

Sedentary Behaviour and Physical Activity Post-Doctoral Positions Available

**School of Physiotherapy and Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute, Curtin University, Perth,
Western Australia**

Curtin University is the largest university in Western Australia with a strong international focus. The School of Physiotherapy has a reputation for world class applied research and multidisciplinary collaborations. A growing number of research projects have been developed around sedentary behaviour/physical activity, technology and health – for example interventions for children and adolescents, interventions for office workers and large longitudinal epidemiological studies in children/young adults and ‘baby boomers’. These projects are mainly funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia and involve collaborations with researchers across Australia as well as Europe and North America. The research group is expanding and this creates an exciting opportunity for early career postdocs to join the team and develop as emerging leaders.

We are looking for enthusiastic, competent candidates able to work well with colleagues. Clear, critical thinking, strong conceptual and analytical background, and excellent writing skills are important, along with experience in sedentary behaviour and physical activity measurement. An earned doctorate in a related discipline is required along with strong letters of support from three colleagues/supervisors.

The role will include working with the team on existing projects to capture high quality data, data processing and analyses, and preparing and leading manuscripts and conference presentations. The role will also provide opportunities to develop grant writing and student supervision skills. Postdocs will be mentored by the team and encouraged to develop their own related research interests.

The appointment opportunities are flexible with 1-3 year contracts available. Competitive remuneration commensurate with qualifications will be provided (AUD70,000-80,000pa) along with leave and superannuation entitlements.

Further information is available from:

Professor Leon Straker (L.Straker@curtin.edu.au) and

Dr Rebecca Abbott (rebecca@hms.uq.edu.au; 14th December – 21st January 2013 while Leon is on leave)

Sedentary Behaviour and Physical Activity Postdoc Positions Further Background Information

Existing projects to be involved with:

Impact of electronic games on children

Straker LM, Abbott RA, Piek JP, Pollock CM, Davies PS, Smith AJ: Rationale, design and methods for a randomised and controlled trial to investigate whether home access to electronic games decreases children's physical activity. *BMC Public Health* 2009, 9:212.

Straker L, Campbell A, Jensen L, Metcalf D, Smith A, Abbott R, Pollock C, Piek J: Rationale, design and methods for a randomised and controlled trial of the impact of virtual reality games on motor competence, physical activity, and mental health in children with developmental coordination disorder. *BMC Public Health* 2011, 11:654-665.

Straker, L., Abbott, R., Pollock, C. & Davies, P. (2009-2011). Does access to electronic games decrease physical activity in children? *National Health and Medical Research Council*, 533526, \$518,000.

Multidisciplinary intervention for overweight teenagers

Straker L, Smith K, Fenner A, Kerr D, McManus A, Davis M, Fielding A, Olds T, Hagger M, Smith A et al: Rationale, design and methods for a staggered-entry, waitlist controlled clinical trial of the impact of a community-based, family-centred, multidisciplinary program focussed on activity, food and attitude habits (Curtin University's Activity, Food and Attitudes Program-CAFAP) among overweight adolescents. *BMC Public Health* 2012, 12:471.

Straker, L., McManus, A., Kerr, D., Piek, J., Smith, A., Abbott, R. & Olds, T. (2011-2013). Enhancing activity, nutrition and mental health in overweight adolescents. *Healthway* 19938, \$447,339.

Sedentary behaviour and physical activity in young adults

Straker, L., Healy, G., Tremblay, M., Abbott, R., Smith, A. & Mishra, G. (Als Salmon, J., Colley, R., Timperio, A., Winkler, E., Pennell, C.) (2013-2015). A life course approach to characterising and predicting inactivity and sedentary behaviour of young adults in the Raine study. *National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia*, APP1044840 \$291,474.

<http://www.rainestudy.org.au/>

Information Technology use and sedentary behaviour/physical activity in 'baby boomers'

James A, Hunter M, Straker L, Beilby J, Bucks R, Davis T, Eikelboom R, Hillman D, Hui J, Hung J et al: Rationale, design and methods for a community-based study of clustering and interactions of chronic disease processes and their effects on aging: the Busselton Healthy Aging Study.

<http://busseltonhealthstudy.com/>

Other recent related projects

Abbott R, Straker L, Mathiassen S: Patterning of children's sedentary behaviour at and away from school. *Obesity* in press (accepted Sept 2012).

Harris C, Straker L, Pollock C: The influence of age, gender and other information technology use on young people's computer use at school and home. *Work* in press (accepted Nov 2010).

Straker L, Campbell A, Mathiassen S, Abbott R, Parry S, Davey P: Capturing the pattern of activity: Exposure Variation Analysis of accelerometer data. *Journal of Physical Activity and Health* in press (accepted Nov 2012).

Straker L, Abbott R, Heiden M, Mathiassen S, Toomingas A: Sit-stand desks in call centres: associations of use and ergonomics awareness with sedentary behaviour. *Applied Ergonomics* in press (accepted Oct 2012).

Straker, L., Levine, J., & Campbell, A. (2009). The effects of walking and cycling computer workstations on keyboard and mouse performance. *Human Factors*, 51(6), 831-844

Gilson N, Straker L, Parry S: Occupational sitting: Practitioner perceptions of health risks, intervention strategies and influences. *Health Promotion Journal of Australia* in press (accepted June 2012).

Parry S, Straker L: Does work contribute to the sedentary risk of office workers? In: International Congress On Physical Activity & Public Health. vol. abstract 478. Sydney: Supplement to *Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport*; 2012: 225.

Physiotherapy school project website

http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/teaching/physiotherapy_research_projects.cfm