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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. ARC DISCOVERY PROJECT GRANT APPLICATIONS 2009 - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT
The Office of Research and Development (ORD) is now calling for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from researchers who are intending to submit an ARC Discovery Project application in the 2009 round where Curtin will be the lead organisation.

Curtin is keen to improve the success rate of Discovery Project applications and the EOI process is designed to assist with this.

All EOIs received by the due date will be reviewed by the Faculty Deans of Research and in some cases, other relevant experienced staff. Feedback will be provided to applicants including suggestions of ways to strengthen the application. Please note that some applicants may be encouraged to postpone their application until the following year if it is considered that an extra year of development work would make the proposal more competitive.

To lodge an EOI please complete the EOI form available from the ORD website at:
and submit it to the Office of Research and Development no later than Monday 8th December 2008.

Please note that the Funding Rules for the 2009 round (for funding to commence in 2010) are not yet available from the ARC, but it is anticipated that they will be released soon. Once the Rules are released ORD will be able to advise of other key dates.

Please also note that an information session on applying for a Discovery Project recently held. The lecture and slides for this session are available at - http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/notes.cfm.

2. CONTRACTED RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY – OSTEOPATH’S REGISTRATION BOARD OF VICTORIA
The Osteopath’s Registration Board of Victoria are seeking researchers to conduct a review of their processes and determine alternative models for the assessment of overseas-qualified osteopaths for their suitability to practice in Australia.

For more information please see the attached document.

Proposals are to be submitted to the Office of Research and Development, along with a completed Research Project Application Tool (RPAT) no later than Friday 12th December 2008.

3. BONNIE BABES FOUNDATION GRANTS
The Bonnie Babes Foundation supports research organisations and clinical units undertaking research with a focus on stillbirth, miscarriage, infertility issues, neo-natal deaths and prematurity. The foundation is now calling for grant applications.

The support provided by the Foundation is generally for the purchase of equipment essential for research projects or for maintenance funds, salaries or PhD scholarships for new, innovative research. The Foundation will not fund conference travel or building funds.

Grants are usually in the order of $2000 to $20,000. Applications in excess of these amounts may be considered, as may partial funding of projects. Applications are assessed annually.

Applications are to be submitted to the Office of Research and Development, along with a completed Research Project Application Tool (RPAT) preferably prepared online via SCRIPT, no later than Friday 30th January 2008.

Funding Guidelines and application forms are available from the website at www.bonniebabes.org.au
4. AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH RESEARCH FUND (ARHRF) PhD SCHOLARSHIPS – MOTOR NEURON DISEASE and MENTAL ILLNESS

The Neville and Jeanne York PhD Scholarship
Applications are open for a PhD Scholarship, commencing in 2009, researching Motor Neuron Disease is being called for by Australian Rotary Health Research Fund. The value of each grant is $25,000 per year for a maximum of three years. The funds will be provided through the ARHRF Research Companion Program.

The Whitcroft Family PhD Scholarship
Applications are open for a PhD Scholarship, commencing in 2009, researching Mental Illness is being called for by Australian Rotary Health Research Fund. The value of each grant is $25,000 per year for a maximum of three years. The funds will be provided through the ARHRF Research Companion Program.

Applicants must be eligible to undertake study at an appropriate University or Research Institute in Australia. Contact Kelly Anne Martinez at the ARHRF on (02) 8837 1900 for further details.

Applications are to be submitted to the Scholarship Office no later than Friday 12th December 2008.

Application forms are available directly from the Fund or will shortly be available to download from the website at www.arhrf.org.au. A list of other ARHRF scholarships currently open is available at this site also.

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

1. REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR CURTIN ANIMAL ETHICS APPROVALS
Please note that ALL currently approved animal ethics applications expire 31 December 2008. Submission of renewals is required by Friday 5th December 2008. No late applications will be accepted.

If you are planning on continuing your current approved project is 2009, you must submit a renewal application before expiration. There is only 1 more meeting for 2008. Please ensure that you submit a renewal before the deadline of these meetings to enable you to proceed in 2009. http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/animal.cfm#dates The agenda deadline is Friday 5th December 2008. No late applications will be accepted.

Note if your application is not submitted and approved you cannot continue in 2009.

Projects can only be renewed a maximum of three times. To continue beyond four years a new application must be submitted. Therefore any applications commenced in 2005 must be resubmitted as a new application for full review.

If you are not planning on continuing your project in 2009, you must submit to the Animal Ethics Committee a Completion Report for the project, this is a requirement under the Code.

Applications for renewal or notification of completed project can be found at http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/animal.cfm#application
2. CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR CLINICAL INVESTIGATORS (DEC 5TH, 2008)
A workshop will be held on December 5th to assist clinical investigators in the development of new trial concepts. Expert advice and guidance will be provided on how to develop a concept outline from an initial idea or clinical question, selecting a suitable patient population and sample size, statistical design and choice of outcomes, as well as further tips and hints on developing your proposal into a full study protocol.

This workshop is open to all investigators who have an idea for a proposed clinical trial and are suitably qualified individuals pursuing a career in clinical research.

