

## **Florey Medical Research Foundation and Arthritis SA Fellowship November 2013 Report**

As the first post-doctoral fellow partnership between the Florey Medical Research Foundation and Arthritis SA it has been important to align the role with the vision and aims of Arthritis SA and the expectations of academic research within the Faculty of Health Sciences. The agreed research goals of this three year fellowship (beginning July 2013 through to June 2016) are as follows:

- I. Bridge knowledge gaps between the research agenda and the policy, programs and advocacy priorities of Arthritis SA with a consumer focus
- II. Accelerate the application of research evidence into policy and practice
- III. Broaden the reach and potential impact of research by increasing the depth of partnerships
- IV. Increase public's awareness and understanding of how research contributes to improved health and quality of life
- V. Develop an independent research trajectory which contributes to the research capacity of the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Adelaide
- VI. Develop the interaction between qualitative and quantitative research with a focus on health literacy of consumers.

A clearly defined research plan has been negotiated to ensure that each of the goals delivers tangible outcomes. As well as a distinct research program this fellowship will contribute to the work of Arthritis SA through supporting their drive to embrace evidence based practice, assist with ongoing development of tools for program/ service evaluation, and provide appropriate interpretations and summaries of research to promote its translation into practice within the wider community.

A key focus of the fellowship's research program is on empowering people to manage their musculoskeletal conditions through the examination of barriers to participation in community-based musculoskeletal preventative programs and services with a view to improving access and participation for all. The specific aims of the research are to:

- I. Gain an in depth understanding of the social, psychological and material processes underpinning lack of participation in community-based preventative programs and services for people with at least moderate pain of an MSK origin
- II. Improve access to community-based MSK preventative programs through the tailoring of a pragmatic trial intervention to address these specified barriers
- III. Contribute to a growing body of translational research identifying effective approaches to improve access to chronic disease preventative programs and services

Dr Hoon's background in social geography and sociology informs her interest in how health service research connects with wider social theories and research methodologies to effectively understand 'causes of the causes' of health inequalities. Using a mixed methods approach, combining complementary methods of enquiry, the complex and divergent aspects of social and health phenomena will be examined with the view to trailing novel service delivery models for the management of musculoskeletal conditions.