

CCEB-Newcastle expands research and training collaborations

The Centre for Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics (CCEB) at the University of Newcastle, Australia, expands its program of research collaborations in research institutes and universities through a program of research training grants from the Wellcome Trust. The application for collaboration with the Gadjah Mada University (GMU) in Indonesia was approved with Dr. Sofia of the Centre for Nutrition and Health, GMU, as CCEB's partner. The group's work in Indonesia will involve examination of adolescent obesity and related risk factors in Yogyakarta. Another grant of this kind is in collaboration with the Nutrition Centre of Ho Chi Minh City, represented by Dr. Cuong who will be assessing the extent of obesity in adults in Ho Chi Minh City.

Aside from these research training grants, CCEB and its partners have attracted the following research grants: from Wellcome Trust—for mineral supplementation in the treatment of acute diarrhea in children in India with Dr Michael Dibley of CCEB and Archana Patel of the Indira Gandhi Medical College in Nagpur as co-investigators; from the Nestle Foundation—for a malnutrition study in rural Vietnam with Mr Do (CCEB student), Drs. Ninh and Mai (National Institute of Nutrition, Hanoi, Vietnam) and Dr Michael Dibley as co-investigators; from HMRI—for alternative therapy with menopausal patients in Newcastle, Australia with Dr. Usha Parvathy (General Practice), Dr. Jon Adams (CCEB), Dr David Sibbritt (CCEB) as co-investigators. Drs Dibley and Patel will do a randomized controlled trial on zinc and copper supplementation in the treatment of acute diarrhea in children. Mr. Do and his co-workers will work on the relationships between body mass index and micronutrient malnutrition and the risk of morbidity in adults aged 18 to 60 years in rural Vietnam. Dr. Parvathy and co-investigators will work on the menopausal patients' perceptions on risk and benefits of herbal treatment, in relation to breast cancer.

CCEB was also awarded a grant from the Australian Agency for International Development for "The Health and Social Research Project: Risks and Benefits of Arsenic Mitigation Programs in Bangladesh". In addition, CCEB is undertaking the SHOAMP Project (Study of Health Outcomes in Aircraft Maintenance Personnel). Commissioned by the Australia Department of Defence, the primary investigators are Dr. Catherine D'Este, Dr Anthony Brown, Dr John Attia, and Dr. Julie Byles. Meanwhile, the Qualitative Research Laboratory holds regular workshops entitled "An Introduction to Qualitative Research: From Design to Analysis". Facilitated by Dr Jon Adams, CCEB Lecturer in Health Social Science, the workshops in July and October, 2002 attracted a lot of interest among undergraduate students, postgraduate students and researchers from within the University of Newcastle, the Hunter region, and across New South Wales. Workshop participants, who came from a diverse range of academic and practice backgrounds, worked hard on group-based exercises designed to introduce conceptual and methodological issues core to conducting effective qualitative research. The enthusiasm of the participants produced a successful and enjoyable learning experience. Feedback was very positive and encouraging.

Dr. Jon Adams will be conducting similar workshops in Manila and Beijing in 2003. For further information, Jon can be contacted at tel. no. +61249236148 or e-mail: qrlab@mail.newcastle.edu.au.

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