**Western Australian Health Translation Network**

**Biostatistician Fellowship**

**Application Guidelines and Form**

***Applications close 9.00am, Monday 25 November 2019***

**Guidelines**

# Background

The Western Australian Health Translation Network (WAHTN) was established in 2015 and accredited by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as an Advanced Health Research Translation Centre (AHRTC) in June 2017. The WAHTN is a collaboration of 20 state-wide contributing member Partners and eight Associates which includes Western Australia’s major hospitals, Department of Health, Medical Research Institutes, five universities and two private hospitals, to embrace and accelerate research translation. The Partner organisations and Associates are listed on the WAHTN website at <https://www.wahtn.org/about-us/our-partners/>

The vision of the WAHTN is to ensure that health and medical research is incorporated as an essential element of the health system and that results are translated into policy and practice at the highest international standards, with the aim of improving the health and well-being of all Western Australians.

The WAHTN is one of seven AHRTCs that with two Centres for Innovation and Regional Health (CIRH) collectively form the Australian Health Research Alliance (AHRA). As a National body, the collaborative leadership provided by AHRA has the capacity to break down barriers and accelerate the pace and scale of research translation, transforming the way research improves patient care in Australia. AHRA is supported in part by funding from the Medical Research Future Fund’s (MRFF) Rapid Applied Research Translation (RART) Program.

The Clinical Trial and Data Management Centre (CTDMC) is a WAHTN enabling platform which aims to enhance clinical trials and related data management in Western Australia. The platform is a WAHTN-wide entity sharing expertise in clinical trial study design (including novel designs), clinical trial conduct, data management, data-linkage, analytical techniques for clinical trial datasets, bio-repository techniques and clinical registry datasets. It facilitates the pursuit of large-scale clinical trials and translational healthcare research in WA. The Biostatistician Fellowship will be coordinated by the CTDMC.

# WAHTN Biostatistician Fellowship Opportunity

The WAHTN presents an opportunity to submit an application for a Biostatistician Fellowship (Fellowship). These Fellowships align with WAHTN’s aim to support emerging research talent, building and strengthening the research workforce within WA, and enhancing our capacity and capability to undertake high quality translational research.

The WAHTN is offering two (2) Fellowships to employees of WAHTN Partner organisations to provide protected time to undertake a 12 month Fellowship. The first Fellowship will be from **January 2020 to December 2020** and the second will be from **July 2020 to June 2021**.

These Fellowships are designed to provide training opportunities for Biostatisticians to develop their skills for consulting with clinical researchers, build relationships for future collaborations, and provide biostatistical support to WAHTN Partner organisations.

## Support and Training

The Fellows will be provided support and training throughout their Fellowship by:

* working under the supervision of a senior Biostatistician, nominated by the applicant, to provide guidance and support over the 12 months
* attending one of the established Biostatistical Consulting Services in Perth (e.g. Royal Perth Hospital, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, The University of Notre Dame) at the start of the Fellowship to receive training in the necessary techniques of biostatistical consulting from a senior Biostatistician Consultant.

## Building Relationships

Where appropriate, Fellows will be encouraged to form collaborative relationships with researchers to enable their biostatistical support to progress from pure consultancy to being formally recognised as a research team member (i.e. qualifying for co-authorship on publications in accordance with the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors [ICJME] criteria).

At the end of the Fellowship, Fellows will be required to report on deliverables (e.g. the number of consultancies and projects they were involved with) and any future collaborations.

## Biostatistical Support

The Clinical Trial and Data Management Centre (CTDMC) run a Clinical Research Support Service that provides weekly visits to WAHTN Partner organisations within the Perth metropolitan area, to provide support to researchers. The CTDMC currently supports clinical researchers with advice for database management and data collection, this will be complemented by the addition of the biostatistical support provided by the Fellow.

