**Study Title:** A qualitative exploration of the needs of patients with severe COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)

**Brief description of the study:**
While chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is very common and holds a poor prognosis, patients are frequently not identified as requiring palliative care services. This exploratory qualitative study will identify patient and family-centred perspectives relating to COPD and end of life care, including bereavement issues. This study also explores the perspectives of staff working with COPD patients to achieve a comprehensive understanding. These perspectives will be explored through a series of in-depth interviews with patients with severe COPD, their families, bereaved family members and through focus groups with their healthcare professionals. The information from this study will build upon findings from a parallel research project to inform the development of the most appropriate model of palliative care provision for patients with COPD.

**Study Methodology: (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)**
- Epidemiology
- Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement
- **X** Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive
- Mixed Method
- Systematic Review
- Intervention: RCT
- Intervention: Comparative or cohort study
- Intervention: Case series

**Project details**
- Funding source (Optional): Bethlehem Griffiths Research Foundation
- Has the study received ethics approval? **X** Yes, No, Not applicable
- Project starting date: February 2008
- Project completion date: August 2009
- Multi site: **X** Yes, No, Not applicable

**RESEARCHERS**
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<th>Dr Michelle Gold</th>
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<tr>
<td>Investigator C (Name)</td>
<td>Dr Shane McIver</td>
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<td>Investigator D (Name)</td>
<td>Dr Belinda Miller</td>
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<td>Investigator E (Name)</td>
<td>A/Prof Jo Douglass</td>
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<td>Investigator F (Name)</td>
<td>Dr Vijaya Sundararajan</td>
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<td>Investigator G (Name)</td>
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<td>Prof Paul Komesaroff</td>
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<td>Investigator I (Name)</td>
<td>Dr Samantha Thomas</td>
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**Associated publications / reports:**

**Topics:** Respiratory symptoms and their treatment, Non-malignant disease and comorbidities general, Families