



Welcome to the March issue of the School of Primary Health Care newsletter. This is a bi-monthly bulletin covering the activities of the School in the community, academia and research.

On behalf of the School and its Executive, I want to extend a warm welcome to all new staff and students to the School of Primary Health Care in 2015.

As ever, the beginning of a new academic year is characterised by transitions.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of A/Prof Ellie Fossey as the new Professor and Head of Department of Occupational Therapy. Ellie will commence with the University in mid May 2015. Ellie assumes the role from A/Prof Louise Farnworth, who is stepping down ten years after her 2005 appointment as the inaugural head of the Department of Occupational Therapy. Lou will continue in a senior role in the Department, and will further reinforce the University's activities in the Middle East.

Ellie joins a Department that has flourished under Lou's leadership. Its undergraduate program ranks highly in Australia, and its new Masters program is providing new opportunities for health professionals. Its innovative research program is bringing real improvements to the lives of individuals living with disability. Ellie is an Occupational Therapist and has been Associate Professor and Postgraduate co-ordinator in Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University. Her career spans undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, curriculum development and research in Occupational Therapy and mental health at universities in England and Australia, as well as professional practice in community mental health.

I wish Ellie all the best in her leadership position and look forward to working with her and the great team over the months and years ahead.

At the same time as welcoming Ellie, we farewell two long time members of the School Executive: Professor Colette Browning and Professor Shane Thomas. Colette is moving to a research leadership role at the Royal District Nursing Service, while Shane will become Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) at the University of Adelaide.

Both have had significant achievements within the School and Monash community at large. They have acted as mentors to many junior researchers and have been instrumental in advancing the research agenda of the School of Primary Health Care. As most will be aware, Colette and Shane have had great success in building relationships with a wide range of institutions in China. Happily, our contacts will continue, since both will continue to supervise their current PhD students to completion in their new roles as adjunct Professors within the School.

Best wishes to all for a successful and productive commencement to the new academic year.

Grant Russell

Academics recognised by prestigious Chinese university

Professor Shane Thomas and Professor and Colette Browning have been recognised for their accomplishments by the prestigious Peking University, China's first-ranked university, at a ceremony held at Peking University in January.

This is the second time that Professors Browning and Thomas have been awarded Honorary Professorships of Peking University. They are the eighth and ninth Australians to receive this honour in the 100 year history of the university.

The awards recognise the two professors' outstanding academic collaborations with Peking University and their translational activities with other Chinese institutions, including community health services and hospital networks.

The Happy Life Club, led by Professor Browning, received a national award for excellence. The club, an initiative funded by the Chinese government, is directed at older people with chronic conditions. It has delivered strong improvements in health outcomes for its participants.

The Patient Experience programs, led by Peking University academics and Professor Thomas, track experience across several hundred Chinese hospitals and are used for quality improvement purposes.

"We are delighted to be personally honoured in China by its highest-ranked university," Professor Browning said.

"Monash is fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in these collaborations. The scholars who have visited Australia and with whom we have worked from Peking University have been outstanding. I encourage our Monash colleagues to engage with this outstanding institution and its scholars."





Victorian GPs being trained to discuss with women long term contraceptive implants



A Monash University trial is aiming to educate GPs about long acting reversible contraceptive methods.

An increasing number of Victorian GPs are being trained to discuss long term contraceptive implants with women to try to reduce unplanned pregnancies. Researchers estimate 50 per cent of women experience an unintended pregnancy during their reproductive years.

While long acting reversible contraceptive devices are estimated to be 20 times more effective than contraceptive pills, patches and rings, fewer than 10 per cent of Australian women choose them and a study recently found they were discussed in only 15 per cent of GP consultations about birth control options.

A new Monash University trial is aiming to overcome this by educating GPs about long acting reversible contraceptive methods (LARCs), which include intrauterine devices (IUDs) that can be placed in the uterus and hormone implants that can be inserted into a woman's arm.

Unlike the pill, which can fail if doses are missed or forgotten, LARCs do not require strict adherence for effectiveness and some of them last between three to eight years. Insertion usually requires a local anaesthetic and takes a few minutes. Side effects include unpredictable bleeding and increased period pain, but they can be taken out at any time.

