

AAAGP Travelling Fellowship 2005-6

Activities undertaken

Teaching focus

I participated in the teaching of a three day intensive Masters of Public Health module on Inequalities and Health. I observed and contributed to the teaching and discussion on epidemiological patterns of health inequality, theoretical and conceptual frameworks, measurement issues, and a number of case studies. I gave a seminar on access to primary health care. I was able to interact with the other teachers and review resources developed for the module. I also observed a case based seminar for medical students exploring public health issues an, needs assessment and community level action.

Research focus

The remainder of the time I spent writing. The dedicated time of the fellowship allowed me to work closely with the team in NSW to write two peer-reviewed publications. I met daily with the research team and other members of staff at the Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation and the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. We further developed the results from our earlier work into a form for submission for peer review publication, the first of which will be submitted shortly. We discussed possibilities for future collaborations and exchange visits between the institutions.

Background to the fellowship

The fellowship built on a pre-existing program of health inequalities research and collaboration between two University Departments of General Practice (Melbourne and UNSW).

Together these projects produced and collated important evidence on the equity implications of two major national PHC policy areas: chronic disease and the training and continuing education of GPs. Each has been published in report format. The aim of the two week travelling fellowship was to:

- Consolidate this work through writing these up to peer-reviewed publishable format and explore options for a future program of research on the basis of this;
- Develop teaching capacity at Melbourne University based on the work in both institutions.

It was a privilege to receive the AAAGP Traveling Fellowship. At a personal level, the Fellowship helped to consolidate my thinking and ideas as well as increasing my sense of belonging to an academic community beyond the walls of my home institution. Finding such protected time is uncommon but important in academic life. The AAAGP fellowship is one of the few opportunities to do so.

The application process is simple and clear. I would encourage all members of the academic general practice community to consider applying.

John Furler June 2006

