific areas rather than updates should be presented at the next meeting e.g. methodological issues; problems and how these have been resolved.

Actions

- RHD students will be eligible to apply for seed funding and capacity building grants of up to \$7,500 if they are members of the diamond Consortium (membership forms included in colloquium packs) <http://www.diamond.unimelb.edu.au/research/seed.html> Closing date for all applications is 31 May 2006.
- Gail Gilchrist to discuss the possibility of establishing an e-list with the IT staff in the Department of General Practice. Caroline agreed to monitor the e-list in its initial phase.
Update: IT from the Department of General Practice, The University of Melbourne will create an e-list for all students in the network. Once this has been established, Caroline will contact all those on the e-list to inform them.
- Gail Gilchrist to speak to AAAGP president A/Professor Jane Gunn, to ascertain whether the *diamond* Consortium can pay group membership of the RHD network to AAAGP and whether there is any funding available from AAAGP for RHD students to attend the conference in Perth and hold a meeting.
Update: RHD students are able to join the AAAGP (<http://www.aaagp.org/>) for \$25 annual fee (http://www.aaagp.org/Documents/Forms/APP_membership_payment.pdf) (application form). RHD students can apply for bursaries to attend The GP & PHC Conference (see details below). This years conference will be held at the Perth Convention Centre 5-7 July 2006. www.phcris.org.au/conference/2006/index.php.

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The following groups will be considered to have the strongest claim:

- Researchers wishing to present work that is relevant to the Conference theme, which has not previously been publicly presented;
- Consumers with an involvement in primary health care research;
- GP & PHC researchers from rural and/or remote areas, for whom the cost of travel to the Conference is prohibitive;
- Individuals receiving research training and support through the PHC RED Strategy, including PHC RED Fellows and Scholars;
- Representatives from targeted PHC related organisations/bodies to broaden conference participation.

To apply for sponsorship please complete an on-line application at www.phcris.org.au

Enquiries regarding sponsorship and applications should be directed to:
Dr Ellen McIntyre
Conference Convenor, PHCRIS
Email: ellen.mcintyre@flinders.edu.au

The closing date for applications is **14 April 2006 (see website for details)**

- ***Update: Gail Gilchrist discussed funding for an annual meeting of the RHD network with the diamond Consortium. The Consortium agreed this would be possible and suggested date for the next Colloquium is October/ November 2006.***
- Miranda Hindle to circulate above to RHD students present at the Colloquium and others who have expressed an interest in a network, for approval.