Professor Danielle Mazza, Head of General Practice, and Leader of the Australian Contraceptive Choice Project, hopes the project would better inform women of their options and remove barriers to access.

"Typically, patients are referred to a gynaecologist or a family planning clinic for insertion, but it often takes weeks to get an appointment and the inconvenience can put women off. We want to set up rapid referral pathways to make it quicker and easier."

As the trial progresses, women with the devices will be monitored and compared to others receiving standard care.

Postgraduate Scholarship for Physio student

Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) graduate and current Masters of Philosophy student Shane Pritchard, has been awarded a SARRAH (Services for Rural and Remote Allied Health) Postgraduate Scholarship to the value of \$15,000 to complete his Master of Philosophy and assist with travel and study costs.

Shane has been working at Alice Springs Hospital as a Grade 1 Physiotherapist, and is currently conducting research into the "Development of a model for educating physiotherapy students to be simulated patients"

Role play practice is routine in pre-clinical physiotherapy practical classes. Working with simulated patients (people who are well but trained to portray the role of a patient so well that it may be unable to tell the difference between a real patient and a simulated patient) has been shown to be an effective substitution for clinical placement in terms of physiotherapy students' development of competencies. However, high cost has prevented widespread uptake of simulated patient practice.

Shane is investigating whether students can be trained to be simulated patients for their peer. Compared to role play, working with peer-simulated patients would involve a more formalised "simulation" of the clinical environment, and may enhance the learning of the "student-simulated patient" and the "student-therapist" as they gain a deeper understanding of how conditions present.

To date, the project has involved a systematic review of simulated patients in physiotherapy education, and two qualitative studies of simulative patients and expert simulated patient educators in preparation for model development.



Recent Learning and Teaching Grant Success

The Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice have been successful in obtaining funding in the recent Faculty Learning and Teaching Grants. The two projects include: "Peer-assisted learning in paramedic education: A randomised control trial" lead by Assoc Prof Brett Williams, and "Ascertaining student readiness and outcomes on inter-professional education in health professional programs" led by Assoc Prof Dragan Ilic from the (School of Public Health & Preventive Medicine). Both of these projects commence during semester one this year.



SPHC Professional Staff Review – Report from the School Manager

The recommendations of the SPHC Professional Staff Review, which was communicated to staff in December 2013, have been implemented throughout 2014. This year the last stage of implementation which involves the creation of the combined Nursing and SPHC Placements team will commence around June 2015.

To date, the most notable change in our structure has been the introduction of the Nursing and Allied Health Student Services (NAHSS) team in October 2014, who are based on the Peninsula Campus and delivering student services for the Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Paramedics, Physiotherapy and Social Work departments.

Other changes that have been in operation for many months include the service improvements made to updating ROPES and the recruitment of Sessional/Casual staff. We have provided staff with generic email addresses to ensure that all requests are sent to a central repository which is accessible by designated professional staff. In setting up the generic email addresses we are able to manage requests more efficiently and this also allows for adequate resourcing in peak period times.

We are progressing a number of our communication improvement strategies within the school which will see the introduction of our SPHC Intranet site in early April. The site will include useful information in relation to SPHC staff contacts, Hub contacts, Staff Induction site, Forms, Policy documentation, newsletters, etc.

At present, the senior professional staff within the new structure are considering ways in which to further enhance a number of the services/tasks that are core to the professional staff team. In particular, the focus is on improving consistency of service delivery/experience, increasing efficiencies in our service delivery and improving the level of multiskilling and career development opportunities.

The new structure has and most probably will continue to provide us with new challenges to consider as we continue to implement the faculty recommendations; however, we will remain adaptable and flexible to the service delivery requirements ensuring that as we progress we are strongly aligned with the visions of the Faculty and University, particularly in the professional services strengthening initiative.

