



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

RF:LLS

Wednesday, 29 September 2004

Professor Kwong Lee Dow
Vice Chancellor
The University of Melbourne

Dear Professor Lee Dow

Re: Proposal to Establish Chair of Adolescent Health

At its meeting on 30th September 2004 the of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Board Committee will be requested to approve on behalf of Faculty a proposal to establish a Chair of Adolescent Health within the Department of Paediatrics.

- The details of the proposal are attached.

We would appreciate this item being submitted to the Planning and Budget Committee for approval, subject to formal approval by Faculty Board.

Yours sincerely

Richard Frampton
General Manager

cc Ms J Mariani, Secretary, Planning & Budget Committee

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SPECIAL INFORMATION IN REGARD TO
CHAIR OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS, THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

INTRODUCTION

The University of Melbourne has established a Chair of Adolescent Health, for five years in the first instance, in the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, the University of Melbourne. The incumbent will be principally located at the Centre for Adolescent Health at the Royal Children's Hospital. The Chair will provide program leadership across the range of activities at the Centre for Adolescent Health and support teaching of undergraduate and postgraduate students in matters related to adolescent health and medicine.

The Professor will be located within the Department of Paediatrics, the University of Melbourne and will be clinically based at the Centre for Adolescent Health, The Royal Children's Hospital. He/she will have his/her research/academic base at the Royal Children's Hospital.

The Professor will be the Director of the Centre for Adolescent Health, Royal Children's Hospital.

The appointee will be expected to provide leadership and promote excellence in adolescent health; he/she will develop effective teaching and research programs in this discipline.

In conjunction with the Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne, The Centre for Adolescent Health is recognised for its national leadership role in helping to build the research base for health care practices that improve the health and well being of young people. In contrast to other age cohorts, young people's health has not improved; indeed, there are downward trends in various health indices such as mental illness. In this context, a greater investment in adolescent health is indicated in order to continue to build our knowledge of adolescent health, which can then be disseminated through undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and training.

The role of the Chair in Adolescent Health will be to ensure continued growth in high quality clinical and research activity in adolescent health, to provide further opportunities for higher degree research students to undertake clinically focused research, and support the implementation of evidence-based practice in adolescent health.

BACKGROUND

Department of Paediatrics, The University of Melbourne

The Department of Paediatrics at The University of Melbourne is a large academic department based at the Royal Children's Hospital. The department currently has over 150 academic staff including full time faculty, research only and honorary academic staff employed by the Royal Children's Hospital or Murdoch Childrens Research

Institute. The department also has 8 general staff, plus over 90 postgraduate research students. The department currently enrolls students in Bachelor of Science (Hons), Bachelor of Medical Science as well as Master of Health Science, MD and PhD programs. Course work programs leading to graduate diplomas in adolescent health and welfare, community child health and genetic counselling are offered. The department also offers a Master of Medicine program in paediatrics and, in conjunction with the Faculty of Education, a Master of Youth Health and Education Management.

The Department of Paediatrics is responsible for teaching child and adolescent health, paediatric surgery and other specialities in relationship to children, adolescents and their families, including mental health to medical students of the university. All 5th year medical students are attached to the department for 11 weeks and spend 9 of these weeks at the Royal Children's Hospital. In addition, members of the department contribute to the teaching program in years 1, 2, 3 and 6 of the medical course.

The Department of Paediatrics plays a pivotal role in the life of the Royal Children's Hospital with its members being actively involved in policy development and senior management. Members of the department make major contributions to the development of child and youth health policy and also to broader aspects of health policy at a state and national level.

The Royal Children's Hospital

The Royal Children's Hospital is a statewide teaching, training and research paediatric hospital. The hospital provides tertiary, secondary and primary child and adolescent health services, including mental health services.

The Royal Children's Hospital has a major leadership role in child and adolescent health in Victoria with statewide specialist roles. It is a tertiary and quaternary paediatric referral centre providing specialist services and multidisciplinary clinics for sick infants, children and adolescents from Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and southern New South Wales. The Royal Children's Hospital also provides specialised paediatric care for patients from overseas, particularly from south-east Asia, Nauru and Fiji.

The Royal Children's Hospital plays a major role in child public health, health promotion and advocacy for children and young people's health. It provides the full spectrum of medical and surgical paediatric services, as well as a number of specialist tertiary paediatric services and health promotion and prevention programs for infants, children and adolescents. These services are provided on both an inpatient and ambulatory basis.

Teaching, training and research are fundamental elements of the Royal Children's Hospital. The Royal Children's Hospital is part of a child health precinct, and in partnership with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, the University of Melbourne, LaTrobe University, Deakin University, Monash University and RMIT University, ensures clinical services are integrally linked with teaching, training and research.

