



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MAKE A DIFFERENCE: 2008 GP RESEARCH GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE!**

4 February 2008

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) is offering 12 grants in 2008 to encourage new and emerging general practice researchers. The grants are awarded by the RACGP Research Foundation, established in 2004 to attract and distribute funds to support research and researchers in general practice.

Applications for RACGP Research Foundation Grants close on Monday 14 April at 5pm EST. Information on the RACGP Research Foundation and applying for grants is available at <http://www.racgp.org.au/researchfoundation>

“Our College is a champion of excellence in general practice; our RACGP Research Foundation is very much an extension of this philosophy. Through providing scholarships, fellowships, grants and awards to general practitioners, the RACGP is fostering the next generation of great general practice researchers,” said Dr Vasantha Preetham, RACGP President.

“The RACGP Research Foundation aims to inspire grassroots general practitioners to take the plunge; we all have great academic skills thanks to long periods of study, so I am encouraging doctors all across Australia to put those skills to use in exploring the possibilities of modern medicine.

“General practitioners across Australia are on the cutting edge of medical research. There is so much to gain from the efforts of these ground breaking doctors; their work with continue to deliver ongoing benefits to our patients, through new treatments and new technologies, well into the future.”

Several grants are available in 2008:

- One Pfizer/RACGP/Australian Association of Academic General Practice (AAAGP) Cardiovascular Research Grants in General Practice - up to \$24 000.
- Three RACGP/Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation Medicine (CONROD) Research Fellowship - up to \$20 000 each.
- One RACGP Chris Silagy Research Scholarship – up to \$20 000.
- Two RACGP Family Medical Care, Education and Research (FMCER) Grants – up to \$10 000 each.

- Three RACGP/Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) Indigenous Health Award – up to \$2 500 each.
- One RACGP PWH Grieve Memorial Award – up to \$2 500.
- One RACGP Rex Walpole Travelling Fellowship – up to \$2500.

“When we think of medical research, the wider community does not often think of their GP wearing a white lab coat. While, this isn’t the most accurate image of general practice research, the RACGP is keen to shake up the public’s perceptions. Some of the most important work in Australian medical research is being undertaken by general practitioners; the RACGP is committed to supporting them in their important work,” said Dr Preetham.

*The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners is responsible for maintaining standards for quality clinical practice, education and training, and research in Australian general practice. The RACGP has the largest general practitioner membership of any medical organisation in Australia, with the majority of Australia's general practitioners belonging to their professional college. Over 23,000 general practitioners participate in the RACGP Continuing Professional Development Program. The RACGP National Rural Faculty, representing more than 5,000 members, has the largest rural general practitioner membership of any medical organisation in Australia. Visit [www.racgp.org.au](http://www.racgp.org.au)*

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