



EMCR*Times*

**EARLY & MID CAREER
RESEARCHERS
eNEWSLETTER**

Issue 25

September 2017

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EMCR webpage

Check out the webpage at:
<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/cecs/ecr>

EMCR Facebook page

AMREP EMCRs now have a Facebook page. The page was designed as a means of information exchange and networking with fellow EMCRs. Please follow at:
<https://www.facebook.com/AmrepEcrs>

EMCR PhD student profiles:

<http://www.med.monash.edu/cecs/education/profiles/index.html>

EMCR Google+ page

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/112534742011900003005/112534742011900003005/posts>

ABOUT EMCR*TIMES*

EMCR*TIMES* is prepared by Dr Eric Chow



Changes to EMCR Committee's Agenda

The AMREP EMCR Committee is pleased to announce that there are some major changes to the overall EMCR Committee's agenda.

We would like to thank Lachlan and prior committee members for initiating the AMREP EMCR committee and defining its function. This provided the fun opportunity of assessing some of the AMREP EMCR committee's functions and reshaping them a little to fit with our (ever changing) needs. During June 2017, the committee met to discuss possible changes. This discussion was followed by a vote in July, for which all but one of the 22 committee members voted, providing their views about refocusing the agenda within the EMCR committee.

Professional Development Activities

The committee had noted that there had not been a professional development activity for some time. The EMCR Committee will no longer hold any professional development activities from 2017 onwards. The funding allocated to professional development activities will be reallocated to the Collaborative Seed Grants. This change is effective in 2017.

Collaborative Seed Grants

The Collaborative Seed Grants were established in order to assist in funding innovative research and foster lasting collaborations between institutions within AMREP. In 2015 and 2016, two awards were granted (up to a maximum of AU\$2,000 each). From 2017 onwards, two awards will be granted (up to a maximum of AU\$3,000 each). This change is effective in 2017.

EMCR Newsletters

Given that there have been numerous newsletters from the Schools and Faculty, there was a discussion on whether the EMCR newsletters should not be circulated via email. However, the committee has decided to keep circulating the newsletters via email. In addition, the EMCR newsletters will only pertain to AMREP EMCR Committee activities. Please email the EMCR committee if you do not want to receive the EMCR newsletters. This change is effective in 2017.

Peer-review for grants/prizes applications

All prizes and grants applications with monetary value above \$500 will be peer-reviewed externally from the AMREP EMCR Committee but internally through the institutions within AMREP to ensure the intellectual property is protected. This change will be effective in 2018.

Deadlines for applications

No extensions will be given to all grants/prizes applications. Late and incomplete applications will not be considered. This change will be effective in 2018.

Welcome New EMCR Committee Members

We would like to welcome a number of new EMCRs joining AMREP.

A/Prof Ilana Ackerman

Position: Associate Professor (Research)

Department: Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, SPHPM, Monash University

Research: I am a musculoskeletal researcher and an experienced physiotherapist. My research program includes clinical and epidemiological studies that aim to quantify the personal and societal burden of osteoarthritis, and optimise patient care through efficient outcome assessment. I completed my NHMRC Early Career Fellowship (Public Health) at The University of Melbourne before moving to Monash University in 2016. I will soon commence a Victorian Government mid-career Health and Medical Research Fellowship, which will enable me to undertake a new program of research around the burden of revision hip and knee replacement surgery in Australia.



Dr Gavin Higgins

Position: Postdoctoralee Research Fellow

Department: Central Clinical School, Monash University

Research: I am a postdoctoral research fellow who is a member of the Glycation, Nutrition and Metabolism laboratory that is a founding member of the newly formed Department of Diabetes that has recently joined the Central Clinical School. Prior to this year, we were a part of the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, and have been a part of AMREP for many years. My research interests centre on the role of mitochondrial dysfunction and autophagy impairment in the pathogenesis of diabetic kidney disease (DKD). My research incubates a number of projects that are attempting to understand the mechanisms of both events in addition to unearthing potential novel therapeutic treatments that may arrest the progression of DKD. We are located on the 3rd and 5th floor of the Alfred Centre. If you're interested in having a chat about mitochondria, autophagy or just looking for a chat about the perils of academia feel free to drop by.



