PhD Opportunity in Food Environments and Health

Project Title: Food Environments, Diet and Health
Organisation Units: Nutrition & Health Research Group (School of Population Health)
Centre for the Built Environment and Health (School of Earth and Environment and School of Sports Science, Exercise and Health)
Classification: PhD Scholarship (see application process)
Stipend: $28,242 (tax-free with annual increments) plus additional funds
Expressions of interest: Due 10 July 2015

BACKGROUND

With overweight and obesity affecting two-thirds of adults and one-quarter of young people, Australia is one of most overweight nations in the world. Like much of the western world, food is ubiquitous in Australia and much of it is unhealthy. Evidence that can strengthen public health policies to create healthier food environments is urgently needed to curb obesity levels.

PhD OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking a highly motivated PhD candidate to investigate the exciting and emerging research area of food environments and their relationships with dietary intake and obesity. The successful candidate will work with leading national researchers in this field and will have access to the cross-sectional and longitudinal population health data, including extensive built environment measures, collected in the RESIDential Environment Study (RESIDE) I and II.

This PhD opportunity is offered through the School of Population Health and Centre for the Built Environment and Health (CBEH) at UWA. CBEH is a core member of the NHMRC funded National Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) in Healthy, Liveable Communities which seeks to address key research gaps, provide research opportunities and disseminate findings to inform policy and practice.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must be eligible to apply for a Healthway Research Training Scholarship:
- they must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia at the time of their application;
- the successful applicant must live in Western Australia for the duration of their PhD.

Potential candidates should have an interest in nutrition, environments and public health policy, combined with strong skills and an interest in quantitative data analyses. With its focus on health outcomes, a background in health science (or related disciplines) would be appropriate. A qualification in human nutrition would be an advantage, but is not essential.
APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Interested applicants should first familiarise themselves with:
   i) the scholarship eligibility and application process at Healthway and,
   ii) the eligibility requirements for PhD candidates set by UWA.

2. Interested applicants who meet eligibility requirements should email an **Expression of Interest** to Dr Gina Ambrosini by **10 July 2015**. This should consist of a CV, academic transcripts and a cover letter describing:
   i. quantitative skills, experience (if any) in analysing large datasets, willingness (or otherwise) to undertaking additional training in these areas;
   ii. reasons for wishing to undertake a PhD;
   iii. a statement confirming that eligibility requirements can be met;

3. The academic supervisors will review expressions of interest and shortlisted applicants will be contacted to attend an interview at UWA on Wednesday **15 July 2015**. The selected candidate will then be invited to submit a formal research training scholarship application to Healthway (by **31 July 2015** with support from the academic supervisors, with a view to commencing in early 2016, if funding is successful.

ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR CONTACT DETAILS

Any queries regarding this PhD opportunity should be directed to:

Associate Professor Gina Ambrosini, School of Population Health, University of Western Australia
(Gina.Ambrosini@uwa.edu.au) – telephone 6488 7375

or

Dr Gina Trapp, Centre for Built Environment and Health, University of Western Australia
(Gina.Trapp@telethonkids.org.au)

This PhD project represents a collaboration between the School of Population Health and CBEH. CBEH is a core member of the Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) in Healthy, Liveable Communities. CRE is a national and international research collaboration between the McCaughey VicHealth Centre for Community Wellbeing at the University of Melbourne, the University of Western Australia, Queensland University of Technology, University of Queensland and the University of South Australia. Industry partners include the Planning Institute of Australia, the Heart Foundation, the WA Department of Planning and WA Planning Commission.