Factors influencing the aetiology, diagnosis and identification of risk factors in cervical spine conditions

Project title:	**Factors influencing the aetiology, diagnosis and identification of risk factors in cervical spine conditions**
Project duration:	The project will run between November and February. It is anticipated that all data collection will be completed during the first 3-4 weeks requiring regular attendance at the cervical spine research unit, thereafter analysis and write up will be undertaken with 1-2/weekly meetings.
Description:	Headache, neck pain and dizziness are common features of cervical spine musculoskeletal conditions but they can also be early indicators of other non-musculoskeletal conditions such as vestibular pathology eg benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV), vestibular migraine or more serious pathologies such as arterial dissection. The purpose of the project is to improve the differential diagnosis of headache, neck pain and dizziness. The specific aims are: 1. To identify factors which may help predict cervical arterial dissection 2. To identify factors which may help in the differential diagnosis of cervicogenic dizziness. The project will involve the collection and analysis of specific variables from 3 existing data sources; clinical data from patients with cervical arterial dissection, data from patients with headache or neck pain and dizziness handicap inventory data from patients with cervicogenic dizziness and BPPV. It may also include some clinical testing. These results will either be compared to each other or to data from a general population cohort, which will also be available.
Expected outcomes and deliverables:	Scholars will gain skills in handling and interpreting data from different sources. They will be involved in collecting and managing data into a spreadsheet format to prepare it for statistical analysis. They will also gain some experience in simple statistical analysis. The project will also involve the preparation of 2 reports for publication with which scholars will be involved.
Suitable for:	The project is open to UQ enrolled students in their 3rd or 4th year. A background in anatomy, physiology and neurological conditions would be an advantage.
Primary Supervisors:	Dr Lucy Thomas Dr Julia Treleaven
Further info:	Applicants are requested to contact the project supervisors for further information, Dr Lucy Thomas l.thomas2@uq.edu.au and Dr Julia Treleaven j.treleaven@uq.edu.au All applicants to contact the project supervisor prior to submitting an application.