

Victorian Clinician Researcher Network

Bio21 Australia Ltd



Aim

to enable highly qualified clinician researchers to have protected time for research alongside clinical practice at a critical career stage

Are clinician researchers in decline?

- System failure
 - Cost constraint within the hospital system
 - HECS and other loans
 - Perception of difficulty
 - Lack of well-supported positions
 - Remuneraton
 - “pull” of clinical practice
 - Problems with NHMRC clinician support

Proposal

- Dedicated research time (at least .5)
- 5 years (3+2)
- Good environment (good infrastructure and collegial support)
- Less than 5 years post-PhD or equiv
- 5 fellows per yr in Victoria
- “one-line” budget of \$80k/yr

Why clinician researchers?

- Two-way flow of information needed
- “coal-face” knowledge vital
- Aid in translation
- Professional leadership
- Stake in the future
- Recruit and retain highly skilled
- etc

Eligibility

- PhD or equivalent
- Medical training and qualification from any college incl physicians, surgeons, pathologists, GPs.
- Strong support from health service
- Research support/infrastructure
- Project should have potential impact on practice

Network

- Regular meetings of cohort
- Mentoring
- Critical mass
- Courses
- Admin support

What happens next

- Many able to find support once established
- Hospital/academic positions
- Clinical practice

Support for scheme

- Most recent reports eg NHHRC, Grant, Wills etc have supported this
- Other states have schemes
- Some support through specialist areas especially cancer
- State/Federal divide a problem
- In Victoria DIIRD/DHS an issue.

Summary of Progress

- State and discipline based schemes to support clinician researchers have appeared
- In Victoria falls in the gap between DIIRD and DHS.
- Also falls in the gap between Feds and State
- Needs ongoing advocacy