



RACP Foundation Research Awards

FINAL REPORT

Project Title	A comparative analysis of emerging infectious disease policies in Australia and the United States of America	
Name	Dr Simon Crouch	
Award Received	2018 Robert and Elizabeth Albert Travel Grant	
Report Date	6 February 2019	
Funding Period	Start Date:	1 July 2018
	Finish Date:	16 November 2018

PROJECT SUMMARY

Emerging infectious diseases pose a significant public health threat internationally. In order to respond appropriately both national and local governments require robust public health emergency management structures and processes. The United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention deliver a four-month Public Health Emergency Management Fellowship to help strengthen international preparedness to prevent and respond to emerging infectious diseases. This travel grant enabled me to join Cohort IX of the Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) Fellowship at the CDC and explore ways in which Victoria, and Australia, can improve public health emergency management in preparedness for emerging infectious diseases.

PROJECT AIMS / OBJECTIVES

The original aim of the project was to compare emerging infectious disease policies developed by the Health Protection Branch of the Victorian Government Department of Health and Human Services with relevant US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention policies. Upon arrival at the CDC I was given the opportunity to join the PHEM Fellowship. This allowed me to broaden the aim from a comparative policy analysis to fully integrate in the PHEM structures of the CDC and consider how PHEM is delivered in the US, in Australia and internationally. The structured teaching, site visits and networks developed culminated in being awarded the CDC PHEM Fellowship.

SIGNIFICANCE AND OUTCOMES

The enhanced training in PHEM has allowed me to bring my learnings back to the Victorian Government and begin integrating stronger PHEM processes in communicable disease responses at a state level. Moving forwards, I will ensure that all aspects of communicable disease prevention and response adopt international best practice in terms of PHEM and help ensure better preparedness for future emerging infectious diseases. Having received the CDC PHEM Fellowship, which is internationally recognised, I will be well placed to support other countries in the future when new communicable disease threats emerge.