

FELLOW IN COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH

These positions are developed for trainees interested in an academic/leadership career in community child health (eg. population health, developmental-behavioural paediatrics, child protection). Interested applicants will be undertaking advanced training under the SAC in Community Child Health (CCH). One or two positions will be available.

Progression to further years of training in CCH within RCH may be available depending on funding. The applicant will be encouraged to gain experience in an overseas setting, and some elements of the training program may be completed overseas.

The position forms part of the Program of Excellence as accredited by the SAC in Community Child Health.

INITIAL TRAINING YEAR

This year has three core components:

1. Clinical

Supervised clinical experience will equip the trainee with knowledge and skills to provide care for children with developmental, behavioural and psychosocial problems, in the context of their family and their community. This will be delivered in two settings:

Community: The community setting enables the Fellows to develop different perspectives on the needs of children and their families, and an understanding of the roles played by various professionals and services in delivering health, educational and social services. Community placements are with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Community Health Centres, or local government Child and Family Teams. Fellows receive referrals from a large variety of sources but mainly from MCHNs, Early Childhood Intervention Services, school nurses, preschool teachers and day care coordinators.

Hospital: Clinical experience is also gained in specialist clinics at The Royal Children's Hospital in the Centre for Community Child Health. Important links between hospitals and the community in the prevention, delivery, and research of health care are emphasised.

2. Population Health

Fellows will be exposed to a range of health-promotion, prevention, advocacy and policy-development activities, both within the Centre for Community Child Health and in community settings (via CCCH programs). These will include all levels of government, as well as non-government organisations, and will span policy areas including health, social services, education etc. In particular, innovative programs demonstrating community capacity building/community development designed to optimise child health and developmental outcomes at a population level will be demonstrated.

Fellows will be given leave to attend the Child Public Health elective subject of the Master of Public Health course. This is held over a week in June/July.

3. Research

Fellows will be expected to develop a research project in their first year of Fellowship within the Centre for Community Child Health. It is expected that this work will be related to and inform any higher degree research program undertaken in subsequent years, as expected for those with a specialist interest in CCH.

Fellows will be offered support to attend training in basic research methods, and will be encouraged to enrol in a course such as the Master of Public Health or the Postgraduate Diploma of Epidemiology.

4. Teaching

Fellows will be responsible for some formal student teaching tutorials within the University Department of Paediatrics

Education activities

This position includes an active education/learning program:

- *Seminar Program.* This is a three-hour program held every Wednesday afternoon. It is also attended by Fellows in developmental/behavioural/community paediatrics, based at The Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Medical Centre, Sunshine, Geelong, and Shepparton, and advanced trainees from other departments and settings are also invited to attend. This critical mass ensures lively interactive intellectually stimulating sessions. The Seminar Program complements the clinical experiences by providing the theoretical background in community child health, including a broad public health perspective. Seminar sessions are held both at RCH and MMC and cover topics such as theories of child development, developmental and behavioural assessment and management of problems, chronic illness, immunisation, data systems, cultural and Koorie issues, government policy and planning. Some sessions are held in community settings to enable exposure to key community services for children eg. maternal & child health, early intervention, pre-schools.
- *Journal Club* – weekly (Thurs 8am)
- *Reading.* A list of recommended texts is provided at the beginning of the training year.

Supervision

<i>RACP:</i>	This is a requirement for accreditation as a year of advanced training in paediatrics
<i>Hospital clinic:</i>	Supervision by the paediatrician in charge of the Clinic.
<i>Group:</i>	The third hour of the weekly Seminar session involves case-based group teaching by senior developmental paediatricians. An instructive case is presented either by the Fellow or one of the Registrars in developmental-behavioural paediatrics.
<i>Community:</i>	The Fellow has a supervisor in the community setting. Guidelines for supervision ensure a uniform way of assessing progress.

Individual and group supervision supports each fellow in attaining his/her goals for the training year, and provides a basis for evaluation and development of the training program using the framework of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Professional Learning Portfolio.

SUBSEQUENT YEARS (dependent on funding)

Subsequent years may be research based, the trainee commencing their higher degree studies, or community based . The clinical Child Protection component of training in community child health may be completed in another RCH department , and other clinical activities as individually planned.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Application through the Centre for Community Child Health, RCH.
- It is essential that the FRACP examination has been passed as this is a program designed for advanced trainees in paediatrics.
- Selection is made on the application information, personal interview and information from referees. The selection panel includes the relevant program directors and the program coordinator.

Successful applicants are notified by A/Prof Jill Sewell or Dr Gehan Roberts, in liaison with The Royal Children's Hospital Junior Medical Staff Committee.

Further information: A/Prof Jill Sewell, Director Victorian Training Program in Community Child Health, tel 9345 5350, email jill.sewell@rch.org.au, or Dr Gehan Roberts, email gehan.roberts@rch.org.au