Each Fellow will be expected to attend some site visits throughout the year, as negotiated with the CTDMC, as part of the Clinical Research Support Service. The CTDMC will arrange the site visits, book appointments and inform the Fellows of upcoming site-visits and appointments. The CTDMC staff will be available on site during site-visit days and will provide networking for the Fellow with key site personnel during these visits.

## Funding Criteria

The WAHTN will provide funding of up to $60,000 to support 2 Fellowships against the following criteria:

* The funding for the first 12 month Fellowship will be from **January 2020 to December 2020** and the second will be from **July 2020 to June 2021**. Applicants can apply for only one Fellowship but they can nominate which time period is suitable i.e. one time period or both.
* The Fellowships will provide $30,000 over 12 months to fund the Fellow to provide biostatistical support to researchers, and for a Supervisor to support the Fellow. This will be comprised of:
  + $25,000 per annum (pa) for the Fellow to work at 0.2 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) to achieve the requirements of the Fellowship.
  + $5,000 pa for the nominated Supervisor to support the Fellow.
* Funding for the Fellow and their Supervisor will be administered through a funding agreement with the University of Western Australia as Centre Agent for the WAHTN. To take into consideration individual circumstances, the parties to the Agreement will be negotiated with the successful applicants at the time of award.

## Eligibility Criteria

Applications must fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

* The Applicant (i.e. potential Fellow) will at the time of application:
  + have completed a Post graduate degree with a focus on biostatistics and are currently working at a WAHTN Partner organisation; or
  + are enrolled in a Post graduate degree with a focus on biostatistics at a WAHTN Partner university.
* The nominated Supervisor must be a senior Biostatistician with a PhD or Masters of Biostatistics with considerable experience providing statistical support to clinical researchers. The Supervisor must be an employee of a WAHTN Partner organisation at the time of the application.
* Applications must be jointly completed by the Applicant and their nominated Supervisor; and then submitted by the Applicant.

## Application and Assessment Process

Applications must use the **Biostatistician Application Form** and address all questions, remaining within the word limits and using Calibri 11 font. The Application Form must be completed by both the Applicant and Supervisor; and then signed by the Applicant, Supervisor and the relevant Head of Department/School. Applicants must ensure they have in-principle support from management to undertake the Fellowship within their organisation.

The Application Form and the Applicant and Supervisor’s CVs should be combined together as a single PDF for submission. Please do not include these Guidelines with your submission.

Applications must be submitted by the Applicant to the WAHTN’s Clinical Trial and Data Management Centre (CTDMC) via email at [CTDMC@curtin.edu.au](mailto:CTDMC@curtin.edu.au) by **9.00am, Monday 25 November 2019**. Late applications will not be accepted.

Please direct any enquiries to the CTDMC via email: [CTDMC@curtin.edu.au](mailto:CTDMC@curtin.edu.au) or phone: 9266 1970.

## Selection Process

Applications will be treated in confidence; and assessment and selection processes will be conducted in line with NHMRC guidelines. Applications will be assessed against the eligibility and quality of the Fellowship Applicant and the track record of the Supervisor.

An independently chaired panel made up of representatives of the WA biostatistical community selected by the CTDMC of the WAHTN will review the applications. Note that suitable Applicants may be invited to attend an interview to provide additional details on their application.

The panel will select two (2) suitable Applicants and make a funding recommendation to the WAHTN. Suitable applicants may be invited to attend an interview as part of the selection process.

Successful and unsuccessful Applicants will be notified in writing within two months of the application closing date.

**WAHTN reserves the right to only fund applications of a suitable standard and to adjust the funding to the Fellowships accordingly.**

**Western Australian Health Translation Network**

**Biostatistician Fellowship Application Form**

***Applications close 9.00am, Monday 25 November 2019***

Applicants must address all questions in the form within the word limits and using Calibri 11pt font. Please ensure you read the Guidelines prior to completing the Application form.

