

Developing an intervention to facilitate genetic/ genomic testing in palliative care

The TCRN Hereditary Cancer Stream is seeking a registered nurse to undertake a 3-year doctoral project, focusing on understanding the role of palliative care doctors and nurses in promoting discussions about genetic and genomic risk and testing with at risk families. Genetic and genomic testing can be vitally important to the surviving relatives of people receiving palliative care, yet few patients and families are afforded this opportunity. This proposed PhD study is the part of a program of research designed to develop and test the efficacy of an intervention that builds the capacity of palliative care health professionals to initiate genetics/ genomics discussions with eligible patients and/or their families. The proposed doctoral research will investigate the views, understanding and experiences of palliative care patients, families and health professionals about genetic/ genomic testing in the palliative care setting and use the evidence to design and pilot an intervention to facilitate these discussions. This work is ideally suited to a Master Research prepared Registered Nurse with experience of working in cancer or palliative care. The potential PhD student would be supervised by experts in palliative care nursing and in cancer genetic counselling at UTS with input from a multidisciplinary advisory panel with expertise in palliative care medicine, cancer genetics and genomics and ethics.

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