

Paediatric Emergency Medicine Implementation Research Scholarship

Overview

For children, emergency department (ED) attendances are the prime contact when acutely unwell with life-threatening presentations and represent the largest interaction between children and the healthcare system outside of general practice. Ensuring that these children receive consistent evidence-based care, regardless of where they present in Australia, is the focus of our National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Centre for Research Excellence in Paediatric Emergency Medicine.

The Nursing Research Institute at Australian Catholic University (ACU) in conjunction with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) in Melbourne are seeking applicants for an Australian Government Research Training Program PhD Scholarship to undertake implementation science research in the area of paediatric emergency medicine.

The successful applicant will be supervised by Professor Sandy Middleton and Professor Elizabeth McInnes both from Australian Catholic University and Dr Emma Tavender from the MCRI in Melbourne. The recipient's research projects will involve collaboration with Professor Franz Babl who is leading the MCRI NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Paediatric Emergency Medicine and other key collaborators.

The successful applicant will conduct a series of projects using qualitative and quantitative research methods to explore the issues impacting the sustainability of clinical care improvements in paediatric emergency care.

About Australian Catholic University

This scholarship is being offered through the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine at ACU. ACU is a world-leading research university in our priority areas of education, health, and theology and philosophy. Research excellence at ACU is founded on the principles of social justice and attracts global experts, students and collaborators from across the globe. According to the Academic Ranking of World Universities, ACU is ranked in the top 100 Young Universities, worldwide. In the 2018 Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) assessment nursing research at ACU scored well above world standard.

About the Nursing Research Institute

The Nursing Research Institute (NRI) is a collaboration between Australian Catholic University (ACU), St Vincent's Health Network Sydney and St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne. The NRI is a highly productive nursing research collaborative with a national and international reputation for conducting rigorous multidisciplinary health services research, focused on improving patient outcomes and health systems. We have a strong program of clinically relevant research that specialises in implementation science, examining the translation of evidence into clinical practice. Our researchers have a broad range of methodological research expertise, and collaborate with world-class national and international researchers, multidisciplinary clinicians and policy makers.

About the Murdoch Children's Research Institute NHMRC Centre of Excellence

Established in 1986 the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) is an Australian paediatric medical research institute located in Melbourne and affiliated with the Royal Children's Hospital and the University of Melbourne. The Emergency Research Group, led by Prof Franz Babl has a strong commitment to clinical and implementation research across a broad range of topics. The research group is a member of PREDICT (Paediatric Research in Emergency Departments International Collaborative) emergency research network. This network provides a research platform for achieving multicentre acute care research in Australia and New Zealand and includes all tertiary children's hospitals and a number of large mixed adult/paediatric and regional/rural Emergency Departments. The research group is also part of PERN (Paediatric Emergency Research Networks), which combines the efforts of research networks on several continents to investigate global acute care questions.

About the PhD Stipend Scholarship

One three (3)-year full-time / six (6)-year part-time stipend scholarship is being offered to support the work of a PhD candidate. The scholarship is partially funded by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) Centre of Research Excellence in Paediatric Emergency Medicine NHMRC Grant and partially funded by Australian Catholic University through the Australian Government Research Training Program.

The Scholarship is available for a high-performing candidate who meets the following eligibility criteria:

- Eligible for admission to a PhD Program at ACU. The eligibility criteria for the PhD program at ACU can be found in the [Higher Degree Research Regulations](#) and consist of an appropriate undergraduate degree with Honours at a minimum level of Second Class Division A (Distinction average) (or equivalent); or a Master degree with appropriate research training in a relevant field; or an equivalent qualification and/or demonstrated research experience, with evidence of capacity to undertake independent research work (e.g. an authored publication).
- Relevant professional experience, training and/or health services research experience
- Academic publications and/or conference presentations relative to career opportunities to date
- An interest or experience in quality improvement/implementation science and exploring the issues impacting the sustainability of clinical care improvements in paediatric emergency care
- Knowledge of and/ or experience in the Australian Health care system

Study mode and location

- Full-time for three (3) years or part-time for six (6) years based at either ACU's North Sydney or Melbourne Campus, Australia. Some travel to the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne will be required.

Value and duration

- A tax-free stipend of A\$35,635 per annum for three (3) years (or pro-rata for six (6) years, depending on full or part-time study mode), subject to satisfactory progress; and
- a Research Training Program Fees Offset Scholarship; that is, a tuition fee waiver for three (3) years full-time or six (6) years part-time.

Start date

It is anticipated this scholarship will commence in January 2021, however, due to the CoVid-19 pandemic, face-to-face research has been suspended until further notice. The exact start date for this scholarship will be advised once known.

Application closes

24th June 2020

Application instructions:

This opportunity is open to domestic applicants only, that is Australian Citizens, Australian Permanent Residents and New Zealand Citizens.

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact Professor Sandy Middleton *before* submitting an application for the PhD program and this scholarship:

E: sandy.middleton@acu.edu.au

T: (02) 8382 3794

To be considered for this scholarship, applicants must submit all documentation required for an application to the PhD program at ACU, as detailed in the 'How to Apply' instructions on the [ACU Research Web Page](#), plus:

- A cover letter addressing eligibility criteria and outlining relevant experience
- Curriculum Vitae
- The names of two referees who can attest to applicant's suitability for the Scholarship

For general candidature enquiries, email Candidature Services on res.cand@acu.edu.au, with the subject line 'PhD Stipend Scholarship: Paediatric Emergency Medicine Implementation Research'