Welcome to ISPRN!

Welcome ISPRNers to our first newsletter!
We would like to stay in touch with you and keep you up to date with past and upcoming events in 2011.

ISPRN has been established by a grant from the Commonwealth Government’s Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Strategy (PHCRED).

Our small but busy ISPRN team involves:

Dr Andrew Bonney – Andrew is the director of ISPRN and also works as a GP in Culburra. Andrew is available for research mentoring and research support.

Miss Bridget Dijkmans-Hadley – Bridget is the Practice Based Research Network Coordinator and is the first point of contact if you are unsure where to seek research help.

Research Mentors:

Dr Stephen Barnett – Senior Lecturer General Practice, Graduate School of Medicine
Dr Rowena Ivers – GP academic at the Illawarra Aboriginal Health Service
Dr Judy Mullan – Senior Lecturer in Medical Sciences, Graduate School of Medicine

ISPRN Research Development Conference, May 2011

The Illawarra and Southern Practice Research Network (ISPRN) held its inaugural Research Development Conference on the weekend of the 28-29 May 2011 at the Sebel Harbourside in Kiama.

Attendees included members from 9 different ISPRN practices from the South Coast, Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands.

Five very different research ideas were presented on the day, including topics around improving primary care management of chronic diseases, such as diabetes management and obesity, and policy issues, such as the use of chaperones in general practice.

The research ideas were workshopped to develop research methods knowledge and also to understand the types of research skills our network members would like to build on.
ISPRN Small Grants

The ISPRN Small Grants were announced at the ISPRN Research Development Conference.

Research ideas were developed and research protocols discussed by network members who were able to attend. These network members have been busy preparing these protocols which will be reviewed by the ISPRN advisory committee.

But don't worry! If you have a burning research question that you would like to get underway before the end of the year ISPRN will be supporting one other idea.

Please contact either Dr Andrew Bonney (abonney@uow.edu.au) or Bridget Dijkmans-Hadley (bdh@uow.edu.au) if you have an idea that you would like to discuss and develop.

ISPRN Small Grants

ISPRN is providing research support for 4 small grants of $10000 to ISPRN research projects. Writing bursaries of $3000 are attached to each grant and 2 other bursaries of $1500 are available for other ISPRN researchers.

Criteria for ISPRN Research Grant Funding

The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for the ISPRN Research Grant funding:

- The research project must be relevant to general practice based research in Australia
- The research project must be achievable in a 12-18 month timeframe
- The research project must adhere to a $10000 budget only
- The research project aims to publish results in a peer-reviewed journal
- Preference will be given to projects which show prospect for further grant funding in the future
- The recipient of the funding understands that the research grant money will be administered from a university account

The recipient of the funding must acknowledge all funding bodies in any publications.

Funds are available for the support of materials, research assistants and practice incentives.

Developing Research Ideas

Here are some things for you to think about when thinking about research ideas:

1. What is the research topic of interest?

What is the: Population: Who are you interested in? How would you describe the patients or population of interest?

Intervention or indicator: What is the cause, risk factor, prognostic factor, treatment or intervention? Be precise.

Comparator or control: What is the alternative to the intervention is it necessary?

Outcome: What do you hope to accomplish? What could this exposure really affect?

2. How do I find out if this has been done before? What literature exists?

If you go to the following UOW library website, it will guide you step by step how to conduct a literature review: http://uow.libguides.com/content.php?pid=38364&sid=281820.

Literature reviews help you to determine if your idea has been researched before, identifies relevant studies and methods that have been used and helps refine your research topic.

3. Good’ research questions:

Consider the difference between researching:

“What are the attitudes of patients to influenza vaccination?” and

“What are the attitudes of patients aged over 65 years to influenza vaccination?”

• Subscribe to the ‘less is more’ philosophy
• Seek to add to knowledge or improve outcomes
• Is the question answerable within the timeframe and resources available

Not a member of ISPRN yet but are interested in becoming a part of the network?

Email Bridget Dijkmans-Hadley: bdh@uow.edu.au for a registration form!
ISPRN Blog

If you haven’t already accessed the ISPRN blog it can be accessed via the following link: www.uowblogs.com/isprn.

Why use the ISPRN Blog?

It is a member only space to share research ideas or concerns about primary care practice.

It can link you with other GPs or primary care specialists around NSW.

It has educational modules which you can work through at your own pace, to gain a better understanding of the research process, step-by-step.

Need some research support? We can link you with research academics within the University of Wollongong to help support your needs.

