The School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) is the second biggest School within the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University. We provide a strong research environment with millions of dollars in research funding. We are well known nationally and internationally for providing leadership in understanding, advancement, education and practical application of the discipline of public health issues and practices thereby improving health outcomes for the Australian community.

Our principal expertise lies in epidemiology (including clinical epidemiology), biostatistics, health economics, large scale clinical data-management and health services research.

Our Honours program offers a career path into many areas of public health and clinical research. The School runs 3 Honours Program: Bachelor of Medical Sciences (Hons), Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences (Hons) and the Bachelor of Health Sciences (Hons).

For enquiries regarding the SPHPM Honours Programs:

Bachelor of Medical Science (BMedSc) & Bachelor of Biomedical Science (BBiomedSc):

A/Professor Basia Diug
SPHPM Head of Undergraduate Courses
Email: basia.diuig@monash.edu

Professor Danny Liew
SPHPM BMedSc Honours Coordinator
Email: danny.liew@monash.edu

Professor Allen Cheng
SPHPM BMedSc & BBiomedSc Honours Coordinator
Email: allen.cheng@monash.edu
Tel: 03 9903 0259

Dr Joanne O’Toole
SPHPM BBiomedSc Honours Coordinator
Email: joanne.otool@monash.edu
Tel: 03 9903 0013

Christine McMahon
Undergraduate Courses Manager
Email: med-sphpm-ug@monash.edu
Tel: 03 9903 1680

How to use this index booklet

This index booklet lists the Honours Projects available for 2020. For further information about a particular research project, see the project description in the online database Supervisor Connect:
https://www.monash.edu/medicine/research/supervisor

For further information regarding individual projects students should contact the nominated researcher associated with that project.

Listed projects are an indication of available project only. Please contact the listed supervisors to discuss other project options.

Making your application

Information regarding the individual programs, entry requirements and application process can be found at:
https://www.monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/teaching/honours

Information regarding available scholarships can also be found at this website.
ASPREE Research
ASPREE (ASPirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) is an international clinical trial to determine whether daily low-dose aspirin increases survival, free of dementia and physical disability, for healthy older people. The randomised, double blind, placebo-controlled study will assess aspirin for prevention of cardiovascular disease, dementia, depression and some cancers and is being undertaken in more than 19,000 participants in Australia and the USA. In Australia, several ancillary studies investigate the effect of aspirin on specific diseases: age-related macular degeneration, cancer, osteoarthritis, bone fractures, severe infection, sleep apnoea, age-related hearing loss and microvascular changes in the brain.

Epigenetics as a mediator between mental health and later life cognitive function  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

What stops people from changing their behaviors to reduce dementia risk?  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

Resilience to cognitive ageing  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

Extending the human lifespan: weight, nutrition and epigenetic biomarkers  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

Depression in later life: characterisation of subtypes, risk factors and consequences  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

Can we modify biological ageing?  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

The impact of stress and trauma on physical and mental well-being  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

Risk prediction models for dementia  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

The long-term effects of stress  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

Is positive well-being associated with better cognitive function in later-life?  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

Studies of common health issues in an ageing Australian population  
Supervisor: Professor John McNeil  
Email: john.mcneil@monash.edu

Depression in later life: characterisation of subtypes, risk factors and consequences  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

Can we modify biological ageing?  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

The impact of stress and trauma on physical and mental well-being  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu

Risk prediction models for dementia  
Supervisor: Dr Joanne Ryan  
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu
Clinical Epidemiology

Clinical Epidemiology is the application of epidemiological methods to the care of individual patients. The Division was formed in 2009 to bring together the School’s research interests in cardiovascular disease prevention and therapeutics, respiratory and musculoskeletal epidemiology, infectious diseases and research synthesis and translation.
Circulating microRNAs as biomarkers for cardiovascular diseases  
Supervisors: A/Prof Bing Wang  
Email: bing.wang@monash.edu

Novel anti-fibrotic therapy for cardiovascular diseases  
Supervisor: A/Prof Bing Wang  
Email: bing.wang@monash.edu

Modelling the impact of folic acid fortification on cardio and cerebrovascular disease in Australia  
Supervisor: Dr Alice Owen  
Email: alice.owen@monash.edu

Understanding experiences with breast devices using Patient Reported Outcome Measures  
Supervisors: Dr Ingrid Hopper  
Email: Ingrid.hopper@monash.edu

Heart transplant – what is the cost of delayed referral?  
Supervisors: Dr Ingrid Hopper  
Email: Ingrid.hopper@monash.edu

Medical tourism: experiences of Australian women travelling overseas for surgery.  
Supervisors: Dr Ingrid Hopper  
Email: Ingrid.hopper@monash.edu

