

WESTERN HEALTH FELLOW IN COMMUNITY CHILD HEALTH

This position is for trainees interested in furthering their training in community child health. Interested applicants will be undertaking advanced training either under the SAC in Community Child Health or in General Paediatrics. One position will be available. This position is closely linked with the positions offered at the Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital, where there is the potential for further training towards an academic/leadership career in community child health.

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.

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. 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. The trainee will be based at the ISIS Primary Care Sunshine campus in the Child Health Program, but will also spend time at Melton Health. At Melton Health the trainee will participate in the multidisciplinary Autism Assessment Clinic, and the Developmental/Behavioural Clinic.

Mental Health: The trainee will spend 2 days per week in the second 6 months of the year based at the RCH Integrated Mental Health Program Midwest Community Team based in Sunshine. This rotation will enable the trainee to develop skills in detailed assessment and aspects of management of children with complex mental health and social problems. Clinical supervision is provided by the team child psychiatrist and following orientation, the trainee will have his/her own caseload

Hospital: The trainee will participate in one developmental/behavioural clinic per week at Sunshine Hospital.

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 suitable for RACP requirements. 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.

Education activities

This position includes an active education/learning program:

- *Seminar Program.* This is a three-hour program held every Wednesday afternoon at the Centre for Community Child Health, RCH. It is attended by Fellows in developmental/behavioural/community paediatrics, based at The Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Medical Centre, Geelong, Western Health, 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.

- *Sunshine Hospital Paediatric clinical meetings* – weekly (Friday 1230)

- *Reading.* A list of recommended texts is provided at the beginning of the training year.

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.

Supervision

RACP: This is a requirement for accreditation as a year of advanced training in paediatrics.

Community: Dr Nigel Hocking will be the clinical supervisor for patients seen at Melton Health. Dr Wright will be the clinical supervisor for all other community patients.

Hospital clinic: Supervision by the paediatrician in charge of the Clinic.

Group: 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.

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.

SELECTION PROCESS

- Application through the Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital, and participation in a joint selection process along with other CCH fellow positions.
- 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 Dr Martin Wright, in liaison with Western Health, Medical Workforce Unit.

**Further information - Dr Martin Wright, Head, Child and Adolescent Health Unit,
Sunshine Hospital.
Tel: 8345 1333 Email: martin.wright@wh.org.au**

Fellow in CCH Western Hospital Sunshine PD May 2009