



EMCR*Times*

**EARLY & MID CAREER
RESEARCHERS
eNEWSLETTER**

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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/AmrepEcrr>

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



Welcome New EMCRs at AMREP

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

Dr Shanshan Li

Position: Research Fellow (NHMRC Early Career Fellowship)

Department: Monash SPHPM Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine

Research: Dr Shanshan Li has a background in both Public Health and Medicine and an epidemiologist and biostatistician with special focuses both on atmospheric environmental health (air pollution and climate) and extensive child health issues. Most of her work involves collaborations with research groups across Australia and overseas, and she is keeping up establishing broader and stronger linkages with colleagues within Australia and internationally.



Dr Caroline Gao

Position: Research Fellow, Biostatistician, Hazelwood Health Study

Department: Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University

Research: With a background in applied mathematics modelling, I am interested in applying mathematical and statistical methods in health science. For the past few years, I have been working in the area of alcohol and drug epidemiology, and primarily focusing on using secondary data and survey data to understand the level of harms in the population and different treatment outcomes. The focus of my new role in the Hazelwood health study is to use data from different sources to understand the impact of Hazelwood mine fire to the local community. We will investigate different health outcomes such as acute respiratory and cardiac conditions, psychological impacts and long-term risks for cancer.





Associate Professor Yuming Guo

Position: NHMRC Career Development Fellow

Department: Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine
School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

Research: Yuming is an associate professor of Environmental Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University. He is supported by the NHMRC Career Development Fellowship. He was awarded Bachelor of Medicine (2001-2006), Master of Medicine (2006-2009), and PhD (2010-2012), respectively. Before he moved to Monash University in March, 2017, he has worked at the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, and Peking University. His group focuses on environmental epidemiology, biostatistics, global environmental change, air pollution, climate change, remote sensing modelling, and infectious disease modelling. He has developed/participated several large international collaboration to assess the impacts of air pollution and climate change on human health. His research is supported by National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council, and China Natural Science Foundation.

He is appointed as an adjunct professor by the University of Queensland, University of Oulu, Jinan University (Guangzhou), and Chongqing Medical University. He was a visiting fellow of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine supported by the Leverhulme Trust. He was awarded the best environmental paper award by International Society of Environmental Epidemiology and the Best Young Scientist by the Lancet-CAMS committee. He is a member of think tank for climate change and human health in Australia. He is an editorial member of Environmental Health Perspectives and PeerJ.

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(DandenongRanges)
Award winning, ★★★★★

Transport: Bus services will be provided

Registration: Essential!
Registration will open August 2017

The EMCR Biennial Retreat is open to early or mid-career researchers from Monash CCS, Monash SPPM, 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/cecs/ecr/retreat.html>

2017 EMCR Best Paper Awards

Details:

- Closing date: **5 pm Friday 1 September 2017** (late and/or incomplete application forms will not be considered)
- Enquiries: ecr.amrep@monash.edu
- Guidelines and eligibility ([link](#))
- Application form ([link](#))

In 2017, the EMCR Committee will call for six AMREP EMCR Best Paper Awards to honour the outstanding research that is being done and published by early and midcareer researchers at AMREP. The EMCR Committee will award three best paper awards of \$500 to Early-Career Researchers, and three best paper awards of \$500 to Mid-Career Researchers.

- 2017 AMREP Biomedical Research Early-Career Researcher Best Paper Award
- 2017 AMREP Biomedical Research Mid-Career Researcher Best Paper Award
- 2017 AMREP Clinical Research Early-Career Researcher Best Paper Award
- 2017 AMREP Clinical Research Mid-Career Researcher Best Paper Award
- 2017 AMREP Public Health Early-Career Researcher Best Paper Award
- 2017 AMREP Public Health Mid-Career Researcher Best Paper Award

A publication published in 2016 (including Epub online publication) will be eligible for the 2017 AMREP EMCR Best Paper Award, and the EMCR must be listed as the first author, or last author on the nominated research paper.