These relationships are crucial in providing opportunities for significant participation in the public health agenda for children and young people, for 'translational research' to

drive laboratory and clinical findings into health promotion and prevention programs and for driving new paradigms and models of care.

Developments in Adolescent Health

The field of adolescent health as a medical discipline emerged in the US in the 1960s, with Australian interest in adolescent medicine emerging in the 1980s. Led by Dr John Court, the Royal Children's Hospital was the first children's hospital in Australia to have an adolescent ward with the goal of promoting an appropriate developmental environment for hospitalised young people. At this time, the Department of Adolescent Medicine was formed, with the primary focus being young people with chronic illness, of whom a greater proportion were surviving previously fatal conditions to childhood to reach adolescence. Many of these young people were recognised to experience a complex set of behavioural and mental health concerns which also affected their physical health: the various traditional medical disciplines were struggling to understand and respond to these concerns.

In the late 1980s, there was emerging community concern about the health of young people in general, as they struggled with a more complex set of behavioural and mental health concerns, including depression and anxiety, with high rates of youth suicide, drug and alcohol harms, and poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

The Centre for Adolescent Health was established in the early 1990s by the Royal Children's Hospital in order to develop a stronger evidence base to understand these health issues as well as how best to respond. The medical field of Adolescent Medicine is now recognised as one part of a broader approach to improving the health and wellbeing of young people. The field of Adolescent Health is interdisciplinary, which provides opportunities as well as challenges for academic research and training, as well as for leadership.

Centre for Adolescent Health

The Centre for Adolescent Health is an organisational unit within the Community Division of the Royal Children's Hospital with key links to the University of Melbourne through its Department of Paediatrics and to the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute. The Centre for Adolescent Health was established in 1991 with funding from the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation with the aim of improving the health and wellbeing of young people.

The Centre has grown in 13 years from a small but well-established Adolescent Medicine Unit which had been running since the early 1980s to an organisation with a budget of \$6.8 million and approximately 120 staff that provides Victoria with innovative health services and leadership roles in education and research that aim to develop the evidence base for better practice. The Centre is in the process of reorganisation to ensure that its management and leadership structure equips it to move into the next phase of development. This position is one of two new positions that arise from this re-organisation, the other being Professor of Adolescent Health (Research), auspiced through the Murdoch Childrens research Institute.

The Centre for Adolescent Health is Australia's leading academic centre in adolescent health. Recognised internationally, the centre is unique in its attention to the breadth of health issues affecting adolescents, which includes both physical and mental health. It is the only major established body dealing with generic adolescent health in Australia. It is the major training centre nationally for specialist adolescent physicians.

From the time of its establishment, the Centre for Adolescent Health has been linked to The University of Melbourne through the Department of Paediatrics. The Centre makes a major commitment to education and training at both an undergraduate and postgraduate level through the Department of Paediatrics. For the past 8 years, the Centre has run a highly successful Graduate Diploma of Adolescent Health and Welfare, an innovative, multidisciplinary program that is recognised as the most successful graduate diploma of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science.

Academic staff at the Centre for Adolescent Health are primarily affiliated with the Department of Paediatrics, but contribute to undergraduate and postgraduate education through other departments of the School of Medicine including General Practice, and through various Schools of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, including Population Health, Nursing, and Physiotherapy. Postgraduate training is also provided to students within the Faculty of Arts, School of Social Work, The University of Melbourne, and students enrolled in Graduate Diploma and Masters of Art Therapy, LaTrobe University. The Centre also teaches a number of subjects in the newly established Master in Youth Health and Education Management, a joint initiative of the Faculties of Education and Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences.

Clinical care is provided to adolescent inpatients at the Royal Children's Hospital through the Adolescent Medicine Unit, which is part of the Centre for Adolescent Health. A range of outpatient programs are provided at the Centre for Adolescent Health and at other settings that focus on marginalised and high risk young people, young people with chronic illness, and young people with emotional and behavioural concerns.

The Centre has built its research program on the central themes of population-based epidemiology, health promotion program evaluation and clinical research. For example, the Centre has an internationally recognised longitudinal cohort study that is providing a wealth of understanding about the prevalence of different disorders in adolescence together with insights into the transitions through adolescence and into the young adult years. The Centre has also taken a lead role in Victoria through risk and protective factor surveys, and through significant school-based interventions studies.