This workshop is being convened by the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Sydney in collaboration with The Outreach Program and supported by the Cancer Institute NSW.

More information on the workshop and a registration form are attached. (Registered participants will be asked to submit a draft concept outline prior to the workshop to then be developed during the workshop activities)

3. ORD RESEARCH TRAINING SEMINARS
A full list of training seminars provided by the Office of R&D are available at - http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/

Please note that due to the redevelopment of the ORD website, you will now find iLecture links, slides and other documents at - http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/notes.cfm.

SCRIPT Research Project Module Training
For details and online registration please see - http://seminars.curtin.edu.au/index.cfm?theme=83

At these sessions you will be shown how to use the Research Project module of SCRIPT. Step by step instruction will be provided, including topics such as how to create a project, how to complete the budget, how to submit the project to ORD and how to find projects previously entered onto the database.

Applying for an ARC Discovery Project Grant
This session has passed, however the ilecture is available for a short period of time at –
http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/notes.cfm

Writing Research Grant Applications
This session has passed, however the ilecture is available for a short period of time at –
http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/notes.cfm

Building Your Research Career
This session has passed, however the ilecture is available at -
http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/notes.cfm

Upcoming research training seminar topics:

- Post award processes – for ARC grant awardees – November/December 2008
- ARC Research Management System (RMS) - 2009
- An Introduction to conducting Research at Curtin
- Clinical Trials (TBC)

These will be advertised as details become available. In the meantime, a list of past ORD Research training seminars can be found at - http://research.curtin.edu.au/global/training.cfm Links to the slides and ilecture recordings for the sessions that have been conducted are available at - http://research.curtin.edu.au/seminars/notes.cfm.
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<td>Telephone 9266 4231</td>
<td>New Research Codes&lt;br&gt;The codes can be found on the <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">ABS website</a>.&lt;br&gt;You may also find the University of New England’s Conversion Tool useful.</td>
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<td>Facsimile 9266 3290</td>
<td><strong>TIP OF THE WEEK</strong>&lt;br&gt;Want to know more about applying for and managing external research funding?</td>
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<td>email <a href="mailto:R.Pokonski@curtin.edu.au">R.Pokonski@curtin.edu.au</a></td>
<td>The new look ORD website provides information on this topic. Please see the following page as a starting point:&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/reqman.cfm">http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/reqman.cfm</a></td>
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<td>email <a href="mailto:S.Clarke@curtin.edu.au">S.Clarke@curtin.edu.au</a></td>
<td><strong>Research Project Application Tool (RPAT)</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/tools.cfm">http://research.curtin.edu.au/guides/tools.cfm</a></td>
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<td><strong>Manager, Contracts and Committee Servicing and Curtin Research Fellowships contact</strong></td>
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<td>Anne Wong (nee Taing)</td>
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<td>email <a href="mailto:Anne.Wong@curtin.edu.au">Anne.Wong@curtin.edu.au</a></td>
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Research Project

Call for proposals
to carry out a research project on

Alternative models for the assessment of overseas-qualified osteopaths for their suitability to practice in Australia

Background

The Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria (“the Board”) is empowered under the Health Professions Registration Act 2005 (“the Act”) to register suitably qualified osteopaths in Victoria, thus entitling them to practise osteopathy in Victoria, and regulating the standards of practice in osteopathy.

The Board accredits courses of osteopathy in Victoria that meet the standards of the Board and graduates of those courses are entitled to registration, subject to meeting other requirements with respect to character. Under the provisions of the Mutual Recognition Act 1992 and the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997, the Board also registers osteopaths who have registration in other States and Territories of Australia and in New Zealand.

Osteopaths who have obtained their osteopathic qualifications in countries other than Australia or New Zealand and are not already registered for practice in one of those two countries are required to show that they have successfully completed a minimum of four years full time osteopathic education and then must pass a multiple choice question (MCQ) examination in the basic sciences prior to being eligible to undertake a practical (clinical) examination. The MCQ examination has been benchmarked against practicing Victorian osteopaths.

Scope of the project

The Board wishes review its processes for the assessment of overseas-qualified osteopaths and in particular wishes to be better informed about:

(a) the minimum requirements for an overseas osteopathic course that would entitle a person who has completed that course to undertake examinations to assess their fitness to practice to practice in Victoria (“the qualifying examination”). At present the Board requires the overseas course to be at least a four-year full time course even though the courses in Australia and New Zealand are 5 years in duration. There are also uncertainties as to how a part-time course should be evaluated. It is not practical for the Board to undertake detailed evaluations of overseas courses but it seeks advice on the key criteria that it could use to evaluate overseas courses for the purpose of admission to a qualifying examination so that:

(i) the qualifying examination does not need to be unduly exhaustive and costly;
(ii) does not act as a serious impediment to overseas applications for assessment; and
(iii) the pass rate would be reflective of Australian standards;
(b) the design of the qualifying examination so that it is valid, reliable and cost-efficient; and

(c) the most appropriate organisational structure to ensure that the qualifying examinations are administered well and are conducted rigorously and fairly.

