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

Title: Pulmonary function status, dyspnoea, anxiety and supportive care needs of patients with lung cancer

Supervisor: Professor Violeta Lopez

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Outline of the project:

This study will use an exploratory descriptive longitudinal and correlational research design using survey questionnaires. For this study, consecutive eligible patients will be recruited until the minimum required 130 patients will have completed a full data set at four time periods (within a month of diagnosis and prior to commencement of treatment, and then at three, six and twelve months). The inclusion criteria include: (1) all patients diagnosed with inoperable advanced non-small cell or small cell lung cancer, (2) may or may not be receiving chemotherapy or radiation therapy, (3) 18 years old and over, and (4) able to speak, understand and complete the questionnaires. Exclusion criteria include: (1) patients who are diagnosed with mesothelioma, (2) who are not physically well enough to respond to the questionnaires, and (3) who are not fluent in English language.

Preferred study discipline being undertaken by the student:
3rd or 4th year Medicine or Medical Science student

Oncology specialty

Potential benefits to the student and to the department:
The benefits for the students are to be able to learn how to:

1. complete an human research ethics application form
2. conduct a critical analysis of the literature
3. examine the quality of life of lung cancer patients and explore how to best to care for these patients
4. conduct research in an ethical manner
5. use effective interpersonal skills in communicating with the patients

The benefits to the department are:

1. assist in compiling annotated bibliography related to lung cancer
2. assist in completing a research ethics application form
3. assist in data collection
4. assist in preliminary data analysis

Department within Canberra Hospital where the student will be based:

ACT Health Research Centre for Nursing and Midwifery