



UNSW - Ingham Institute PhD Scholarship for studies in Pancreatic Cancer \$50,000 per annum for three years + travel allowance

The **Pancreatic Research Group, UNSW** in partnership with the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research is calling for expressions of interest for a major PhD scholarship of \$50,000 per annum for 3 years for candidates interested in the area of translational research in pancreatic cancer. The successful candidate will also have access to up to \$5,000 per annum in travel support.



Pancreatic cancer is a devastating disease with a dismal prognosis. Despite combinations of treatments including surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, there has been limited improvement in patient survival over the years. Clearly, there is a need for alternative approaches to fight this disease. The Group has adopted a novel approach to pancreatic cancer research by focussing on the prominent desmoplastic/stromal reaction, a largely ignored component of pancreatic cancer.

The Group has shown that there is an intense bidirectional interaction between stromal cells and cancer cells, which facilitates the local growth and distant spread of pancreatic cancer. Currently, the Group's research focus includes i) identification of factors (growth factors, uPA system) that mediate tumour-stromal interactions; ii) characterisation of relevant receptors and downstream signalling pathways relevant to specific factors; and iii) therapeutic targeting of putative molecules/pathways to inhibit cancer progression using pre-clinical models of the disease.

Minimum Qualifications: BSc Hons I (or equivalent)

The successful candidate will work on a project related to tumour-stromal interactions in pancreatic cancer and will be expected to commence studies in January 2012. For application details, interested individuals should contact Professor Minoti Apte, Director, Pancreatic Research Group, South Western Sydney Clinical School at m.apte@unsw.edu.au; T: 02 93858273 / 02 98284950.