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 enquires 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.diug@monash.edu

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

Dr Joanne Ryan
SPHPM BBiomedSc Honours Coordinator
Email: joanne.ryan@monash.edu
Tel: 03 9903 0200

Sharon Gurry
SPHPM Senior Student Coordinator
Tel: 03 9903 0827 Email: med-sphpm-honours@monash.edu

Bachelor of Health Science (BHSc):

Dr Darshini Ayton
BHSc (Hons) Course Coordinator
Email: darshini.ayton@monash.edu
Tel: 03 9903 1660

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 2021. For further information about a particular research project, see the project description in the online database Supervisor Connect:
https://www.monash.edu/medicine/research/supervisorconnect

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 (ASpirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) was the largest primary prevention aspirin study ever undertaken in healthy older people. It examined whether daily low-dose aspirin prevented or delayed the onset of age-related illness such as cardiovascular disease, dementia, depression and certain cancers and if the benefits outweighed the risks, such as bleeding. ASPREE study findings were published in the New England Journal of Medicine in September 2018. ASPREE-XT is the first follow-up observational study examining potential longer term effects of aspirin on cancer, dementia and factors affecting frailty in healthy older people. At the heart of the ASPREE and ASPREE-XT studies is a goal to discover how to maintain years of good quality life. The results will be relevant to many ageing people around the world.
Cancer Research

The Cancer Research Division primarily works to create and maintain clinical quality registries with a view to improving health care and patient outcomes. Within these registries, population-based data on diagnosis, treatment and outcomes is collected and assessed. The information is used to highlight variations in care, and is fed back to health services in benchmarked reports. By identifying areas for improvement, health services can implement changes to advance and streamline care.

How well are we doing? A data quality audit for the Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer Registry
Supervisor: Ms Jennifer Holland
Email: jennifer.holland@monash.edu

Can hospital participation in clinical trials be used as a measure of quality of care?
Supervisor: Ms Jennifer Holland
Email: jennifer.holland@monash.edu

Does the Multidisciplinary Meeting improve quality and value of care for lung cancer patients?
Supervisor: Ms Jennifer Holland
Email: jennifer.holland@monash.edu

Are we measuring the right 'KPIs' in lung cancer care?
Supervisor: Ms Jennifer Holland
Email: jennifer.holland@monash.edu

Exploring the real-world impact of new diagnostic and therapeutic developments in lung cancer
Supervisor: Ms Jennifer Holland
Email: jennifer.holland@monash.edu

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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
Supervisor: Dr Ingrid Hopper
Email: ingrid.hopper@monash.edu

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

Change in knee structure in healthy women and the relationship to bone health
Supervisors: A/Prof Anita Wluka, & Prof Flavia Cicuttini
Email: anita.wluka@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

Muscle size and strength and the early structural changes of knee osteoarthritis
Supervisors: 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: Dr Yuanyuan Wang & Prof Flavia Cicuttini
Email: yuanyuan.wang@monash.edu

Bone health and back pain
Supervisors: 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
Supervisor: Prof Kate Leslie
Email: kate.leslie@mh.org.au

Delivery of audit and feedback for improving healthcare performance in Australia
Supervisor: Dr Denise O’Connor
Email: denise.oconnor@monash.edu

The barriers and enablers to implementing the Clinical Care Standards for hip fracture and knee osteoarthritis into routine care
Supervisor: Dr Denise O’Connor
Email: denise.oconnor@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

The productivity impact of mental health in Australia
Supervisor: Ella Zomer
Email: ella.zomer@monash.edu

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

Consumer understanding of terms used in diagnostic imaging reports requested for shoulder pain
Supervisor: Ms Romi Haas
Email: romi.haas@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.coulson1@monash.edu

Acute Risk Change (ARC): identifying preoperative performance variation in Australian cardiac surgery (2)
Supervisor: Dr Tim Coulson
Email: tim.coulson1@monash.edu

Imaging for pyelonephritis in the Emergency Department
Supervisor: Prof Biswadev Mitra
Email: tim.coulson1@monash.edu

Interpretation of CT CSpine by Emergency & Trauma Clinicians
Supervisor: Prof Biswadev Mitra
Email: tim.coulson1@monash.edu

Evaluating interventions to prevent serious road traffic crashes
Supervisor: Dr Ben Beck
Email: ben.beck@monash.edu

Cycling safety and promotion
Supervisor: Dr Ben Beck
Email: ben.beck@monash.edu

E-bikes: cycling into the future
Supervisor: Dr Ben Beck
Email: ben.beck@monash.edu

Recovery from traumatic injury
Supervisor: Dr Melita Giunmarra
Email: melita.giummarra@monash.edu

Behaviours of Concern: Pre-hospital emergency care Australia and New Zealand
Supervisor: Ms Dhanya Kumar
Email: dhanya.nambiar@monash.edu

Understanding ambulance use
Supervisor: Ms Dhanya Kumar
Email: dhanya.nambiar@monash.edu

Cost analysis of adverse drug reactions
Supervisor: Dr Ar Kar Aung
Email: ar.aung@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

Natural experiments to estimate the impact of policy change, system shocks, and other events  
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

Health economic assessment of multiple sclerosis (MS) intervention strategies  
Supervisor: A/Prof Zanfina Ademi Delaney  
Email: zanfina.ademi@monash.edu

The productivity burden of breast cancer in Australia  
Supervisor: A/Prof Zanfina Ademi Delaney  
Email: zanfina.ademi@monash.edu

Cost effectiveness of pre-hospital ambulance care  
Supervisor: A/Prof Zanfina Ademi Delaney  
Email: zanfina.ademi@monash.edu

