

ANZMUSC and Chiropractic Australia/COCA

PhD RESEARCH PROJECT TOPIC SUBMISSION

Complete all sections or indicate 'same as above' where applicable.

Project title:	<u>A prospective trial assessing the management of humerus shaft fractures in adults</u>
Primary Supervisor (s)	Bogdan Solomon
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Associate Supervisor (s)	Mark Rickman
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Project description: In 200-250 words (or less), please provide a synopsis of the project, highlighting the main features of the project (including the potential research question, aim, rationale).	<p>We intend to run a PRCT comparing non-operative with operative management of humerus shaft fractures in adults aged 18-65. Outcome measures will be return to function, as well as fracture healing rates and complications.</p> <p>As well as comparing the outcomes of surgical to non-surgical management, we will run a full economic analysis of the management alongside the clinical trial, with the help of Professor Jon Karnon. We also intend to use activity monitoring data with the help of Professor Tim Olds to give a more scientific insight into patients return to activity over time.</p> <p>In order to improve the final trial protocol, we have organized to run a focus group with 6 patients prior to the final ethics submission taking place.</p>

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<p>Methodological approach: In 200-250 words (or less) describe the main methodological approach to be undertaken (quantitative or qualitative). Also detail the proposed type of data collection the student will be required to undertake. If the project uses existing data, clarify how this project will be unique.</p>	<p>There are numerous parts to this study. In the first place there will be a focus group, in order to inform the trial design and finalise the protocol. This will be run by an external company, and the data reported back to us.</p> <p>There will then be a PRCT which will be Australia wide, requiring 10 centres to be involved, recruiting 10 cases each for 2 years. Data collected will be demographics, operative details, and post-op data to include DASH scores, EQ5D, and pain scores, as well as trial specific outcomes such as return to activity, and other possible data as suggested by the focus group. All complications and re-operations will be recorded, and xray-analysis undertaken to assess fracture union.</p> <p>At the same time, there will be a predominantly web-based collection of economic data, to allow both a cost-utility and cost consequence analysis of both treatment modalities.</p> <p>Patients will also be asked to wear activity monitoring "watches" for certain periods – whilst the analysis of this data will be performed by another group, the gathering of data and organization of the devices will require some input.</p>
<p>Necessary skills/knowledge: Outline the main skills and knowledge the student will need to undertake the project.</p>	<p>Initially the student will be involved in using the data from the focus group to help finalise the study protocol, and obtain ethics approval.</p> <p>The student will need to be well organized and excellent at communication, as much of the role involves organization of the trial and data collection from around Australia.</p> <p>At a local level they will need to review patients in clinic, and collect patient outcome scores such as DASH and EQ5D / VAS.</p> <p>A good working knowledge of IT and web-sites would be advantageous, as much of the data collection is intended to be electronic.</p>
<p>Ethics Approval (please tick appropriate answer)</p>	<p>Yes _____ No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ If No: date of expected submission _____</p> <p>Ethics submission has been done for the focus group, and the plan is to run this group session in January. Final ethics submission for the trial will take place shortly after that, taking into account the results of the focus group session.</p>
<p>Main site of project</p>	<p>Royal Adelaide Hospital / University of Adelaide</p>
<p>Number of students supervised to completion by supervisor (s)</p>	<p>Supervisor 1 <u> 1 </u> Supervisor 2 <u> 0 </u> Supervisor 3 <u> </u></p>

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Supervisors Availability [hours pw]	1
A/Supervisors availability [hours per week]	5
Research Timeframe:	Expected start date for all students is January 2017. If later start date is required, please explain here.