Publications will be assessed on four key criteria:

- Journal quality (impact factor)
- Originality of research
- Potential for research impact and significance
- Contribution to research field

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 of up to \$4,000 will be awarded; comprised of \$2,000 from each of the participating institutions.

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.

Monash Translational Research Symposium



[Translational Research Young Investigator Poster Competition](#)

The [3rd Annual Monash University Translational Research Symposium](#) will be held on **31st July 2017**. The Symposium will involve a poster competition for Monash graduate students and early career researchers within 5 years of finishing their PhD. The winning prize for the competition is \$500.

If you would like to participate, please RSVP [here](#) and provide a title for your poster and a 250 word abstract, before **3 July 2017**.

More information:

The Translational Research Symposium will host a variety of medical researchers and medical alumni presenting their translational research.

Date: Monday 31 July 2017

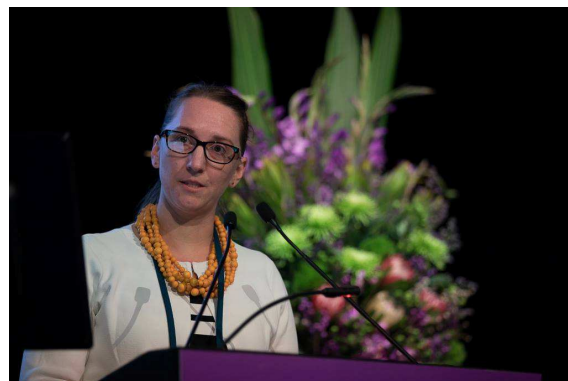
Time: 8:30 for 9:00am start - 7:00pm close

To find out more about the symposium and our speaker program, please visit the [website](#).

Please [register you attendance](#), for catering purposes.

EMCR Spotlights

Congratulations to Dr Melita Giummarra on receiving the Australian Pain Society Rising Star award.



Dr [Melita Giummarra](#), an ARC DECRA research fellow in the Pre-hospital Emergency and Trauma research group at DEPM, was recently awarded the **Australian Pain Society Rising Star award**. This award is given to an Early Career Researcher, within five years of completing their PhD, who has achieved outstanding academic and clinical translation activities in the field of pain.

Receiving this award acknowledges Dr Giummarra's significant work conducted on the socioeconomic context of pain, and the incidence, characteristics, impacts and treatments of pain and mental health after traumatic injury. As the 2017 Rising Star recipient, Dr Giummarra delivered a plenary lecture at the recent Scientific Meeting of the Australian Pain Society in Adelaide in April 2017 titled "Pain & mental health after trauma: Big data for big problems". The important message from her plenary lecture led to key discussions in the media about the need to reform how we deliver post-acute treatments for pain to persons injured in road trauma, especially for those living in rural and regional Victoria. Currently Dr Giummarra is working in partnership with the Transport Accident Commission to evaluate, develop and implement early interventions for pain and mental health in order to attenuate the impacts of transport injury on long term health outcomes.

Media activity

- Four interviews on ABC radio (Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth), including an interview on the Radio National program Counterpoint with Amanda Vanstone.
- <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/monash-university-research-finds-road-accident-victims-suffer-more-harm-when-seeking-compensation/news-story/3b6b47ffa576180e566a25daa8046e24>

Story in Monash News

- <https://www.monash.edu/news/articles/road-accident-victims-suffer-more-harm-when-seeking-compensation-study-finds>

Additional info

In 2017 the Australian Pain Society conference had a very prominent social media strategy for the first time, which had a massive impact on the dissemination of communication related to the conference compared with previous years. Dr Giummarra was also recognised at the conference as being one of the leading social media influencers at the conference:



Congratulations to Dr Sara Holton on receiving the Advancing Women's Research Success grant.



Dr [Sara Holton](#), School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University, was recently awarded an Advancing Women's Research Success grant. The aim of this funding scheme is to promote research excellence by supporting the career progression of early to mid-career high achieving female academic staff at Monash University. Sara will use funds from this grant to expedite a project she is conducting about the childbearing concerns and related information needs and preferences of women with cystic fibrosis.

EMCR Publications

AMREP EMCRs are shown in bold and underlined.

