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Department of General Practice

Research Strategy 2020-22



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Values

Community Engaged

Our research is driven by the needs and hopes of the communities with which we work.

Collaborative

We value a collaborative approach to research where research participants are partners.

We collaborate with other researchers to further develop our mutual strengths and promote synergies and economy of efforts.

Capacity Building

We seek to support and enhance the capabilities of the primary care sector, and students and communities to engage effectively in research.

Social equity focus

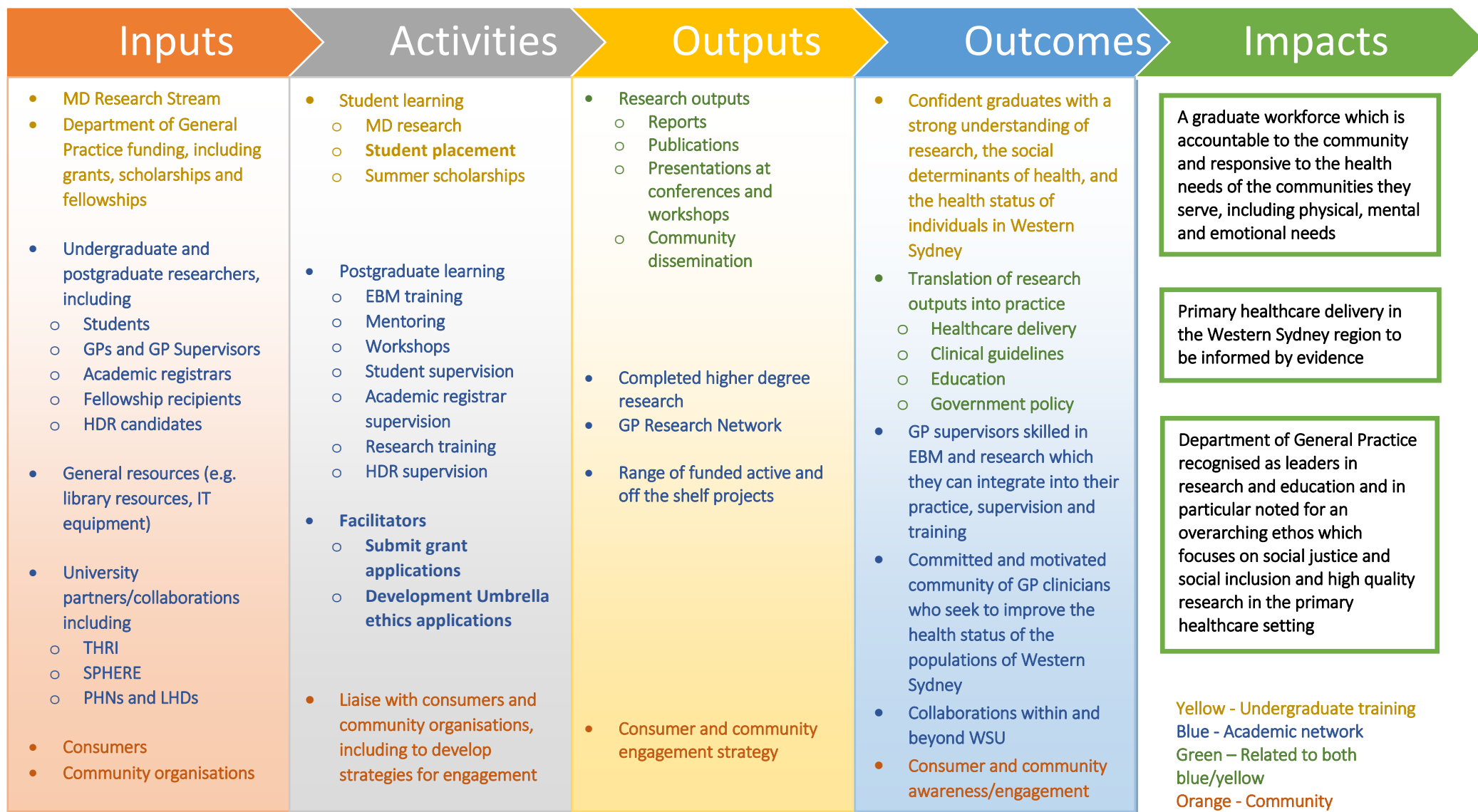
We focus on social justice and social equity in our research.