- Gillian Paulse

A makeover for Concur Expense and Travel

Concur Expense and Travel has recently updated the look and feel of its interface and added extra functionality for a more efficient and enjoyable user experience. The update was informed by feedback from users across the globe. The resulting interface is so intuitive that testers were easily able to navigate the system and complete their work without any training or coaching. The update also includes some additional functionality that is designed to make each Concur experience easier. A 'work to zero' task list displays how many transactions and reports a user has underway, and how many approvals are outstanding. There is also a new travel review page allowing users to see, review and change relevant options for each segment of a trip. The new responsive design ensures that users on a mobile device see all menu options. To learn how to use Concur and its new functions effectively, please visit the [Concur Expense and Travel page](#) or contact the Expense Management team on x24387.

Celebrating success

Department of Physiotherapy Senior Lecturer Mick Storr was one of seven citation awardees at the Better Teaching, Better Learning Showcase, held recently at Caulfield. The Showcase brought together Education Focused staff in a celebration of Monash's high quality teaching and learning activities.

Vice Provost Teaching and Learning Professor Darrell Evans presented the Vice Chancellor's Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning.

Mick and the other Citation awardees were presented with a handmade glass plate made by post-grad Fine Arts students from MADA.



Monash offers smokers a fresh start

All staff have the opportunity to take part in the free Quit programs on offer at their campus, as the University moves to being smoke-free. Staff can [register their interest](#) or find further information through the [Monash Smoke Free website](#).

The [University Health Service](#) and [Counselling](#) service are also available to staff who wish to quit or reduce smoking, and the Quit Victoria website houses a range of valuable information.

The University moves into the final phase of its smoke-free initiative in January 2016; in the meantime, smoking is only permitted at the designated smoking points located at each campus. The Wellbeing and Support Procedure – Smoke Free Campus has also been extended to prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) except at designated smoking points.



CDDHV accreditation

The Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV) has undergone a rigorous independent assessment against Department of Health and Human Service standards, and has been shown to be meeting the requirements in all domains. The external assessor complemented the Centre on its work, and in particular remarked on the demonstrated commitment to inter-professional practice, person centered care and collaborative partnerships with people with disabilities.

As an organization funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) working with a vulnerable population, the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria must undergo regular independent assessments with respect to DHHS standards:

Standard 1 – Empowerment: People’s rights are promoted and upheld.

Standard 2 – Access and Engagement: People’s right to access transparent, equitable and integrated services is promoted and upheld.

Standard 3 – Well-being: People’s right to wellbeing and safety is promoted and upheld.

Standard 4 – Participation: People’s right to choice, decision making and to actively participate as a valued member of their chosen community is promoted and upheld.

These standards promote:

- Quality of service provision
- Empowerment, access, engagement, well-being and participation of people contacting and using the service
- Culture of continuous quality improvement

The assessment process was comprehensive and included a desktop review of quality processes and documentation, review of consumer feedback, interviews with staff and service users and file reviews. Although time consuming (and somewhat stressful!) the process was conducted in a most constructive and positive manner, and resulted in new ideas and processes that will further enhance the culture of continuous review and improvement in all aspects of CDDHV’s work.

Hands on Monash Indigenous Summer Camp

In December, the Yulendj Indigenous Engagement Unit hosted 40 Indigenous students from across Australia in the annual Hands on Monash Indigenous Summer Camp. The aim of the camp is to provide students from Year 10-12 with an insight into University life, whilst also focusing on team-building, motivation, meeting new people, confidence building and health and wellbeing.

As part of the program, the students visited Peninsula Campus. Students stopped in at Nursing, Physiotherapy, Education and the Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice (DCEHPP). At DCEHPP, the students spent two hours learning how to take vital signs such as blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory rate, and other valuable life skills such as haemorrhage control, limb immobilisation and the application of cervical spine collars.

The visit concluded with ‘The Challenge’ which aligned nicely with the aims of the camp, where the students participated in a team relay style race and demonstrated their newly learnt skills.

It was obvious on the day that the mentors, paramedic students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The feedback from the campers was “this year was the best yet!”

DCEHPP looks forward to the hosting another Hands on Monash Indigenous Summer Camp and building on the success of this last camp.