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| SECTION A - APPLICANT DETAILS |

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| CVs attached  Submit your CV and your nominated Supervisor’s CV with this application. Max 3 pages each CV. | | |
| 1. Applicant Details   If employed by multiple organisations, enter the organisation that will be administering your grant and your primary contact details. If not employed, enter the organisation where you are/or will be studying. | | |
| Title, First Name, Surname |  | |
| Position Title |  | |
| Department/School & Division/Faculty |  | |
| Organisation Name and Address |  | |
| Email |  | |
| Telephone |  | |
| 1. Current Employment and/or Student Details   If employed/studying at multiple organisations, enter all positions. For the Fellowship eligibility, one of your employers or where you study must be a WAHTN partner organisation. | | |
| Current Organisation(s) Name | | **Current Position Title(s) and FTE** |
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| 1. Qualifications and Year Awarded   Applicants will at the time of application, as a minimum, have completed, be enrolled in a Post graduate degree with a focus on biostatistics at a WAHTN Partner organisation. Additional qualifications are preferred. Please provide your qualifications, year of award and awarding institution. | | |
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| 1. Current Expertise   Describe how your expertise (research, clinical, training and/or industry track record) will be of value in providing statistical support to clinical researchers (Max 300 words). | | |
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| 1. Career Aspirations   Describe how your career aspirations and interest align with the Fellowship; and how it will enhance your career aspirations/trajectory in biostatistics, health research and health care improvement (Max 400 words). | | |
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| 1. Expected Outcomes   At the end of this Fellowship, describe what you perceive will be the impacts and outcomes of this Fellowship (Max 300 words). | | |
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| 1. Future Collaborations and Building Networks   Describe how you will utilise this Fellowship to build collaborative partnerships and networks (Max 400 words). | | |
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| 1. Fellowship Timeframe   You can only apply for one Fellowship. Please nominate which Fellowship timeframe you would prefer if you are a successful applicant. You can nominate one time period or both. | | |
| January 2020 – December 2020  July 2020 – June 2021 | | |

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| SECTION B – SUPERVISOR DETAILS |

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| 1. Supervisor Details   If employed by multiple organisations, enter your primary place or employment and your preferred contact details. For Supervisor eligibility, one of your employers must be a WAHTN partner organisation. | |
| Title, First Name, Surname |  |
| Position Title |  |
| Department/School & Division/Faculty |  |
| Organisation Name and Address |  |
| Email |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Additional Organisational Affiliation(s) |  |
| 1. Biography   Include qualifications and expertise in providing biostatistical support to clinical researchers (Max 400 words). | |
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| 1. Supervision and Mentorship   Describe how you will supervise and mentor the Fellow to impart your skills in clinical research biostatistics, provide opportunities and support them in their research career(Max 400 words). | |
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| Supervisor Declaration  I certify that the details I have provided in the Supervisor section in this application are correct at the time of submission and I have in-principal support from my employer to undertake supervision of the Fellow. | | |
| Signature |  | |
| Name |  | |
| Date |  | |
| Applicant Declaration  I certify that all details in this application are correct at the time of submission and I have in-principal support from my School or employer to undertake this Fellowship. | | |
| Signature | |  |
| Name | |  |
| Date | |  |
| Head of Department/School Declaration  1. I certify that I have read the application details covered by this form and that the Fellowship is appropriate to be conducted within this Department/School.  2. I certify that there are suitable and adequate facilities, resources and funding for the Fellowship to be supported at this organisation. | | |
| Signature | |  |
| Name | |  |
| Position | |  |
| Department/School and Organisation Name | |  |
| Date | |  |

Please submit your completed Application Form and CVs (as a single PDF file) to the WAHTN’s Clinical Trial and Data Management Centre (CTDMC) via email at [CTDMC@curtin.edu.au](mailto:CTDMC@curtin.edu.au) by **9.00am, Monday 25 November 2019**. The Application Guidelines must be adhered to and late applications will not be accepted.

Applications will be treated in confidence and reviewed by an independent panel. Note that suitable applicants may be invited to attend an interview as part of the selection process.

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