Registry-based pilot study of real-time patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) to assess quality of life in patients with thyroid cancer  
Supervisor: Dr Liane Ioannou  
Email: liane.ioannou@monash.edu

A co-design project to assist men manage side effects of treatment for prostate cancer  
Supervisor: 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: Professor Susan Evans  
Email: sue.evans@monash.edu

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

A New Direction in End of Life Care? Assessing the impact and consequences of the Victorian Voluntary Assisted Dying Act  
Supervisor: Dr Camille La Brooy  
Email: camille.labrooy@monash.edu

A profile of platelet use in Australia and the possible role for cryopreserved platelets  
Supervisor: Dr Lisa Higgins  
Email: lisa.higgins@monash.edu

Geographic Mapping of Work Disability in Australia  
Supervisor: Prof Alex Collie  
Email: alex.collie@monash.edu

Health service use after motor vehicle crash injury  
Supervisor: Dr Shannon Gray  
Email: shannon.gray@monash.edu

Quality of life in patients with cystic fibrosis in Australia  
Supervisor: Dr Rasa Ruseckaite  
Email: rasa.ruseckaite@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

Modelling the productivity and participation burden of gout in Australia, and potential effect of lifestyle-based interventions  
Supervisor: Dr Ting Xia  
Email: ting.xia@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/preclampsia)
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

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

Intervention development for women with PCOS
Supervisor: Dr Siew Lim
Email: siew.lim@monash.edu

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

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

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

Lifestyle intervention development for postpartum women with increased metabolic risks (survey)
Supervisor: Dr Siew Lim
Email: siew.lim@monash.edu

Gestational Weight Gain (GWG) Calculator
Supervisor: Prof Helena Teede
Email: helena.teede@monash.edu

Biomarkers and interventions in pregnancy and gestational diabetes
Supervisor: Dr Aya Mousa and Prof Helena Teede
Email: aya.mousa@monash.edu

Profiling health care use by women in the first two years after childbirth
Supervisor: Dr Melanie Gibson-Helm
Email: melanie.gibson@monash.edu

Improving access to perinatal mental health screening for women of migrant and refugee background
Supervisor: Ms Suzanne Willey
Email: suzanne.willey@monash.edu

Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences

The Occupational and Environmental Health Science Division leads a diverse research and teaching program. Occupational Health research includes cohort studies of chronic diseases in workers from a range of industries including in petroleum, aluminium, asbestos, firefighting and nursing, as well as in military veterans. Environmental Health research includes air pollution, water quality, radiation exposure through mobile phone use, contamination of soil and water supply, exposure measurement and modelling.

Machine learning method with remote sensing for air pollution estimation
Supervisor: A/Professor Yuming Guo
Email: yuming.guo@monash.edu

Multi-country study on climate change, air pollution and human health
Supervisor: A/Professor Yuming Guo
Email: yuming.guo@monash.edu
Research Methodology

The Research Methodology Division provides 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@monash.edu

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

Designing, analysing and interpreting evidence from interrupted time series studies in public health
Supervisor: Dr Joanne McKenzie
Email: joanne.mckenzie@monash.edu

Improving the assessment of risk of bias due to missing evidence in systematic reviews
Supervisor: Dr Matthew Page
Email: matthew.page@monash.edu

Improving the transparency and reproducibility of systematic reviews and meta-analyses
Supervisor: Dr Matthew Page
Email: matthew.page@monash.edu

Reporting bias in systematic reviews of pharmacologic interventions
Supervisor: Dr Matthew Page
Email: matthew.page@monash.edu

Reporting bias in systematic reviews of non-pharmacologic interventions
Supervisor: Dr Matthew Page
Email: matthew.page@monash.edu

Knowledge Translation for Stroke Living Guidelines
Supervisor: Dr Tari Turner
Email: tari.turner@monash.edu

Reproducibility and transparency in the synthesis of research findings
Supervisor: Dr Matthew Page
Email: matthew.page@monash.edu

Reporting bias in systematic reviews of non-pharmacologic interventions
Supervisor: Dr Matthew Page
Email: matthew.page@monash.edu
Social Sciences

The Social Sciences Division aims to inform public health, policy, health services, and clinical practice through social science research and education.

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

Teaching and Learning

The Teaching and Learning Division specialises 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.

Medical and health professions education
Supervisor: Prof Dragan Ilic
Email: dragan.ilic@monash.edu
Burnet Institute

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

Using mathematical models to reduce malnutrition among children
Supervisor: Dr Nick Scott
Email: nick.scott@burnet.edu.au

Management of infectious disease outbreaks using agent-based models
Supervisor: Dr Nick Scott
Email: nick.scott@burnet.edu.au

Understanding risky single occasion drinking and links to harms in a cohort of young Melburnians
Supervisors: 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
Supervisors: Prof Paul Dietze, Prof Mark Stoove
Email: paul.dietze@burnet.edu.au

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

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

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

Investigating the limitations associated with the snowball model “Bring your friends”/“Treat your friends” in context of the TAP study
Supervisor: Dr Peter Higgs
Email: peter.higgs@burnet.edu.au

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

Sexting, porn, and Tinder: An investigation of education and health promotion
Supervisors: 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
Supervisors: Dr Cassandra Wright & Dr Nick Scott
Email: cassandra.wright@burnet.edu.au

Sex, drugs and rock’n’roll: Young people and risk behaviours
Supervisors: 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
Supervisors: Dr Cassandra Wright, Dr Megan Lim & Dr Rebecca Jenkinson
Email: cassandra.wright@burnet.edu.au
Further Information

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@Monash_SPHPM or twitter.com/monash_sphpm