

# **CANBERRA HOSPITAL PRIVATE PRACTICE FUND VACATION SCHOLARSHIPS 2010/2011 PROJECT SUMMARY**

**Title:** VRE screening of Intensive Care patients

**Supervisor:**

Assoc Prof Dr Imogen Mitchell, Director ICU

Heather Bullard, Assistant Director of ICU

Full time ICU research staff are available to support the student.

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**Outline of the project:**

Throughout 2009 TCH experienced a dramatic increase in the number of patients identified with VRE. 2008 – 48 VRE; 2009 147.

The majority of these patients were colonised however 3 patients developed systematic illness from VRE.

ICU perform enhanced surveillance of all patients on admission and then twice per week until discharge. In 2009 50 ICU patients were identified as VRE positive.

The aim of this project is to review the ICU clinical records of the patients identified as VRE positive to determine if the patients were admitted to the unit with VRE or were exposed while in the unit.

**Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student:**

Medicine

**Potential benefits to the student and to the department:**

Benefits to the student include:

- Recognising the incidence and effects of VRE infection and highlights the importance of infection control
- Demonstrates the connection between policy, practice and outcome for the patients

Benefits to the department include:

- Evidence to support the continuation of increased regular screening for VRE
- Evidence to support proposed changes to patient hygiene ( daily Chlorhexidine washes) which will incur a significant increase in consumables budget

**Department within Canberra Hospital where the student will be based:**

Intensive Care