



## PoCoG Travel Grants 2007

PoCoG members were recently emailed about the PoCoG Travel Grants.

This funding is available as part of our goal to support psycho-oncology researchers in attending professional development activities. Round 1 has now closed. Round 2 applications open from 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

This grant aims to assist PoCoG members to attend national or international conferences, workshops, seminars or other professional development activities. The Grant will cover activity registration, economy travel expenses and reasonable accommodation expenses to a total value of \$AUS 2000 for national activities (e.g. COSA Annual Scientific Meeting) and \$AUS 5000 for international activities (e.g. International Psycho-oncology Society 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress). The travel grants are open to PoCoG members who are Australian and New Zealand citizens or Permanent Residents.

For more information please visit our [website](#) and login to the “members only” section with your user name and password. Opening and closing dates for the application process are listed below.

### APPLICATION ROUNDS

	Opening date	Closing date
Round 1	9th July 2007	CLOSED
Round 2*	3rd September 2007	2nd October 2007



## Members' Section of the PoCoG Website Goes Live

We are pleased to announce that the Members' section of our website was launched in early July. By now you would have received your login name and password which you can use to access your personal profile and other information not available on our public site. If you have not already done so please login at [www.pocog.org.au](http://www.pocog.org.au) and check that your personal profile details are correct and complete the additional member survey questions included in your profile. Answering these questions will help us to tailor our member services to your needs. You can also change your password if you wish.

Please browse through the content to view our latest news, information about the PoCoG CALD study, our staff profiles and our Quality of Life section.

We are still in the process of developing the functionality and the content of the members' website so you may encounter some “teething problems” and pages still under construction. Please let us know of any difficulties you may have in using the website or any suggestions and comments by emailing [pocog@psych.usyd.edu.au](mailto:pocog@psych.usyd.edu.au)

We are planning to add more information in the near future so please keep checking the website for new developments. Some of the information that we are planning to feature on the PoCoG website are:

- A program to support PoCoG members wanting to conduct psycho-oncology or quality of life research
- A mentorship scheme for young researchers
- Links to useful Psycho-oncology research tools

## PoCoG Protocol Development Workshop Update

The selection of participants for the Protocol Development Workshop is now complete. There was considerable interest in the Workshop, with more than 35 applications received for a total of 26 places. The review committee met in early July to assess the applications according to objective selection criteria. All applicants were notified of the outcome of their applications by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2007.

The venue is now confirmed. The workshop will be held at **Vibe Hotel Rushcutters**, Rushcutters Bay from Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> to Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007.

## New Staff Members

At the end of May PoCoG welcomed two new staff members to the Executive office. Ms Monika Dzikowska (PoCoG Project Assistant) and Dr Tim Luckett (Project Manager, Quality of Life Office) have joined the PoCoG team within a week of each other. Their staff profiles are on the website in the [About us](#) section so please feel free to have a browse.

## News from the Quality of Life Office

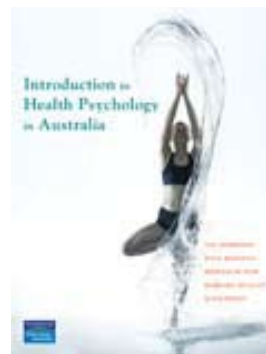
PoCoG has appointed a new project manager to establish its Quality of Life Office. Dr Tim Luckett will be building a resource library of health-related quality of life (HRQOL) measures and relevant literature to be made available to PoCoG members where copyright allows. The Office is being developed in consultation with visiting scholar, Dr Madeleine King from the Centre for Health Economics, Research and Evaluation (CHERE) at UTS.

Currently in development is quality of life content for the PoCoG website, including FAQs on HRQOL measurement (e.g., how to choose the right questionnaire for your research) and links to relevant information and databases. The Quality of Life Office is available to answer your queries regarding HRQOL measurement in your research. If you have any questions about HRQOL, please contact [pocogqoloffice@psych.usyd.edu.au](mailto:pocogqoloffice@psych.usyd.edu.au) or ph 02 9351 6304, and we'll do our best to find out the answers for you.