Outcome focused

Our research informs best practice and improves health and educational outcomes. We are committed to dissemination of research findings and promotion of knowledge translation.

Model of our Research

We have mapped our research planning according to a Program Logic Model including inputs, Activities, Outputs, Outcomes and Impacts (WK Kellogg 2004 <http://www.wkkgf.org/resource-directory/resource/2006/02/wk-kellogg-foundation-logic-model-development-guide>).





Research Streams

Our interests and expertise enable us to work in core research areas such as:

- A. Clinical Research – including Primary Health Care
- B. Community / Public Health
- C. Health Services Research
- D. Health Professional Education

For current research we are undertaking in each of the above areas please see the “Current Research” document at https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/som/research/general_practice/general_practice_research

Opportunities

We welcome opportunities to work with students, GP registrars and GPs including as outlined below:

- a. Students
 - I. Undergraduate
 - MD projects
 - BMedRes students
 - Summer scholarships
 - Volunteer students
 - GP Synergy Scholarships
 - II. Postgraduate
 - i. Masters students
 - ii. PhD students
- b. GP Registrars in Academic Training Posts
- c. General Practitioner Fellowships



Research Policy and Processes

Review of research proposals

The review process has several aims:

1. Ensure that the DGP conducts research that is in keeping with our values and strategic directions and is of high quality (see Screening proforma)
2. Inform other DGP staff of research developments
3. Offer DGP staff the opportunity to contribute to research project development.

Steps could include:

1. DGP staff member either (1) approached by external party or (2) proposes new research idea
2. Using the research proposal proforma, the proposer either (1) writes a briefing or (2) presents the proposal to DGP staff in email or at the Research Meeting
3. DGP Staff consider proposal and decide by consensus whether to proceed with the project and who will be involved as project team members.

Project team members

The DGP aims to be inclusive in assembling project teams, while recognising that team members need to be clear about who is on the team and what roles and contributions are expected as members of the project team.

Contribution to specific projects may include:

1. Chief investigators.
 - a. There may be more than one CI for ethics and grant applications for projects, bearing in mind (1) Expertise (2) Contribution (3) Track record. All CIs should be prepared to be guarantors of the research.
 - b. One CI will act as Project lead. More than one lead may be required for continuity if one lead is part time. The Project lead will be the senior contact person for the project, and take responsibility for maintaining the project team, keeping team members informed and for developing, submitting and revising any ethics and grant applications related to the project.
2. Associate investigators

Als will contribute expertise and contributions to the project.

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3. Other research personnel including research officers, research assistants and administration officers, students, research fellows,

Tasks include general support of research, administrative support, mentorship, submission of ethics and grants applications, literature reviews, database management, maintaining webpages.

Project advisers

From time to time DGP staff and others may be asked for advice on specific aspects of particular projects.

4. Research Supervision

Includes MD projects, BMedRes and HDR students, academic GP registrars

Authorship

Authorship will be according to the ICJME guidelines. Authorship should be discussed and decided at the earliest stage of planning papers, including who will be first author. As more than one paper may result from any one project, team members may form different writing groups for specific papers. The first author will be responsible for drafting the paper, revising in the light of contributions from other authors and for submission to journals and other publications.

Management of research activity

Research activity will be managed by project team members through research meetings, database and website management and utilising administrative support.



External Research Policy

Purpose

This policy applies to any external researchers who request the support and/or participation of the WSU Department of General Practice in research project(s).

Criteria

Selection of a research project will be determined via evaluation of the following areas.