The effect of body composition and physical activity on hip structure in a community-based population without clinical hip osteoarthritis  
Supervisors: Dr Yuanyuan Wang, Prof Flavia Cicuttini & Dr Andrew Teichtahl  
Email: yuanyuan.wang@monash.edu or Andrew.Teichtahl@monash.edu

The role of lifestyle factors on knee structure in a community-based population: a longitudinal study  
Supervisors: Dr Yuanyuan Wang & Prof Flavia Cicuttini  
Email: yuanyuan.wang@monash.edu

Obesity and knee joint health  
Supervisors: Dr Yuanyuan Wang, Prof Flavia Cicuttini & Dr Andrew Teichtahl  
Email: yuanyuan.wang@monash.edu or Andrew.Teichtahl@monash.edu

Muscle size and strength and the early structural changes of knee osteoarthritis  
Supervisors: A/Prof Anita Wluka, Prof Flavia Cicuttini & Dr Yuanyuan Wang  
Email: anita.wluka@monash.edu or yuanyuan.wang@monash.edu

Change in knee structure in healthy women and the relationship to bone health  
Supervisors: A/Prof Anita Wluka, Dr Yuanyuan Wang & Prof Flavia Cicuttini,  
Email: anita.wluka@monash.edu or yuanyuan.wang@monash.edu

Bone health and back pain  
Supervisors: A/Prof Anita Wluka, Dr Donna Urquhart & Prof Flavia Cicuttini  
Email: anita.wluka@monash.edu or donna.urquhart@monash.edu

The CHEWY Study: A randomised trial of chewing gum to treat nausea and vomiting after surgery  
Supervisors: Prof Kate Leslie  
Email: kate.leslie@mh.org.au

Validating self-reporting by participants in the Australian Rheumatology Association Database (ARAD) by linking to medical services (MBS) and pharmaceuticals (PBS)  
Supervisors: Mr Ashley Fletcher  
Email: ashley.fletcher@monash.edu
Critical Care Research

The Critical Care Research Division investigates improvements to patient care from the pre-hospital phase through the emergency department and operating theatre to the intensive care unit [ICU]. Lead investigators manage large national and international trials to improve outcomes for critically ill patients with conditions as diverse as cardiac arrest, head injury and sepsis. We also monitor the overall improvements in critically ill patients through state and national databases. This has allowed benchmarking of clinical outcomes at a national and international level.
Drug and alcohol use in non-traffic trauma deaths
Supervisor: Dr Ben Beck
Email: ben.beck@monash.edu

Using trauma registry data to drive injury prevention
Supervisor: Dr Ben Beck
Email: ben.beck@monash.edu

Geospatial mapping of major trauma
Supervisor: Dr Ben Beck
Email: ben.beck@monash.edu

The Victorian State Trauma Registry: from injury to recovery
Supervisor: Dr Ben Beck
Email: ben.beck@monash.edu

Behaviours of Concern: Pre-hospital emergency care Australia and New Zealand
Supervisor: Dhanya Kumar
Email: Dhanya.Nambiar@monash.edu
LINK project: Leading development of an Injured persons social Network
Supervisor: Dr Sandy Braaf
Email: sandra.braaf@monash.edu

How do we stop people getting injured? Using qualitative methods to examine opportunities for injury prevention
Supervisor: Dr Sandy Braaf
Email: sandra.braaf@monash.edu

Examining claimant outcomes in the long-term recovery of survivors of traumatic injury
Supervisor: Dr Sandy Braaf, Dr Ben Beck
Email: sandra.braaf@monash.edu

The Health Literacy Project (HeLP): establishing health literacy needs and profiles of traumatically injured people
Supervisor: Dr Sandy Braaf
Email: sandra.braaf@monash.edu
Studies of burn injuries in Australia and New Zealand
Supervisor: Lincoln Tracy
Email: lincoln.tracy@monash.edu

Acute Risk Change (ARC): identifying perioperative performance variation in Australian cardiac surgery (1)
Supervisor: Dr Tim Coulson
Email: tim.coulson@monash.edu

Acute Risk Change (ARC): identifying preoperative performance variation in Australian cardiac surgery (2)
Supervisor: Dr Tim Coulson
Email: tim.coulson@monash.edu

Imaging for pyelonephritis in the Emergency Department
Supervisor: Prof Biswadev Mitra
Email: tim.coulson@monash.edu

Interpretation of CT CSpine by Emergency & Trauma Clinicians
Supervisor: Prof Biswadev Mitra
Email: tim.coulson@monash.edu
Health Services

