



The Royal Australasian  
College of Physicians

Paediatrics & Child Health Division

## PCHD RESEARCH COMMITTEE END OF YEAR COMMUNIQUÉ DECEMBER 2015

Dear Fellow and Trainee Members,

The PRC has had a busy year reviewing research within the paediatric community and identifying how this can be improved at College level through education, the RACP Foundation and the workforce.

The Committee has recommended to the College Education Committee that the research resources of the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit (APSU) and the Australian Paediatric Research Network (APRN) be referenced in the research resources in the Advanced Training Committee handbooks and curriculum. This will be reviewed by College staff during the curriculum review.

The Committee is very supportive of the RACP Research Project Working Group and review of project requirements for advanced training. Completing research during training can be a daunting task and it is essential that the College offers robust and sound requirements and resources so that the trainees maximise their learning during the project's completion. We will continue to support this area and offer feedback as necessary.

The PRC remains interested in research capacity within workforce issues and have been liaising with the RACP Workforce Working Party to recommend that workforce profiling captures the academic credentials of members including higher degrees. The PRC is cognisant of the RACP *Health and Medical Research Strategic Plan 2014-18* and work to aligning our strategic goals to this. One area that has been highlighted of significant importance is promoting career pathways for academic paediatricians. The PRC will be looking into this further in 2016 liaising with the RACP Dean to devise a clear strategy and communications plan.

The RACP Foundation supports Fellows and trainees through Awards by means of fellowships, scholarships, grants and prizes. There are a number of awards specific to paediatrics that can be found on the [College website](#). The PRC work closely with the Foundation and will continue to do so in 2016 as we look at a number of ways to improve accessibility of research awards and grants at the College. Already the RACP Foundation makes available more research funding than any other College.

This year the [PCHD International Grant: Asia Pacific](#) was awarded to a Fellow to assist with their philanthropic endeavours to improve medical conditions in the Asia-Pacific region. Each year \$10,000 will be made available for the grant and may be awarded to a Fellow of the Division to sponsor an international medical graduate or specialist to further their knowledge in medical education or research in the field of paediatrics. Alternatively, the grant may be used to provide a medical education program for international medical graduates or specialists in the Asia-Pacific with support from a Fellow - however there are parameters around this including direct benefit to the region.

The [PCHD Indigenous Health Scholarship Program](#) provides a funded pathway through Paediatrics & Child Health training to over three to four years. This includes:

- RACP training fees

- Examination fees
- Attendance at College Congress (or relevant Annual Scientific Meeting) each year
- \$2,500 cash assistance at beginning of Scholarship.

The [RACP PCHD NHMRC Award for Excellence](#) is also available for top young paediatric clinical researchers as part of a shared commitment to nurture the next generation of medical researchers. The PCHD recipient receives additional 'top up' funds from, the RACP Foundation, to the [Australian] National Health & Medical Research Council [NHMRC] Postgraduate Scholarship, for up to three years. To be considered, applicants must tick the appropriate check box on the NHMRC form.

The PRC will work with the RACP Foundation to develop a communications plan for the awards in 2016. There are many great opportunities for trainees and Fellows and we aim to increase the number of applicants for these. If you are interested in applying for any award or grant please contact [Foundation@racp.edu.au](mailto:Foundation@racp.edu.au)

The College Congress is another avenue for trainees and Fellows to take part in a number of awards such as Best Poster Award and the Rue Wright Memorial Award. The 2016 Congress will be held in Adelaide and I am pleased to advise that PRC member A/Prof Yvonne Zurynski has joined the Paediatric Program Stream Working Group to help develop the paediatric program. A/Prof Yvonne Zurynski is the PRC's APSU representative and will contribute positively to the program incorporating important research topics.

I would like to thank the members of the PRC for their work this year; Prof. Keith Grimwood, A/Prof Yvonne Zurynski, A/Prof Harriet Hiscock, Dr Tony Huynh, Dr Andrew Day, Dr Nicholas Cheng, Dr Ralf Heine and Dr Nicholas Wood.

I look forward to continuing my role as Chair in 2016 and expanding research within paediatrics at the College.

Prof Paul Colditz  
Chair, PCHD Research Committee

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