



# ACERH

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH ON HEALTH

## SEMINAR

**Wednesday, 17 March 2010, 11:30am-12:30pm**

Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre  
Building 62a, Eggleston Road  
The Australian National University, Canberra

### **What factors influence the earnings of GPs and medical specialists in Australia? Evidence from the MABEL study**

**Terence Cheng**

**Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research  
The University of Melbourne**

#### **The Speaker**

Mr Terence Cheng is a Research Fellow in the Health Economics program at the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research in the University of Melbourne. He is a member of the research team in the MABEL study. His current research activities within MABEL include the analysis of earnings, labour supply and choice of work sector of medical doctors in Australia. Terence's wider research interests lie in the areas of public and private mix in the demand for, and supply of health care and the application of microeconometrics methods for the analysis of health care. Terence is completing his PhD in Health Economics at the Australian National University. He has a B.SocSci (Hons) and M.A in Economics from the National University of Singapore.

#### **Abstract**

There is little information on the earnings of doctors in Australia, yet earnings play a key role in doctors' labour supply decisions and the costs of health care. We analyse the determinants of annual personal income and wages of general practitioners (GPs) and specialists using newly available data from the first wave of the MABEL (Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life) longitudinal survey of doctors, where 10,503 doctors responded in the first wave. In addition to age, gender, experience and qualifications, the theory of compensating wage differentials suggests that the relative advantages and disadvantages of jobs are relevant. The association of earnings with a range of job characteristics and geographical factors is also examined. Separate models are estimated for GPs and specialists to examine how the determinants of earnings differ by doctor types as well as for different employment modes (employed vs. self employed).

#### **Parking**

A campus map for ANU can be viewed on the University's web site (<http://campusmap.anu.edu.au/>). Visitors to the campus are advised to take a taxi to the venue if possible. The closest Pay Parking is at University House (pay at the meter in the quadrangle). Access to the Bob Douglas Lecture Theatre is by direct entry into Building 62a off Eggleston Road.

For enquiries about this seminar contact Ms Lyn Rowe ([ACERH@anu.edu.au](mailto:ACERH@anu.edu.au) or +61 2 6125 3688) or Professor Jim Butler ([jim.butler@anu.edu.au](mailto:jim.butler@anu.edu.au)).