PhD Opportunity:

**Integrating pharmacists in aged care facilities: a controlled trial to assess the impact, on reducing unplanned hospitalisation and improving the quality use of medicine**

**Location:** Health Research Institute, University of Canberra

**Start:** July to August 2019 (Semester 2)

**The project:** This PhD Scholarship is to support research to investigate the effectiveness of integrating pharmacists into residential aged care facilities to reduce unplanned hospital admission and medication-related problems and to improve the quality use of medications in aged care facilities. A controlled trial will be conducted over 3-years within the Australian Capital Territory, recruiting about 20 aged care facilities. On-site pharmacists will be integrated each into an intervention site while the control sites will receive the usual care. Trial outcomes will be measured and compared at baseline, during and post intervention.

A broad range of research opportunities are available within this project, including contributing to the design, conduct, implementation, analysis and write up. A mixed-methods approach that includes both qualitative and quantitative methods will be used.

Under the direct supervision of Assistant Professor Sam Kosari, Associate Professor Mark Naunton and Professor Rachel Davey, and with support from other key experts within Health Research Institute, the successful candidate will develop a broad range of research skills related to the implementation and evaluation of a health service intervention in aged care settings. The applicant will develop specific skills in the area of aged care and pharmacist health care models/services, allowing for a motivated candidate to pursue their own goals within the framework provided by the evaluation.

**The successful candidate will have:**

- current registration as a pharmacist to practice in Australia and completed a Master research degree or a 1st class Honours Degree (or equivalent) in pharmacy
- demonstrated ability to work under broad direction, exercise initiative in undertaking responsibilities and work effectively as a team member
- high levels of written and oral communication skills in English
- Experience of working with aged care facilities and being a medication review accredited pharmacist would be an advantage
- availability to study full-time and flexibility to work at the weekend if required at times
- peer reviewed publications would be an asset

To apply, interested candidates are invited to send their Curriculum Vitae, and a summary of their goals for a PhD, along with the names and contact information of two academic referees to Assistant Professor Sam Kosari (Sam.Kosari@canberra.edu.au)

**Scholarship opportunity:** This is a funded full-time PhD position ($30,000 per year for each of the three years, tax free).