2017 EMCR Biennial Retreat

Save the date!
October 26 –27th 2017

FREE registration, accommodation and transport!

When: Thurs 26th–Fri 27thOctober 2017

Where: Country Place Retreat, Kalorama (Dandenong Ranges)
Award winning, ★★★★★

Transport: Bus services will be provided

Registration: Essential!

Registration open NOW: <https://goo.gl/forms/IO9uiPFUJB5rxY8r1>
Registration and abstract submission will close 29th September

The EMCR Biennial Retreat is open to early or mid-career researchers from Monash CCS, Monash SPHPM, Burnet Institute, and Baker IDI. Sessions will include presentations, seminars and workshops on a diverse range of topics relevant to health-related research. The retreat will be held in the beautiful surrounds of Kalorama (Dandenongranges) with overnight accommodation available for retreat attendees.

Enquiries can be addressed to: Katharine.Goodall@monash.edu or Jodie.Abramovitch@monash.edu

Website: <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/ccs/ecr/retreat.html>

2017 EMCR Collaborative Seed Grants

The AMREP Collaborative Seed Grants intend to assist in funding innovative research and foster lasting collaborations between institutions. Applicants should focus on explaining how the research is innovative, why the collaboration is novel, and outline how the respective researchers have the requisite skills to undertake the research. As a result, the AMREP Collaborative Seed Grants review criteria rewards appropriate skill level over track records, and genuine collaboration potential over convenient partnerships.



1 Overview

- 1.1 The AMREP Collaborative Seed Grants are a Monash University initiative, and are designed to facilitate collaboration between Early and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR) from different institutions within the AMREP.
- 1.2 These grants will be awarded to high quality, well outlined and innovative proposals that support collaboration and knowledge sharing between institutions.
- 1.3 Applications will be accepted from all fields of research, and grant funds may be used for any purpose that facilitates an innovative research collaboration. For example, it may be used to purchase equipment or software, collect unique data, or conduct experiments i.e. laboratory or medical experiments.
- 1.4 Two awards will be granted (up to a maximum of AU\$3,000 each).

2 Eligibility

- 2.1 Applicants must be:
 - 2.1.1 enrolled PhD students who are within 12 months of submission of their thesis
 - 2.1.2 or level A, B or C academics who are within 10 years of their PhD being awarded
- 2.2 Applicants must be employed by, or enrolled in a PhD with, Alfred Health, Monash University, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, or the Burnet Institute.
- 2.3 Each applicant can be awarded a maximum of one AMREP Collaborative Seed Grant per year. Where an applicant is named on more than one grant application in a round, no more than one application will be successful.
- 2.4 Successful applicants from the previous year are not eligible to apply, e.g. if successful in 2014, you may not apply again until the 2016 round of funding.
- 2.5 Applicants from each collaborating institution must meet these requirements.

3 The application

- 3.1 Your application should comprise a short proposal of no more than 2 pages, which summarises the skills and expertise of the EMCRs involved, the nature of the collaborative work including a brief summary of how the funds will be used, and states the affiliated institutions. This should include the following headings: Background and Aims, Research Design, Significance and Expected Outcomes. Specific and deliberate mention of how each researcher's skills allow the research to be conducted at a sufficiently high level is essential.
- 3.2 Citations for the last five publications should be included at the end of the application for each applicant (not included in the 2-page limit).
- 3.3 All applications must be typed, and a signed electronic copy, with all evidence attached, emailed to ecr.amrep@monash.edu. **Applications open on 1st July and close on 31st October.**

4 Reporting requirements

Awardees must submit a brief, plain language report (1-page) to ecr.amrep@monash.edu, within twelve months of the award. This report should detail the outcomes of the collaboration and the ways in which the grant has enhanced or will enhance their research activities. This will be published in the EMCR newsletter and elsewhere, where appropriate.

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