

## **ASMR – NICM Professional Development Collaboration**

**The National Institute of Complementary Medicine is pleased to announce it will be participating in the 2008 Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) Professional Development Program**

### **2008 Professional Development dates:**

**Adelaide** August 22 2008  
**Brisbane** August 14 2008  
**Melbourne** August 12 2008  
**Perth** August 20 2008  
**Sydney** August 18 2008

### **The program**

As part of its ongoing commitment to support the career development of health and medical research scientists, ASMR is providing a national professional development training day in each of the major cities. The program, first run in 2007, is aimed at assisting the best and brightest of Australia's health and medical researchers to achieve their full potential. The program reflects the needs of researchers, who may have excelled scientifically, but still need to develop the management skills that will enable them to successfully run their own laboratories, attract funding and progress in the NHMRC Fellowship scheme. In addition to the one day training program, ASMR is offering its members places in a mentoring scheme, designed to link emerging researchers with senior scientists. Packages about the mentoring program will be made available at the professional development days.

While the general ASMR program is targeted at health and medical researchers who are 5-12 year post-Doctoral studies, the CM research field is at a much earlier stage of development, and hence we are offering places through NICM not only to post-doctoral candidates but also to individuals in their final year of Doctoral studies who are or will be undertaking CM related research in 2008-09.

The ASMR program runs a full day (9am-6pm). Details of presenters and the final program in each state are available on the ASMR website [www.asmr.org.au](http://www.asmr.org.au).

Sessions include:

- (1) How to setup, run and maintain a successful research group
- (2) I have great ideas; how do I fund them?
- (3) Work / Life Balance
- (4) Master class in professional skills
- (5) Networking session

### **Details of NICM support**

- NICM will fund up to 20 places in the ASMR program, at the membership rate (\$230) plus the annual ASMR membership fee to successful applicants.
- NICM will assist with preparation of applications for the mentoring program.
- Initially, 5 places will be offered in each of the sessions in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney, with a further 5 offered for the Adelaide/Perth sessions.
- Places are filled in the order of application (subject to all other criteria being satisfied).

### **Conditions of NICM support**

Australia has significant strengths in complementary medicine research. However, there is a need to build critical mass; better co-ordinate research effort and improve the rigour and competitiveness of research proposals. International experience is that an effective strategy for building capacity is to partner complementary medicine practitioners and researchers with mainstream health and science researchers and to support cross-disciplinary teams. Therefore, NICM support is reserved for individuals in the tertiary sector who:

- Can demonstrate that they are undertaking or are scheduled to undertake research in complementary medicine in 2008-09;
- Have completed Doctoral studies or are in their final Doctoral year; and
- Will commit to applying for a place in the ASMR mentoring program.

### **How to apply**

- Step 1. Complete the NICM application form
- Step 2. Scan & e-mail the signed application form to NICM at [n.mccarthy@uws.edu.au](mailto:n.mccarthy@uws.edu.au). Alternatively, fax the form to (02) 4620 3722. You will be sent confirmation of your application.
- Step 3. Your application will be assessed, and if successful, you will be notified by e-mail.
- Step 4. NICM will register you in the course.

### **Further information**

If you have any questions, please contact NICM by phone (02) 4620 3705. If you are not able to attend the professional development day, but are interested in the ASMR mentoring program, details will be available on the ASMR website in late August.

### **About ASMR**

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) is the peak professional society representing Australian health and medical research. In addition to direct members, ASMR represents an additional 18,000 people actively involved in health and medical research through fifty-three (53) affiliated professional societies and Medical Colleges. Corporate and disease related foundation memberships bring a further 100,000 Australians with an interest in health and medical research into the ASMR network. The Society has a long established role in public, political and scientific advocacy.

### **About NICM**

The National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM) is an Australian Government initiative, supported by the NSW Government and is hosted by the University of Western Sydney. NICM was established in to provide leadership and support for strategically directed research into complementary medicine and translation of evidence into clinical practice and relevant policy. The Institute's objectives include building capacity, fostering excellence and attracting increased investment in complementary medicine research; promoting national and international collaborations in basic and translational research and improving access to reliable sources of information about complementary medicine.