The Health Services Division is concerned with a diverse range of issues that influence the effective, efficient and ethical delivery of health services, locally and across the globe. The Division brings to these issues the rich multifaceted experience and perspectives of clinicians, epidemiologists, social scientists, psychologists, lawyers, philosophers, biostatisticians, economists and management scientists.
Emergency hospital admission critical bleeding and massive transfusion
Supervisor: Dr Rosemary Sparrow
Email: rosemary.sparrow@monash.edu

Critical bleeding and surgery
Supervisor: Dr Rosemary Sparrow
Email: rosemary.sparrow@monash.edu

Occupational injury among educators
Supervisor: Dr Tyler Lane
Email: tyler.lane@monash.edu

The productivity burden of familial hypercholesterolaemia in Australia
Supervisor: A/Prof Zanfina Ademi Delaney
Email: Zanfina.Ademi@monash.edu

Development of a patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) to assess quality of life in patients with thyroid cancer
Supervisor: Dr Liane Ioanou
Email: liane.ioanou@monash.edu

Prostate Cancer, unmet needs
Supervisor: A/Professor Susan Evans
Email: sue.evans@monash.edu

What impact does the volume of cases a surgeon performs, or the laboratory where biopsy analyses are performed, have on the quality of a hospital’s performance
Supervisor: A/Professor Susan Evans
Email: sue.evans@monash.edu

Examining characteristics, treatments and outcomes of newly diagnosed men with prostate cancer contributing to the ASPREE clinical trial
Supervisor: A/Professor Susan Evans
Email: sue.evans@monash.edu

What impact does GDPR have on research in Australia
Supervisor: A/Professor Susan Evans
Email: sue.evans@monash.edu

Development of a surveillance tracker for men diagnosed with prostate cancer
Supervisor: A/Professor Susan Evans
Email: sue.evans@monash.edu

Quality of life in patients with cystic fibrosis in Australia
Supervisor: Dr Rasa Ruseckaitė
Email: rasa.ruseckaitė@monash.edu

Studies of myeloma and related diseases in Australia and New Zealand
Supervisor: Elizabeth Moore
Email: Elizabeth.moore@monash.edu

Investigating health-related quality of life in patients with multiple myeloma over the course of their disease
Supervisor: Elizabeth Moore
Email: Elizabeth.moore@monash.edu

Investigating multiple myeloma precursor disease
Supervisor: Elizabeth Moore
Email: Elizabeth.moore@monash.edu
The Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation (MCHRI) aims to create, synthesise and implement clinical services and public health knowledge to deliver impact. MCHRI has four research themes including Women’s and Children’s Public Health Research, Diabetes and Vascular Medicine, Implementation and Healthcare Improvement and a Research Methodologies platform.
Examining the association of sleep disturbances with diet, physical activity and sedentary behaviour in reproductive-aged women with high risk conditions or specific life stages (PCOS, post-partum, post-gestational diabetes/preeclampsia)
Supervisor: A/Professor Lisa Moran
Email: lisa.moran@monash.edu

Assessment of post-partum weight, diet and physical activity in women following antenatal lifestyle interventions
Supervisor: A/Professor Lisa Moran
Email: lisa.moran@monash.edu

Early diagnosis of gestational diabetes “implications for changes in risk perception, health behaviours, gestational weight gain and long-term health outcomes
Supervisor: A/Professor Lisa Moran
Email: lisa.moran@monash.edu

Consideration of psychological aspects in the assessment and management of women with polycystic ovary syndrome
Supervisor: A/Professor Lisa Moran
Email: lisa.moran@monash.edu

Developing web and smartphone weight management interventions for preconception, pregnancy and post-partum
Supervisor: A/Professor Lisa Moran
Email: lisa.moran@monash.edu

The impact of “food addiction” explanations for obesity on public and patient attitudes and behaviour
Supervisor: A/Professor Barbora De Courten
Email: barbora.decourten@monash.edu

Weight management in postpartum women
Supervisor: Dr Siew Lim
Email: siew.lim@monash.edu

Barriers and enablers to weight gain prevention in women 12 months postpartum
Supervisors Dr Cheryce Harrison
Email: cheryce.harrison@monash.edu

Healthy lifestyle intervention in women of reproductive age
Supervisors Dr Cheryce Harrison
Email: cheryce.harrison@monash.edu

Development of a novel smartphone APP to promote healthy lifestyles in pregnancy
Supervisors Dr Cheryce Harrison
Email: cheryce.harrison@monash.edu

Preconception health behaviours in women of reproductive age
Supervisors Dr Cheryce Harrison
Email: cheryce.harrison@monash.edu

Peer coaching for preconception health
Supervisor: Dr Briony Hill [Glidden] Dr Siew Lim, Assoc Prof Lisa Moran, Prof Helen Skouteris
Email: griony.glidden@monash.edu

Targeting maternal obesity: Understanding user needs for eHealth promotion in the preconception period
Supervisor: Dr Briony Hill [Glidden]
Email: griony.glidden@monash.edu

Motivation and readiness for lifestyle behaviour change in preconception women
Supervisor: Dr Briony Hill [Glidden]
Email: griony.glidden@monash.edu

Peer coach for reducing postpartum weight retention
Supervisor: Dr Siew Lim
Email: siew.lim@monash.edu
Research Methodology

The Research Methodology Division consists of Units providing the methodological foundation underpinning most of the research conducted within the School. Activities incorporate methodological and technological development and implementation to enable high quality research to be conducted. It also provides a rigorous framework for appropriate and ethical conduct of research.

