

International Health Data Linkage Network – Update 25th August 2010

Dear IHDLN Members,

Thank you to all for my welcome return to work emails. It is nice to back.

Here is the latest IHDLN Update for the 25th August 2010. Reading time is 5 minutes and a PDF version is attached for your preference.

IMPORTANT & URGENT! - Rotation of IHDLN Directorship

A reminder that expressions of interest are now open from Centres interested in hosting the next International Health Data Linkage Network Directorship. Nominated spokespersons from relevant centres can you please send your interest to me by 31st of August 2010 - next Tuesday! I look forward to hearing from you.

Raising Awareness of the IHDLN & Expanding Membership

At the Manitoba meeting in March this year, it was discussed that journal notices and announcements in key journals should be utilised as a means of promoting the IHDLN, raising awareness of our existence and to seek new members in order to ensure that we have better representation and credibility at an international level.

I have investigated the cost of placing both paper and online advertisements in the BMJ, BioMed Central (has range of online public health journals) and the International Journal of Epidemiology. Conservatively the cost is in the range of \$2000-\$5000 AU. The IHDLN at this stage does not have any funding thus I would like to propose that in the interim, we can raise awareness of the IHDLN and expand membership by issuing direct invitations.

Can you please send to me relevant contacts of other international groups or individuals in Scandinavia, the US, China or other that you think should be part of our network? I will then contact the groups or individuals on behalf of the network, introducing who we are, what we do and inviting them to join.

IHDLN Staff Exchange

Recently I was very excited to receive our first completed staff exchange form from Professor Jan van der Meulen at the Department of Health Services Research and Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Jan and his team are keen to both host a person at their organisation and to undertake an exchange.

Hosting

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine collaborates closely with the Royal College of Surgeons of England. Their joint unit, the Clinical Effectiveness Unit, carries out large-scale studies of process and outcome of surgical care and their determinants (www.rcseng.ac.uk/surgical_research_units/ceu). The data that are being used come from a wide range of sources and are often linked at individual patient level. The CEU would welcome support for its work on the evaluation of linkage methods and data quality, handling missing values, risk adjustment, and clinical performance monitoring. A person from an organisation with experience of linking administrative and clinical data, looking for a sabbatical is likely to fit the bill.

Exchange

Staff of the Clinical Effectiveness Unit have a variety of backgrounds ranging from statistics and epidemiology, data management to medical and social sciences. Staff are especially interested in the organisational, logistic and methodological aspects of large-scale observational studies of health care quality assessment and performance monitoring. They are interested in taking a placement at an organisation with experience in linking administrative and clinical data.

If you are interested in either, please email me at Emma.Fuller@health.wa.gov.au and I will forward all interest on to Professor van der Meulen.

2nd Call for Information about IHDLN Research Partnerships

One of the aims of the IHDLN has been to foster collaborative projects that show the value of data linkage applications or improve the quality of data and linkage methods. To date there have been several collaborative projects undertaken that unfortunately have failed to secure funding.

I am very interested to know of any other collaborative research partnerships that you may have set up or are in the process of setting up due to meeting colleagues through the IHDLN. These partnerships can be at any stage, informal or formal and any information about them would be greatly appreciated i.e. the centres involved, topic of research, what data you are planning to use.

Please email me with any news of such collaborations as I am gathering information to demonstrate the effectiveness of the network.

IHDLN Website

Over the coming weeks I will be revising the IHDLN website. Please send me any ideas or comments you have for how we can improve the site.

Hope you are all well.

Best wishes,

Emma

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I work part-time, all day Wednesday & a half day Thursday.

If you would like to unsubscribe to receiving emails about the International Health Data Linkage Network, please email Emma.Fuller@health.wa.gov.au for removal from the mailing list.