I've Never used a Blog Before?

No problem, we have 3 easy ways that can make using a blog less daunting.

1. When you first log in to the blog, remember to check the ‘Remember Me’ box, that way the only thing you need to remember is your UOW username.
2. You can subscribe to certain pages on the blog so that updates are sent to your email which specifically relate to areas of your interest.
3. You can set up RSS Feeds which will also provide you with updates about contents in the blog.

If you have never blogged before the best way to learn is to get on the ISPRN blog and try.

All set-up instructions can be sent to you if you email Bridget Dijkmans-Hadley on bdh@uow.edu.au.

News and Events

Scholarships to Educational Events

Expression of Interest

We are inviting expressions of interest from practice based clinicians interested in attending educational events focused on research.

ISPRN is able to support a number of members to attend educational events in this calendar year up to the maximum value of $1000 dollars each.

The courses listed below may be of interest to you, and we will bring your attention to other courses during the year. You are welcome to suggest other events you may know of.

How do I apply?

If you have an interest in attending these courses please advise Bridget Dijkmans-Hadley by the RSVP dates listed below the available courses.

Your need to submit an Expression of Interest to the length of 1/2-1 page which should clearly state:

1. The reason why these conferences are of a benefit to you
2. How will your learning be shared amongst other Network members e.g. Formal or informal presentations, written report, networking.

In order to apply for ISPRN support you must be an active member of the Illawarra and Southern Practice Research Network (ISPRN).

A list of upcoming events are as follows.

Educational Workshops

Research Training Workshop Series by the University of Western Sydney, University of Sydney, UNSW and WentWest.

DATE: 3rd August “Developing your own research”

VENUE: WentWest Limited, Level 1, 85 Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown

RSVP: by Wednesday 27th July 2011

Walking Through Research Workshop

Walking through Research is an introductory health research training program designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who work as community research assistants or are about to start postgraduate study. The course includes Indigenous knowledge delivered in a culturally safe context. It consists of a one week workshop with ongoing mentoring and support delivered by two Indigenous academics Assoc. Professor Janelle Stirling and Dr. Shawn Wilson.

The workshop will run from 26-30th September 2011 on the Camperdown campus at The University of Sydney.

Applications are now open, applications who meet the criteria will be immediately awarded a place so apply soon to avoid disappointment.

If you would like further details or have any questions about the workshop please call Dr Shawn Wilson 0266207331.

Details for Other Upcoming Events are available from the below link: http://www.phcris.org.au/eventsdiary/index.php

ISPRN’s Inaugural Research Development Conference in May
Current Practices Involved with ISPRN

Albion Park Family Doctor
Bega Valley Medical Practice
Berry Medical Centre
Bungendore Medical Centre
Culburra Beach General Practice
Dr Azam’s Surgery
Gundagai Medical Centre
Illawarra Aboriginal Medical Service
Junction Street Family Practice
Kookora Surgery,
Milton Medical Centre
Murrumbidgee Medical & Primary Care Centre
Narrandera Medical Centre
Shellcove Family Health
Shellharbour Medical Centre
Shoalhaven Family Medical Practices
The Robertson Doctor
Thirroul Medical Practice
Temora Medical Centre
Terralong Street Surgery
Worrigee Street Medical Centre
Walker Street General Practice

Interested in further research experience?

The Graduate Certificate in Health Research at the University of Wollongong may be for you.

Duration: 1 year part-time
Total Credit Points: 24
Delivery Mode: On campus, Distance
Starting Session(s): Autumn, Spring
Location: Wollongong

The core subjects provide grounding in the key skills needed to read, interpret and evaluate published research; to develop and implement a health research project; to evaluate health-related outcomes; and to apply learning about research frameworks and methods to questions experienced in the students’ workplace and social environment.

For further information please go the link below:

Australian Practice Based Research Networks

NSW
• Illawarra and Southern Practice Research Network (ISPRN)
• Primary Health Care Research Network - General Practice (PHReNet-GP)
• The Network of Research General Practices (NRGP)
• University of Sydney’s Primary Care Research Based Network (SydReN)
• Youth Health Research Interest Group (YHRIG)

ACT
• Practice Network (PracNet)

QLD
• North Queensland Practice Based Research Network (NQPBRN)

VIC
• Victorian Primary Care Practice Based Research Network (VicReN)

WA
• The Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4)

If you would like further information on the above networks please go to this link: http://www.nswphc.unsw.edu.au/networks.htm

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