1. Alignment with our mission and vision
 - i. The Department of General Practice will work collaboratively to deliver best practice teaching and learning experiences so that WSU Graduates will understand and value the many roles of General Practitioners in Primary Health Care, and are strongly motivated to consider a career in General Practice, particularly in areas of need.
 - ii. To achieve this vision, the Unit will build the teaching and research capacity of the General Practitioners and other primary health care providers who work with us. Our research agenda will include a focus on contributing to the evidence base in primary health care and general practice education.
2. Alignment with our values
In alignment with the mission of the School of Medicine, the work of the Department of General Practice will be informed by the following core values:
 - i. Social Justice
We promote equity, prioritising areas of need in health, education and the healthcare workforce.
 - ii. Collaboration
We work collaboratively within the School of Medicine, and more widely across the Western Sydney University and beyond. We will build and sustain respectful and effective partnerships with General Practitioners and other primary health care providers, their related organisations, teaching and healthcare institutions and with the communities in which we work.
 - iii. Excellence through innovation
We use innovative, evidence based teaching and research activities that are informed by and will inform other programs, locally, nationally and internationally.
 - iv. People focused
In all our work we value people and respond to the needs and hopes of the patients, students, colleagues and community members with whom we work.
3. The quality and feasibility of the project
 - i. Funding and other resources required for completion of the project.
 - ii. Appropriate fit with the interests and skills of the WSU Department of General Practice staff members.



Procedures

1. Upon completion of the research application (Appendix A below), proposed projects will be evaluated by Department of General Practice research staff members at bi-monthly research meetings or by email in the interim. Departmental staff may contact you if further information is required.
2. A research proposal may be attached to the application and used in lieu of or in addition to the application form itself. When used in lieu of the application form, all information requested in the application form should be included in the proposal. The research proposal should also (at minimum) include background, methods, hypothesis, timeline, expectations of input from the Department, and any anticipated difficulties or issues.
3. Further information may be requested by the Department of General Practice in order to make an informed decision regarding a submitted research application.
4. Outcomes of the proposal review will be sent to the research applicant by the WSU Department of General Practice project lead.

Appendix A: Department of General Practice Research Application

Researcher details	
Lead researcher name	Institution
Research group contact name (if different to above)	Postal address
Telephone number Fax number	Email
Research proposal details	
Title	
Brief Synopsis (include short background and include the research question)	
Brief Description of Proposed Methodology (how will data be collected and analysed?)	
How will the research project support the values and research strategy of the DGP?	

Please answer the following questions related to the research project.	
1. Outline the involvement and/or commitment required from general practitioners.	
2. How will this project support general practitioners to improve the health of people in their communities?	
3. From what geographical areas do you plan to recruit participants and/or general practitioners?	
4. What role will the WSU Department of General Practice have in the research team?	
5. What support is required from the WSU Department of General Practice and/or Departmental staff?	(Tick all that apply) Research Expertise <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Patients/Participants <input type="checkbox"/> Access to Data <input type="checkbox"/> Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
6. Does this proposed project increase the teaching or research capacity of general practitioners (e.g. through improved research knowledge, skills, and opportunities)?	

7. Is this project currently funded?	(Tick all that apply) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Funding being sought <input type="checkbox"/> Funding is not necessary <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please explain)
8. Identify any other local stakeholders	
This section is for internal use only	
Does the research project fit the values of the Department of General Practice?	Poor Fit <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Poor Fit <input type="checkbox"/> Average/Moderate Fit <input type="checkbox"/> Good Fit <input type="checkbox"/> Very Good/Nearly Perfect Fit <input type="checkbox"/>
Does the research project fit the expertise/skill sets of DGP staff members?	Poor Fit <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Poor Fit <input type="checkbox"/> Average/Moderate Fit <input type="checkbox"/> Good Fit <input type="checkbox"/> Very Good/Nearly Perfect Fit <input type="checkbox"/>
Do we have the resources currently to complete the project? External Funding Required Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	No Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Some Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Good Resources <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent Resources <input type="checkbox"/>
Rate the Quality of the project	1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Excellent
Rate the feasibility of the project	1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Excellent
Recommend for DGP?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If recommended, proposed research path?	Student Project <input type="checkbox"/> Research Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> DGP lead project <input type="checkbox"/> DGP assisted project <input type="checkbox"/>
Project Lead (s) Act as guarantors for the project for the department	