## News from the CALD Coordinating Office

Researchers in NSW studying illness in patients from CALD backgrounds met for the first time this month. The invited speaker, Ms Nicolle Fabrier from the Transcultural Mental Health Centre discussed her experiences with patients from different communities, patients' beliefs about mental illness and their expectations of the Australian health system. The next meeting is expected to be held in October. To find out more details, please contact CALD Project Manager Priya Duggal-Beri on [priya@psych.usyd.edu.au](mailto:priya@psych.usyd.edu.au)

## Introduction to Health Psychology in Australia – a new text book



Professor Phyllis Butow (Chair of PoCoG) and her colleagues have recently published a brilliant new text book *Introduction to Health Psychology in Australia*.

The text provides comprehensive, up-to-date coverage of health psychology from Australian and international perspective. It covers all mainstream health psychology topics including risk behaviour, stress and illness, family life and public health.

The book includes analyses and evaluations of contemporary issues such as cross-cultural dimensions of health and illness, biological systems, lifespan influences and the impact of illness on family issues.

Readers are encouraged to understand the reasons why people make certain decisions regarding their health by considering issues, theory and research evidence, and assessing relevant interventions.

The book is published by Pearson Education Australia [www.pearsoned.com.au](http://www.pearsoned.com.au)

## Who is Who of PoCoG – A member's profile

This is the inaugural edition of our new section of the newsletter - Who is Who of PoCoG. In this section we hope to feature (not so serious) profiles of one of our members so do not be surprised if one sunny morning you will find an email in your inbox asking you to answer a few questions about yourself, your interests, inspirations, your favourite drink, your pet hate etc, etc. ☺

Our first vict...err volunteer is Dr Melanie Price.



**Name:** Dr Melanie Price

**Position:** Deputy Director, Medical Psychology Research Unit; Research Fellow

**Research interests:** The role of stress, depression and social support in the development

of breast cancer in women from high risk breast cancer families. Quality of Life and psychosocial factors in the outcome of women with ovarian cancer and their caregivers. Unmet needs of brain tumour caregivers

**Other interests:** My favourite past times outside of work are travelling to exotic places, reading (especially history) and walking

**One thing I enjoy most about my work:** The stimulation of working within a team from different disciplines

**My professional pet-hate:** The constancy of chasing a research salary!

**My inspiration:** This may seem trite, but it comes from interacting with the participants in our studies

**My first-ever job:** First volunteer job – holiday program for street kids in Glebe with Sydney City Mission. **First paid job** – student nurse

**Which book have you read most recently?** The Last Romantic – a biography of Queen Marie of Romania – a granddaughter of both Queen Victoria

and Tsar Alexander II.

**What advice would you give to someone commencing in the same line of work as yours?**

Working in research requires patience

## Scholarships and Fellowships

Scholarships are now available from Centre for Health Research & Psycho-oncology (CHeRP) including two postgraduate scholarships and a post-doctoral fellowship. Also on offer are scholarships from The Cancer Council Victoria. To find out more visit our [website](#).

## Conferences of interest:

**28<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007:** 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Palliative Care Conference, Melbourne. Theme: Partners across the lifespan.

See website: [www.iceaustralia.com/apcc2007/](http://www.iceaustralia.com/apcc2007/)

**16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007:** IPOS 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Psycho-Oncology, London.

See website: [www.ipos-society.org/ipos2007](http://www.ipos-society.org/ipos2007)

**10<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> October 2007:** International Society for Quality of Life Research, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, Toronto, Canada.

See website: [www.isoqol.org/](http://www.isoqol.org/)

**14<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup> November 2007:** Clinical Oncology Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting, Adelaide. Theme: Prevention, Palliation and Cure; Progress through Clinical Trials.

See website: [www.cosa.org.au](http://www.cosa.org.au)

**31<sup>st</sup> January - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008:** Australasian Society for Behavioural Health and Medicine. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference. Theme: Behavioural Medicine Making Difference to Health.

See website: [www.asbhm.org](http://www.asbhm.org)

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