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| Building a complex model of causes, consequences and treatments for low back pain – insights from individuals living with the condition | |
| **Project duration** | * 10 weeks * 35 hours per week |
| **Description** | Low back pain is a significant and ongoing problem – reducing its impact is a major research priority. With this project, we seek to create a complex model of what people with low back pain believe are the causes and consequences of their condition and treatments for their condition. We will engage with up to 100 adults currently residing in Australia who have, or have had, low back pain to investigate what they believe contributes to increasing or reducing their condition, and by how much. We will work individually with participants to complete a ‘mental model’ of these factors using a pre-existing software designed to help capture individual and group knowledge in a standardised format that can be used for analysis. The software is called a mental modeller (http://www.mentalmodeler.org). The software produces schematics which can be analysed together to produce sophisticated understandings of factors that change low back pain. Outcomes are expected to help work towards new management strategies.  The summer student will also be offered the opportunity to contribute to, and learn from, other related projects. |
| **Position/s available** | 2 |
| **Primary supervisor** | Dr Jenny Setchell [j.setchell@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.setchell@uq.edu.au) / Professor Paul Hodges |
| **Further information** | All applicants to contact the project supervisor prior to submitting an application.  Apply via [UQ Advantange](http://www.uq.edu.au/uqadvantage/wr-info-for-applicants). |