The “AuTuMN” platform for improving tuberculosis control in high-burden countries
Supervisor: Dr Jame Trauer
Email: james.trauer@moansh.edu

Estimating TB reactivation rates following exposure
Supervisor: Dr Jame Trauer
Email: james.trauer@moansh.edu

Social Sciences

The Division of Social Sciences is a newly-formed group of SPHPM Units. Each aims to inform public health, policy, health services, and clinical practice through social science research and education. All are multidisciplinary teams of academics and postgraduate students.

Genital vocabulary: Names used for women’s and men’s genitals by Australian adults in The Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery Project survey
Supervisor: Dr Maggie Kirkman
Email: maggie.kirkman@monash.edu

Women’s needs and preferences for pre-conception weight management interventions
Supervisor: Dr Sara Holton, Dr Karin Hammarberg
Email: karin.hammarberg@monash.edu

Teaching and Learning

We specialise in using pedagogical evidence to inform – and transform – medical education and clinical practice. Our research spans all facets of medical education – from course development and learning methods to assessment, accreditation, training and evaluation.

Predicting student performance in high stakes medical examinations
Supervisor: Prof Dragan Ilic
Email: dragan.lic@monash.edu

Complementary Medicines and Advertising Regulation in Australia: Has it improved?
Supervisor: A/Prof Ken Harvey
Email: ken.harvey@medreach.com.au
The Burnet Institute combines medical research in the laboratory and at a population level with public health action and advocacy to address major health issues of disadvantaged populations in Australia and communities in the developing world. Three major health themes underpin the Burnet’s work: Infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and young people’s health.

**Taking a punt: Exploring gambling attitudes and behaviours among a sample of young Victorians**  
Supervisor: Dr Rebecca Jenkinson  
Email: rebeccaj@burnet.edu.au

**Understanding risky single occasion drinking and links to harms in a cohort of young Melburnians**  
Supervisor: Prof Paul Dietze, Dr Cassandra Wright, Dr Megan Lim  
Email: paul.dietze@burnet.edu.au

**The outcomes of transitioning between prison and community for people with a history of injecting drug use**  
Supervisor: Prof Paul Dietze, /Prof Mark Stoove  
Email: paul.dietze@burnet.edu.au

**Mapping public injecting drug use in urban Melbourne**  
Supervisor: Prof Paul Dietze, /Prof Mark Stoove  
Email: paul.dietze@burnet.edu.au

**Why do some people with hepatitis C continue to drink?**  
Supervisor: Dr Peter Higgs, Prof Paul Dietze  
Email: peter.higgs@burnet.edu.au

**Qualitative analysis of reasons for insufficient levels of individual needle and syringe coverage.**  
Supervisor: Dr Peter Higgs, Prof Paul Dietze  
Email: peter.higgs@burnet.edu.au

**The persistence of risk among people who inject drugs**  
Supervisor: Prof Paul Dietze, /Prof Mark Stoove  
Email: paul.dietze@burnet.edu.au

**Assessing the quality of nutrition advice in popular social media trends**  
Supervisor: Dr Cassandra Wright & Dr Megan Lim  
Email: cassandra.wright@burnet.edu.au

**Sexting, porn, and Tinder: An investigation of education and health promotion**  
Supervisor: Dr Cassandra Wright & Dr Megan Lim  
Email: cassandra.wright@burnet.edu.au

**Alcohol advertising on public transport: Level of exposure among children and young people**  
Supervisor: Dr Cassandra Wright & Dr Nick Scott  
Email: cassandra.wright@burnet.edu.au

**Sex, drugs and rock’n’roll: Young people and risk behaviours**  
Supervisor: Dr Cassandra Wright, Dr Megan Lim & Prof Margaret Hellard  
Email: cassandra.wright@burnet.edu.au

**Taking a punt: Exploring gambling attitudes and behaviours among a sample of young Victorians**  
Supervisor: Dr Cassandra Wright, Dr Megan Lim & Dr Rebecca Jenkinson  
Email: cassandra.wright@burnet.edu.au
Further Information

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sphpm.blogspot.com.au