The Board expects that the research project would:

(a) identify and comment on the issues that should be considered;

(b) describe and critically evaluate the means by which other health professions evaluate the competence of applicants for registration who have qualified outside of the country of the Registration Authority, this to be based on both the documentation of the processes used by the various professions and by enquiry and discussion with various bodies responsible for assessing overseas qualifications and conducting qualifying examinations;

(c) review and evaluate the literature on the conduct of assessments of the competence of health professionals;

(d) consider, on the basis of published reports and any other available documents, the risks associated with the recognition of health practitioners who have qualified other than within the jurisdiction of the registration authority. Evaluate those risks with respect to the practice of osteopathy;

(e) consider and evaluate alternative models for assessing the competence of applicants who have qualified other than within the jurisdiction of the registration authority, this to include:

   (i) pre-examination requirements (e.g. type of course completed, current registration, extent of experience in practice etc); and

   (ii) the form of the qualifying examination;

(f) make recommendations about an administrative model (or models) and a model (or models) for assessment of competence that the Board should consider; and

(g) make a full and final report to the Board no later than 12 months after the contract for the project has been signed, or such other date as may be agreed with the Board.

Applications

Applications should be made in accordance with the Board’s Research Funding Scheme and be submitted using the Board’s Research Funding Application form which can be obtained from the Board’s website www.osteoboard.vic.gov.au

Applicants are asked to adhere to the policy and ensure that the objectives should embrace the matters detailed above unless the applicant can argue that certain matters need not, should not or cannot be pursued. Applicants may offer to pursue objectives additional to those described above if those additional matters can be shown to bear importantly on the overall goal.

Applications should be submitted to:

The Registrar
Osteopaths Registration Board of Victoria
PO Box 248
Collins Street West Vic 8007

no later than close of business (5.00pm) Friday 19th December 2008.

The successful applicants will be informed by 27 February 2009.
Concept Development Workshop for Investigators

Friday 5th of December 2008

Concept Development Workshop for Clinical Investigators
This one day workshop will help clinical investigators develop new cancer clinical trial concepts. It will provide information, advice and guidance on how to develop a concept outline from an initial idea or clinical question by specifying a suitable aim, primary objective, patient population, interventions, study design, outcome measures, sample size, analysis plan and funding strategy, as well as further tips and hints on developing your proposal into a funding application and full study protocol.

Who should attend?
This workshop is open to all investigators who have an idea for a proposed clinical trial and are suitably qualified individuals pursuing a career in clinical research. Investigators from any cancer therapeutic area or discipline are able to attend.

Workshop Registration - Registrations must be completed by COB Thursday 27th of November. A fee of $100 will be payable at registration to offset administrative costs. Travel expenses to the workshop will be the responsibility of the participant.

What should you do to prepare?
Each participant will be required to bring a concept outline for a study or a protocol currently being written. This will be developed further during the workshop. A template concept outline is provided for each participant to complete on registration.

A draft concept outline for your study must be submitted for review by the workshop faculty by COB Thursday 27th of November 2008.

Workshop Faculty
The workshop faculty based at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre has extensive experience and expertise in the development of cancer clinical trials, teaching clinical trials methods, statistical design and analyses.

Professor John Simes, Clinical Director of the CTC
Associate Professor Martin Stockler, CTC Oncology Co-Director
Dr Corona Gainford, Oncology Research Fellow
Ms Peta Forder, CTC Biostatistician
Mr Chris Brown, CTC Biostatistician
Dr Wendy Hague, Clinical Trials Program Director
Ms Danielle Miller, Oncology Program Manager
Dr Kathleen Scott, Head of Site Management

Workshop Sponsors
This workshop is being convened by the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Sydney in collaboration with the Cancer Institute NSW.

Venue & Times
The workshop will be held at a University of Sydney location (venue TBC). The workshop will commence at 9 a.m. and finish at 5 p.m.

Draft Workshop Program
The program will include a number of interactive sessions and topics including:

- Structure and Purpose of a Concept Outline
- Developing a Health Intervention
- Trial Design and Sample Size Calculations
- Specifying Suitable Target Populations
- Outcomes
- Feasibility and Funding Strategies

The program format will consist of a combination of presentations, exercises and interactive group discussions. Participants will work on their proposed concepts throughout the day and present them for discussion and feedback in 2 small group sessions supported by expert faculty.

Further Information
NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre
Tel: 02 9562 5082
Website: www.ctc.usyd.edu.au
E-mail: cpg@ctc.usyd.edu.au

Supported by

In collaboration with The Outreach Program – An Australian initiative to provide support for clinical trials research
Please register me for:

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**TOTAL** $100

Payment Options:
- Please find enclosed a cheque (in $AUD) made payable to 'The University of Sydney'
- OR
  - Please charge my [ ] VISA [ ] Mastercard [ ] Bankcard
  - Expiry: _____ / _____  Amount $ __________
  - Name on card_____________________________________
  - Signature:________________________________________

Registration will not be confirmed until full payment is received.

Post or fax to:
- Kathleen Scott
- NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre
- Locked Bag 77
- Camperdown NSW 1450
- Phone: +61 (0)2 9562 5000
- Fax: +61 (0)2 9562 5094