1. Ampt FH, El-Hayel C, Agius PA, Bowring AL, Bartnik N, van Gemert C, Fairley CK, **Chow EPF**, Bradshaw CS, Stephens N, Lim MSC, Hellard ME. [Anorectal swabs as a marker of male-to-male sexual exposure in STI surveillance systems](#). *Epidemiology and Infection*. Epub ahead 22 May 2017.
2. Bellhouse C, Walker S, Fairley CK, **Chow EPF**, **Bilardi JE**. [Getting the terminology right in sexual health research: the importance of accurately classifying fuck buddies among men who have sex with men](#). *Sexually Transmitted Infections*. Epub ahead 29 March 2017.
3. Callander D, Read P, Prestage G, Minichiello V, **Chow EPF**, Lewis DA, McNulty A, Ali H, Hellard M, Guy R, Donovan B. [A cross-sectional study of HIV and STIs among male sex workers attending Australian sexual health clinics](#). *Sexually Transmitted Infections*. 2017; 93(4): 299-302.
4. **Chow EPF**, Callander D, Fairley CK, Zhang L, Donovan B, Guy R, Lewis DA, Hellard M, Read P, Ward A, Chen MY, ACCESS Collaboration. [Increased syphilis testing of men who have sex with men: greater detection of asymptomatic early syphilis and relative reduction in secondary syphilis](#). *Clinical Infectious Diseases*. Epub ahead 13 April 2017.
5. Kong FYS, Rupasinghe TW, Simpson JA, **Vodstrcil LA**, Fairley CK, McConville MJ, Hocking JS. [Pharmacokinetics of a single 1g dose of azithromycin in rectal tissue in men](#). *PLoS ONE*. 2017; 12(3): e0174372.
6. Leeyaphan C, **Ong JJ**, **Chow EPF**, Dimovski K, Kong F, Hocking JS, Howden B, Bissessor M, Fairley CK, Bradshaw CS, **Read TRH**, Chen MY. [Treatment outcomes for rectal lymphogranuloma venereum in men who have sex with men using doxycycline, azithromycin, or both: a review of clinical cases](#). *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*. 2017; 44(4): 245-248.
7. **Medland NA**, **Chow EPF**, McMahon JH, Elliott JH, Hoy JF, Fairley CK. [Time for HIV diagnosis to commencement of antiretroviral therapy as an indicator to supplement the HIV cascade: Dramatic fall from 2011 to 2015](#). *PLoS ONE*. 2017; 12(5): e0177634.
8. **Ong JJ**, Fethers K, Howden BP, Fairley CK, **Chow EPF**, Williamson DA, Petalotis I, Aung E, Kanhutu K, De Petra V, Chen MY. [Asymptomatic and symptomatic urethral gonorrhoea in men who have sex with men attending a sexual health service](#). *Clinical Microbiology and Infection*. Epub ahead 28 February 2017.
9. **Vodstrcil LA**, Rupasinghe TW, Kong FYS, Tull D, Worthington K, Chen MY, Huston WM, Timms P, McConville MJ, Fairley CK, Bradshaw CS, Tabrizi SN, Hocking JS. [Measurement of tissue azithromycin levels in self-collected vaginal swabs post treatment using liquid chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry \(LC-MS/MS\)](#). *PLoS ONE*. 2017; 12(5): e0177615.
10. **Wilkinson AL**, McNamee K, El-Hayek C, **Chow EPF**, Bradshaw CS, Roth N, Tee BK, Stoové M, Hellard M. [Utility of risk-based chlamydia testing in primary care: analysis of retrospective surveillance data among women in Melbourne, Australia](#). *Sexual Health*. Epub ahead 7 April 2017.
11. **Wilkinson AL**, El-Hayek C, Fairley CK, Roth N, Tee BK, McBryde E, Hellard M, Stoové M. [Measuring transitions in sexual risk among men who have sex with men: the novel use of latent class and latent transition analysis in HIV sentinel surveillance](#). *American Journal of Epidemiology*. 2017; 185(8): 627-635.

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