

# AAAGP Travelling Fellowship 2006/2007

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## Where I went

1. The TASA Health conference in Beechworth, Victoria
2. Department of General Practice at the Univ. Melbourne
3. The Centre for Health and Society at the Univ. Melbourne.
4. National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health at ANU

## Goals

1. To be mentored by experienced researchers
2. Foster networks between the University of Tasmania, and the two institutions I visited
3. Experience different research environments

## What I did

1. Attended the 2007 Conference of The Australian Sociological Association at La Trobe University, Beechworth campus
2. Visited two university centres: (1) Centre for Health & Society at the University of Melbourne, (2) National Centre for Epidemiology and population health at the Australian National University
3. Collaborated with the and the Department of General Practice University of Melbourne on a small study
4. Conducted analysis of interview data from a study conducted through the University of Tasmania
5. Met with other health researchers to discuss their work and methods

## Mentoring

### University of Melbourne, Centre for Health and Society Assoc. Prof Marilys Guillemin:

- Co-researcher on a small study, provided guidance on development of research questions and conduct of interviews
- Acted as primary liaison person for duration of visit
- Facilitated introductions to other researchers
- Advised about options for further study

### Australian National University, NCEPH Professor Dorothy Broom

- Primary liaison person for the visit
- Assisted with research question design for post-hoc analysis of interview data
- Assisted with qualitative data analysis on smokers study
- Provided advice about options for further study towards higher research degree

## Highlights

1. Being able to experience diverse research environments
2. Practical experience doing qualitative data analysis under the guidance of experience of qualitative researchers

## Where to now?

Commenced PhD at NCEPH (Australian National University) with Dorothy Broom in March 2008  
Continue data collection for GP-researcher project and transcribe  
Continue analysis of interview data from smoker's study to produce paper.

## Centre for Health and Society, University of Melbourne

PROJECT AIM: To explore GP-researchers perceptions of the ethical issues raised in primary health care research.

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. Does the role of clinician or researcher predominate in GP researchers' explanations of their role?
2. How do GP-researchers negotiate the dual roles of clinician and researcher?

### METHODS:

Recruitment was via a flyer distributed through the DGP (Univ. Melb)  
Qualitative, semistructured interviews were conducted either face-to-face or over the telephone

### RESULTS:

13 participants recruited from Tasmania and Victoria  
7 participants interviewed so far,

Approval for the study was obtained through University of Tasmania HREC Network

Many thanks to Prof. Jane Gunn and Ms Jane Richards for their assistance and support

## National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health (NCEPH)

AIM: To discover if there is a relationship between having an 'identity as a smoker and being unable to quit after an acute coronary event.

### METHODS:

Analyse language used to account for smoking and role smoking plays in lives of participants. Transcripts from pre-conducted interviews used

### RESULTS:

- (1) Few incidences where participants referred to themselves as 'smokers' either directly or indirectly
- (2) On the few occasions where participants identified as smokers, their speech styles indicated an awareness of the stigma of being 'a smoker'
- (3) Use of language suggests participants may have deliberately avoided identifying as smokers in the interview to avoid stigma
- (4) Feelings of guilt and self-blame, as well as the perception of being 'responsible' for their illness was discussed by most participants
- (5) Concern about being judged by others was prominent in all interviews

## THANKS

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GP Researchers

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Dorothy Broom  
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NCEPH Staff

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