Outside Studies Program 2015

Applications for OSP will open on Friday 20 March and close on Friday 17 April. This single, annual round will capture applications for both Semester 2 (2015) and Semester (2016).

For full details of this new process, please refer to the [Outside Study Program Procedure](#)

A Taste of Harmony

The Social Justice Unit is hosting a Taste of Harmony - Monash virtual cookbook competition to celebrate Harmony Day 2015.

Harmony Day is held every year on 21 March. It’s a day to celebrate Australia’s diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

Students and staff are encouraged to submit an original recipe (not taken from a published cookbook, magazine, article, the internet, etc) and photo of a dish that means something to you, that represents your cultural background or somewhere special you have been, along with an accompanying story, for a chance to win a Village Cinemas Gold Class Experience gift voucher valued at \$149.

[Enter the Taste of Harmony - Virtual Monash cookbook competition here.](#)

The competition closes on Wednesday 25 March and the winner drawn at random on Thursday 26 March. Selected entries to the competition will be published online.

For inspiration and examples you can download the [official Taste of Harmony World of Food cookbook.](#)



2015 Vice-Chancellor's Diversity and Inclusion Awards

Applications for the Vice-Chancellor's Diversity and Inclusion Awards are now open, due on Friday 31 July 2015. Staff are encouraged to nominate a colleague, a student or a team who has demonstrated a contribution to Monash's inclusive environment and social justice. The application may address equal opportunity for women, Indigenous engagement, people with disability, student equity, diverse genders and sexualities, intercultural inclusion or other social justice initiatives. For more information, please see www.monash.edu/social-justice/

Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Dean's Award for Excellence.

Nominations are now open for the following categories:

- [Dean's Award for Excellence in Research](#)
- [Dean's Award for Research Impact \(Economic and Social Impact\)](#)
- [Dean's Award for Excellence in Education](#)
- [Dean's Award for Excellence in Administration](#)
- [Dean's Award for Excellence in Safety](#)
- [Dean's Social Inclusion Award](#)

Closing date for nominations is Friday 1 May 2015. Application to be sent to melanie.koo@monash.edu.

For further information, please see <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/intranet/staff/awards/>

New staff learning and development opportunities

Monash staff who are looking for a career boost, professional development opportunities, a new role or skills development can now access a refreshed range of learning opportunities.

A broad range of new courses have been added to the [Staff Development website](#).

The selection of offerings is based on the Learning and Development @ Monash framework which maps the skills, capabilities and knowledge essential to Monash's success. There are courses on offer about leadership and management, project management, IT skills development and many other topics.

In addition to face-to-face training there are more than 200 eLearning modules that are accessible from any location at any time, to support those who are time poor or have conflicting obligations.

All courses completed will be recorded on Monash training records, which can now be viewed in ESS. Please refer to 'My Monash Training Qualification' found under 'Personal Information'.

Academic promotion round dates and information sessions

The promotion round for applications to Levels C to E will be Monday 4 May to Friday 26 June 2015.

In order to help prospective candidates prepare their application, a series of Information Sessions will be conducted throughout mid-to-late March.

CLAYTON CAMPUS—Monday 23 March 2015, 12:30 - 2:00pm, Medicine A Lecture Theatre, 37 Rainforest Walk (M3, Building 13A, Clayton Campus).

THE ALFRED—Wednesday 25 March 2015, 12:00 - 1:30pm, Seminar Room 1, Level 5, The Alfred Centre.

Please register via <http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/human-resources/academic-promotion/dates.html>

Key speakers at these sessions include Professor Ross Coppel (Director of Research & Deputy Dean, Research) and Professor Wayne Hodgson (Deputy Dean, Education), as well as successful promotion candidates who will discuss the expectations and requirements in their particular discipline and share experiences and strategies for promotion.

The information will be relevant for staff wishing to apply for promotion to Senior Lecturer (Level C), Associate Professor (Level D) and Professor (Level E).

Women's information session

In addition to the faculty-based information sessions and to support the University's enduring commitment to gender equity, the Academic Promotion Information Session for Women will again be held in 2015.

