ARCCIM International Complementary Medicine Research Leadership and Capacity Building Program: Overview, Eligibility Criteria and Application Process

These notes below have been produced to accompany the call for applications for a massage therapy or myotherapy researcher to join the established world-first international CM research leadership program.

The ARCCIM International CM Research Leadership and Capacity Building Program (the Program herein) was established in 2014 and is an ongoing initiative. ARCCIM has recently extended collaboration with our Program Platinum Partner, Massage and Myotherapy Australia, to provide support for an additional 3 years of the program. As part of this collaboration, ARCCIM is looking to competitively recruit one (1) additional Fellow to join the Program. The additional Fellow must be able to demonstrate a track record and commitment to massage and/or myotherapy research and will be appointed as the Massage and Myotherapy Australia Fellow on the program. For further information about the program and opportunity to apply please see below.

Program Background and Aim

The Program provides essential mentoring/career development and research capacity building for international CM. The Program, established in 2014, is based upon the personal experience of Distinguished Professor Jon Adams, Director of ARCCIM, as an appointed Senior Fellow on the Oxford International Primary Health Care Research Leadership Program run by the University of Oxford, UK since 2010. The initiative outlined in this document is based upon features of this established program alongside other features relevant to the international CM research field.

The ultimate goal of the Program is to identify, nurture and support future CM leaders and to help develop and lead a sustainable research culture able to contribute to the evidence needed by patients and practitioners in this area of health care. The Program enables early-career and mid-career researchers (as defined later) to network with others interested in CM research, to reflect and strategize in the context of not only their own career but the bigger picture of CM research and the challenges/opportunities facing the national and international field. As such, the Program provides a unique opportunity for the CM field to lend essential ‘critical mass’ to the planning and development of a broad evidence-base for the CM professions, practice, and use.

The focus of the Program is upon a broad approach to developing a critical ‘evidence-base’ drawing upon rigorous, established methods and disciplinary perspectives from across public health, health services research and clinical science while also accommodating the needs and perspectives of those in practice. Within this, the focus is on the international scene and encouraging research collaboration across a range of countries.
Who is currently participating on the program?

In 2014 an initial call for Fellows produced over 50 full applications and 12 early career researchers were competitively selected to join the program. These Fellows, who have an ongoing appointment on the program are:

- **Associate Professor Felicity Bishop**, University of Southampton, UK
- **Dr Caragh Brosnan**, University of Newcastle, Australia
- **Assistant Professor Vincent Chung**, Chinese University of Hong Kong
- **Dr Holger Cramer**, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- **Dr Helen Hall**, Monash University, Australia
- **Dr Romy Lauche**, University of Technology Sydney
- **Dr Matthew Leach**, University of South Australia
- **Assistant Professor Brenda Leung**, University of Lethbridge, Canada
- **Dr Tobias Sundberg**, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden
- **Dr Lesley Ward**, University of Oxford, UK
- **Dr Tony Zhang**, RMIT University, Australia
- **Associate Professor Yan Zhang**, Texas Tech University, US

Who is running the program?

The Program is a core initiative of the Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine (ARCCIM), in the Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney, Australia. ARCCIM is the leading research-intensive Centre in the critical examination of complementary medicine and health care (CM) in Australia bringing together world-renowned, multidisciplinary researchers and methodologists working in close partnership with practitioners and other stakeholders to produce findings of relevance to practice, practitioners, patients and policymakers. ARCCIM is the only Australian Centre to house senior academic staff with prestigious government Fellowships (NHMRC, ARC, PHCRED) focused upon CM. ARCCIM researchers have attracted the largest program of government competitive grant funding in Australia to date (>\$12.6M) and are conducting over \$4M in industry/ professional/ community-funded research collaborations. The wider ARCCIM research program focuses upon a range of products/practices/therapists and the Centre is currently leading over 40 national/international research projects.

ARCCIM has produced over 800 peer-reviewed journal articles to date and has close links with the Public Health Association of Australia, American Public Health Association, Brazilian Collective Health Association, Indonesian Public Health Association, Public Health Association of South Africa as well as researchers in the UK, US, Canada, Indonesia, Brazil, Sweden, Hong Kong, China and Germany amongst many others.

The Program will draw upon the experience and expertise of senior ARCCIM academics, alongside invited guest speakers, presenters and facilitators (national and international), who will affiliate with the Program.

Program activities and features

The ARCCIM Leadership program will run over a number of years (with a view to being a sustainable resource for the international CM community). Those chosen for the Program through competitive application will be known as the ‘Fellows’ of the Program. The Fellows will attract Honorary Appointment as Visiting Research Scholars/Fellows with ARCCIM over the period of the Program in line with UTS policy. Fellows will be required to make a 5-day visit to University Technology Sydney (UTS) per annum. The Program will cover accommodation (5 nights) while attending the residential, plus up to AUD$2,000 reimbursement for direct economy flights and an invited Program dinner while in Sydney. All other expenses will be the responsibility of the Fellow.
During each annual 5-day visit, Fellows will be joined by guest speakers and senior academics from ARCCIM and engage in sessions on specific topics of expertise such as but not confined to: research skills training; networking; the art of getting published and cited; writing a successful grant application for external competitive funding; and other research development and career advancement issues. In addition, the cohort will also be encouraged to run self-sufficient sessions where they support and help each other to work through the challenges/opportunities they face/identify, as well as develop collaborative projects with appropriate design guidance and facilitation. Throughout the rest of the year the Fellows will be provided with on-line, distance mentoring and coaching from senior researchers at ARCCIM where necessary.

Each Fellow will be expected to co-author and submit a minimum of 1 peer-reviewed journal article with at least one other Program Fellow and/or Associated Program academic per annum. Active research collaboration across the cohort and ARCCIM academics will be facilitated and strongly encouraged.

In addition to the residential and Program attendance it is also envisaged that the recruited MT Fellow will provide presentations/workshops and other engagement with Massage and Myotherapy Australia and the wider MT research and practice community (around the time of their visit to Australia for the residential). Details around these opportunities will be negotiated with the successful candidate upon appointment. Costs related to such activities will be covered by ARCCIM.

**Eligibility and recruitment for the program**

To be eligible for the program, applicants must have been awarded their Masters or PhD and be within no more than 10 years of last qualification (Masters or PhD) award at date of application deadline and hold a position at a research institution/university or equivalent research-appropriate organisation. Candidates with equivalent experience and skills may also be considered at the discretion of the selection panel. Both national and international applications are strongly encouraged. Candidates must complete the official application template and accompanying documentation as outlined to be considered.

Candidates must also show:
1. an emerging track record in massage therapy-focused scholarship and research output;
2. the potential and commitment to further develop and make a substantial contribution to the national and international field of critical massage and myotherapy research.

All applications will be peer-reviewed by a selection panel made up of members from ARCCIM and Massage and Myotherapy Australia and any decision of the panel will be final. The selection panel will also consider the geographical mix/spread of candidates in their deliberations.

**How to apply**

Candidates who meet the criteria and wish to apply for the Massage and Myotherapy Australia MT Fellowship must complete and return the official program application form and brief CV (max. 2 pages) to linda.paul@uts.edu.au by midnight 1 March 2017 (Australian Eastern Standard Time).

The successful candidate will be appointed as Visiting Research Scholars/Fellows at ARCCIM, UTS in line with UTS policy and will be required to gain visa/travel approval (as necessary) for attendance at the Program annual residential in Sydney, Australia (initial residential is scheduled for 16 to 20 October 2017). Any appointed Fellow who does not attend all the residential program will be ineligible to claim the flight reimbursement and other financial support provided by the program.