

New research centre to explore air pollution and its health effects

Four prestigious Postdoctoral Fellowships have been awarded to Australian scientists, investigating air pollution and its effects on human health. These Fellowships will offer early career researchers opportunities to be mentored by Australia's foremost researchers and a platform to expand their skills and expertise. This exciting Postdoctoral fellowship program will enable the career development of future leaders in air pollution and health research.

The Fellowships have been announced by the Centre for Air quality and health Research and evaluation (CAR). CAR is a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Centre of Research Excellence involving scientists from Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, University of Queensland, University of Wollongong, Queensland University of Technology, Monash University and University of Melbourne.

Urban consolidation and sprawl, traffic congestion, mining near residential areas, climate change, heating and cooling living environments, and power generation – these modern phenomena generate headlines, policy dilemmas and challenges for science, the economy, the environment, and our health in Australia, our region and the world. Air quality and its effects on human health run through much of the popular concern about them. Although Australian cities generally have lower air pollution concentrations than many U.S. and European cities, our cities do regularly experience distinctive extreme air pollution events due bushfires, hazard reduction burns and dust storms.

CAR's scientists, who include medical researchers, statisticians, toxicologists, atmospheric physicists and chemists, and epidemiologists, will address these issues in a range of research projects over the next five years. CAR's research will focus questions that are relevant to health, planning and environmental policy aimed at mitigating these impacts. CAR will create opportunities for researchers, operating in these diverse but related disciplines, to create and apply knowledge about air pollution and health of both national and international interest.

At CAR we promote opportunities for interdisciplinary research and innovative science. Those wishing to develop careers in air pollution and health research should contact Dr Joy Tripovich or Professor Guy Marks. Further information about CAR is available on our website: <http://www.car-cre.org.au/>

For more information contact:

Name	Preferred Number	Availability if applicable
Guy Marks	0419 251565	All December
Bin Jalaludin	0418 200 204	10-31 December
Michael Abramson	03 9903 0573	11 - 21 December
Stephen Leeder	0419 209 569	All December
Lidia Morawska	07 3138 2616	All December
Shyamali Dharmage	03 83440737	24-31 December
Geoff Morgan	0417288692	Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm
Alison Jones	02 4221 5151	All December