The research program of the Centre for Adolescent Health is affiliated with the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute and The Department of Paediatrics. Research collaborations within the University include projects and programs with academic staff within the Faculty of MDHS (Schools of Medicine & Population Health), Education and Law. Local collaborations include QUIT and the Anticancer Council, the ADF, Turning Point, Family Planning Victoria and disease-focused groups such as the Chronic Illness Alliance, Asthma Victoria, and Canteen. National collaborations include ARACY, beyondblue, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre. The Centre is increasingly recognised internationally for its research and clinical practice models. A major collaboration is with Prof Ric Catalano from the Social Development Research

Group of the School of Social Work, University of Washington, USA and Prof Penny Hawe from the University of Alberta.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION

The Professor of Adolescent Health will have a distinguished record in adolescent health. He/she will be recognised as a leading authority in an area of adolescent health relevant to the clinical activities of the Centre for Adolescent Health at the Royal Children's Hospital. He/she will have international standing and have demonstrated leadership in research and scholarship in that area. In addition to the quality of academic leadership, the appointee will have the ability to foster academic achievement in others and identify and exploit new opportunities in education, research and the provision of services for the benefit of the Department of Paediatrics and the Royal Children's Hospital.

The Professor of Adolescent Health will:

1. Participate in the teaching activities of the Department of Paediatrics at both an undergraduate and postgraduate level.
2. Initiate, participate and cooperate with appropriate research projects at the Royal Children's Hospital, within the Department of Paediatrics, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute and other appropriate research institutions.
3. Assume the role of Director of the Centre for Adolescent Health and take responsibility for appropriate standards of all services and activities of the centre. The incumbent will be responsible to the Divisional Directors, Community Division RCH for the duties associated with this position. Clinical duties will be negotiated appropriately with RCH.
4. Work closely with the Professor of Adolescent Health Research to ensure the highest standard of research in adolescent health.
5. Provide a continuing high level of personal commitment to and achievement in his or her particular scholarly area.
6. Conduct research and foster the research of other groups and individuals within the Centre for Adolescent Health, in conjunction with the Professor of Adolescent Health Research. Provide leadership within a research team and undertake and supervise the preparation of conference and seminar papers and publications from that research.
7. Supervise major postgraduate research projects. This will include the preparation of research proposal submissions to external bodies and responsibility for the oversight of financial management of grants.
8. Participate in planning and supervision of programs of study for postgraduate research students and projects for coursework masters students and research elective undergraduate students.
9. Play an active role in the maintenance of academic standards and in the development of educational policy and of curriculum within adolescent health.
10. Be involved in administrative matters within the Department of Paediatrics.
11. Provide leadership in adolescent health, both within professional organisations as well as in the community.

FUNDING, STAFF AND RESOURCES

Funding to support the Chair will come from the following sources:

1. The salary and on-costs for the Professor for five years in the first instance will come from the Royal Children's Hospital.
2. The University of Melbourne will provide establishment grants for the new Chair.
3. The Professor will be expected to seek external research grant support.
4. RIBG funds from nationally competitive grants held by the Chair will be passed on by the university to the Chair as research infrastructure support
5. Existing space at the Centre for Adolescent Health provided to the Director of the Centre for Adolescent Health will be maintained by the Royal Children's Hospital at no cost to the university.
6. Future additionally space and infrastructure to support teaching and research will be dealt with as part of the university/hospital affiliation agreement.

PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENT

The procedures for appointment will be established by The University of Melbourne with representation from the Royal Children's Hospital on the selection committee.

Advertising

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE
FACULTY OF MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND HEALTH SCIENCES
CHAIR OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH**

The University of Melbourne is an internationally recognised teaching and research institution. Commitment to excellence is demonstrated by innovative academic programs and its record as Australia's largest recipient of competitive research funding.

The University has recently established a Foundation Chair of Adolescent Health in association with the Royal Children's Hospital. The position will be located within the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. This position will lead clinical and research activity in adolescent health, provide opportunities for research students to undertake clinically focussed research and support the implementation of evidence based clinical practice within the discipline. The appointee will be expected to have a distinguished record in the field of adolescent health, particularly in research as applied to clinical practice.

The Benefits:

Duration: This Chair is offered initially on a five year fixed term basis.

Contact: Further information is available on the internet:

<http://www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/jobs>.

Academic enquiries to Professor James Angus, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, telephone: 61 (3) 8344 5894; secure facsimile: 61 (3) 9347 7854; e-mail: jamesaa@unimelb.edu.au.

Application to: Vice Principal, Human Resources, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia marked ("PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL"). Secure facsimile 61(3) 8344 4694 by Please quote position number

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The Council reserves the right to make no appointment or to fill the Chair by invitation at any stage.

The University is an equal opportunity employer.