



Paul Harris wins the 2014 HSRAANZ PhD Student Prize

Paul Harris, a final year PhD student in the Population and Social Health Research Program at Griffith University has won the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand PhD Student Prize with his paper “The public’s preferences for emergency care alternatives and the influence of the presenting context.”

Paul’s prize will be awarded at the [HSRAANZ Health Policy Symposium and AGM](#) on 4 December 2014, where Paul will present his research.



Applicants for the prize, which aims to encourage and reward outstanding research by Australian and New Zealand health services research PhD students, were judged on their ability to:

- Write clearly and concisely.
- Present ideas and arguments logically
- Use appropriate, sound methods: and
- Show how their results are relevant to policy and/or practice.

The judges, Adam Elshaug, MPH, PhD, Associate Professor of Health Care Policy, HCF Research Foundation Principal Research Fellow, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, Sydney School of Public Health; Katherine Harding, Allied Health Research Officer, Eastern Health; Prof Jon Karnon (Health Economics), Department of Public Health, Adelaide University; Laura Wilkinson-Meyers, PhD, Lecturer in Health Services Research, Health Systems, School of Population Health, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, The University of Auckland were extremely impressed by the quality and range of the submissions and it was a very close contest.

Paul took out the prize against a competitive field of 20 entries. The judges commented that Paul’s paper was very clear, logical and comprehensive. The methods employed were comprehensive and the methods and results were well communicated. The policy and practice relevance of the research was clearly stated and a clear understanding of the policy decision making processes was apparent.

Paul is a registered Psychologist and a final year PhD student in the Population and Social Health Research Program at Griffith University. He has previously worked with child and adolescents and young people at risk of suicide and self-harm in the public sector and private practice. He held positions in service provision and policy roles in Mental Health, Population Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health including management roles in community health and health

service planning with Queensland Health. Before commencing his PhD as an (APAI) research scholar, he worked as the regional manager of a not-for-profit organisation in South-East Queensland overseeing a range of integrated early years services and community-based mental health support services. Paul's research interests include the public's preferences for emergency care alternatives; the social determinants of health, moral distress in health promotion; integrated early years services; and building capacity for research and innovation in undergraduate curriculum and assessment development.

WINNER

Paul Harris - The public's preferences for emergency care alternatives and the influence of the presenting context.

<http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/5/4/e006820.full?keytype=ref&ijkey=rEPiJDuH1DYPjL5>

Paul Harris - corresponding author, School of Medicine, Population and Social Health Research Program, Griffith Health Institute, Griffith University.

Jennifer A Whitty School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences, The University of Queensland

Elizabeth Kendall Centre of National Research on Disability and Rehabilitation, Population and Social Health Research Program, Griffith Health Institute, Griffith University.

Julie Ratcliffe Flinders Health Economics Group, School of Medicine, Flinders University Andrew Wilson Menzies Centre for Health Policy, School of Public Health, University of Sydney,

Peter Littlejohns Division of Health and Social Care Research, King's College School of Medicine, London

Paul A Scuffham Centre for Applied Health Economics, Population and Social Health Research Program, Griffith Health Institute, Griffith University

ABSTRACT

Background: Internationally, increasing presentations to Emergency Departments have led to overcrowding, long waiting times and suboptimal health system performance. Accordingly, a range of new models of care involving the provision of care in alternative settings and delivered by other practitioners continue to be developed. The current study seeks to understand the Australian public's preferences for emergency care alternatives and to determine if these differ depending on presenting circumstances.

Methods: The cross-sectional study used a discrete choice experiment to elicit the Australian public's (n=1838 adults) preferences for accessing emergency care and the characteristics of this care. Preferences were elicited in the context of four scenarios; a possible concussion, a rash/asthma-related problem involving oneself or one's child and an anxiety-related presentation. Mixed logit regression analyses were undertaken to identify the relative importance of care attributes and the propensity to access or delay care in each context.

Results: Results indicated a preference for treatment by specialist emergency physician in hospital for possible concussion and for treatment by a doctor in ambulatory settings for rash/asthma-related and anxiety-related problems. Participants were prepared to wait twice as long for their preferred alternative in the rash/asthma scenario compared to the same concerns for their child. Results suggest a clear preference for lower costs, shorter wait times and a strong emphasis on

service quality; however there was significant heterogeneity across all characteristics and contexts. **Conclusion:** This study has increased awareness that the public's emergency care choices will differ depending on the presenting context. It has further demonstrated the importance of service quality as a determinant of health care choices. The findings have also provided insights into the Australian public's reactions to emergency care reforms.

Three other entries were **HIGHLY COMMENDED** by the Judges:

Puma Sundaresan - Factors influencing the use of RT in NSW: A qualitative study exploring consumer and health professional perspectives

Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Oncology, 2014 Jun 19. doi:10.1111/1754-9458.12198 (Epub ahead of print)

Puma Sundaresan,^{1,2,3} Christopher G. Milross,^{1,2} Andrea Smith,^{1,4} Alison Evans,⁴ Martin R. Stockler^{1,2} and Madeleine T. King¹

¹The Sydney Medical School, The University of Sydney, ²Sydney Cancer Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, ³Central Coast Cancer Centre, Gosford Hospital, and ⁴Zest Health Strategies, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Karyn E Alexander - Barriers and enablers to delivery of the Healthy Kids Check: an analysis informed by the Theoretical Domains and COM-B model

Alexander et al. Implementation Science 2014, 9:60 doi:10.1186/1748-5908-9-60

Karyn E Alexander¹, Bianca Brijnath² and Danielle Mazza³

¹Department of General Practice, School of Primary Health Care, Monash University, ²NHMRC Early Career Public Health Fellow, Department of General Practice, School of Primary Health Care, Monash University. ³Department of General Practice, School of Primary Health Care, Monash University

Charon Lessing - Do users of risperidone who switch brands because of generic reference pricing fare better or worse than non-switcher? A New Zealand natural experiment

Adm Policy Ment Health. 10.1007/s10488-014-0606-9

Charon Lessing, Prof. Toni Ashton, Prof Peter Davis

Health Systems Section, School of Population Health, University of Auckland