This popular event is run specifically for female academic staff and discusses the particular challenges and approaches for women seeking promotion. Professor Edwina Cornish, Provost and Senior Vice-President, will open the event and the session will include a panel of guest speakers who have been successfully promoted in previous years and/or have experience on promotion committees.

In addition to this session, female academics are also encouraged to attend the appropriate faculty-based session for faculty-specific advice.

The women's information session will be held from 11am to 1pm on Tuesday 17 March at Council Chambers, Chancellery Building A, Building 27, Chancellor's Walk (formerly Building 3A), Clayton campus. Morning tea will be served. Please confirm your attendance via the [online booking form](#) by Wednesday 11 March 2015.



Celebrating Success

The Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice (DCEHPP) was the successful tenderer to re-write a new Health Education, Care and Medical Applications (HECMA) program for the Institute of Applied Technology (IAT) in Abu Dhabi. The 18-month project is worth more than \$800,000 and Rod Mason will be responsible for the project management of the program.

The goals of the program are to increase health literacy, improve self-efficacy, enhance social responsibility, promote advocacy, handle emergencies safely and introduce students to the health sector. The program will be implemented in a number of schools in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and delivered to students in G10, 11 and 12.

The intention is for the program to also achieve national recognition by the National Qualifications Authority in the United Arab Emirates. This will lead to students being eligible to receive a formal qualification according to the Qualifications Framework Emirates, upon successful completion of the program.



Getting to know...Philip Mendes – Associate Professor and Director of the Social Inclusion and Social Policy Research Unit, Department of Social Work

How long have you worked at Monash? *For 19 out of the last 20 years . I did something else in 1997 as a result of budget cuts by the Coalition Government.*

What do you like best about your role? *The opportunity to conduct research that impacts on the real world in partnership with some brilliant advocates for young people transitioning from state out of home care, such as the current Victorian Child Safety Commissioner, and many other effective local and International supporters of policy reform including my colleagues in the Transitions to Adulthood for Young People Leaving Public Care International Research Group.*

Why did you choose your current career path? *I initially undertook a psychology major but then switched to social work which I found more suited to my interest in addressing structural problems such as homelessness, poverty and unemployment, as well as helping families and individuals. For many years I actually wanted to be a politician and I ran for Parliament in the then Prime Minister Bob Hawke's seat of Wills in the 1990 election. However over time I realised that committed academics, who are not linked to a specific political party, offer genuine influence in terms of providing evidence-based knowledge that informs sustainable policy change and reform in targeted areas.*

First job? *My first casual paid job was at the Salvation Army Crisis Centre in Grey Street, St Kilda. On a daily basis, I was exposed to a combination of drug users, sex workers, the homeless, cynical police, and the mentally ill. I soon became, or at least felt, part of the St Kilda street scene.*

Worst job? *I had a social work job for approximately 18 months in the early 1990s and didn't find that the role was suited to me.*

What project are you currently working on and what does it involve? *I recently published a history book called *Jews and the Left: the rise and fall of a political alliance* (Palgrave Macmillan London) based on my honorary association with the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation. But my major research area is that of young people transitioning from state care. We are currently finishing three funded projects, and hope to commence two new projects later this year pertaining to the specific experiences of Indigenous care leavers, and also the challenges for care leavers seeking to enter higher education. Another new project will examine the involvement of Australian social work academics in policy practice and activism as part of a broader international study lead by colleagues from Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Additionally, I am co-convening a research consortium of 10 academics from Australia and New Zealand examining the policy and practice of the Commonwealth government's contentious compulsory income management scheme.*

What is the best piece of advice you have received? *Adversity may present a challenge, but it is how you choose to respond to adversity that really matters.*

Tell us something about yourself that your colleagues wouldn't know. *I am a sports nut, and would like to play tennis or squash all day every day if I had the opportunity. And when not playing, I love to watch any game of AFL, soccer, tennis or cricket, and can relate loads of useless statistics from days gone by.*

Editor: Lianne Gordon and Joanne Tymms.

If you would like to submit an article please email lianne.gordon@monash.edu .

Content must be submitted in a word document, file attachments in PDF and images in JPG or GIF