

Background to the fellowship

The Department of General Practice at the University of Melbourne is one of the most research active academic departments of general practice in Australia. As a general practice researcher, I was very keen to experience, first hand, this department and to develop an understanding of “the secrets” behind this department’s success..

Aim of my fellowship

The primary aim of my fellowship was to “explore opportunities for future collaborations”. Although this sounds like an euphemism for sitting around chatting over coffee, it was extraordinarily useful to have time to talk with my colleagues about their work and explore common ground.



It was a honour, and privilege to receive the AAAGP Traveling Fellowship. The time I spent in the Department of General Practice at the University of Melbourne reinvigorated and energised me, enabled me to find direction for my career as a General Practice researcher, and I came away with new friends and a sense of being a valued member of the Australian general practice academic environment.

The application process is simple and is not at all onerous. I would strongly encourage all members of the academic general practice community to consider applying.

Deb Askew June 2008

Activities undertaken

I met with a number of researchers in the department and discussed various projects including the PEACH Study (Patient Engagement and Coaching for Health), the Primary Care PARTY (Prevention, Access & Risk-Taking in Young people) Project, the WEAVE (Women’s Evaluation of a randomised controlled trial of Abuse and Violence in general practice) project. I also participated in departmental activities - the research POWWOW (a weekly meeting where aspects of research are discussed), the weekly morning tea and I presented a seminar about my own research. Additionally, I spent time discussing career development with a number of people (their’s and mine), exploring common ground between our respective research interests and looking for opportunities to collaborate

Outcomes of the fellowship

The fellowship was an extremely valuable and worthwhile experience. Since then, I have co-authored a paper with one member of the department and our respective departments are actively looking at potential areas for collaboration. I learnt about the necessity of having a sense of cohesion within the department – ie. activities that bring busy people together and the importance of a catchy acronym for your research project. These lessons I have shared with my own department...