



MONASH University

M8Alliance

Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences

School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Annual Report 2011



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From the Head of School



In 2011, the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) continued to grow and develop in many areas, including our research and teaching programs. Although many changes took place in the central university, SPHPM worked cooperatively to achieve the best outcomes for the School and our research partners.

We received significant media attention for research conducted at SPHPM. In particular, the Department of Forensic Medicine (within the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine) analysed and confirmed the identity of Ned Kelly's remains almost 131 years after he was tried and executed. The media also covered the launch of the world's first polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) guidelines. This was achieved under the leadership of Professor Helena Teede with major input from her team at Monash Applied Research Stream, SPHPM – Clayton site.

Last year, the School generated a research income of \$25 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Australian Research Council (ARC) and other funding sources. The Department of Epidemiology was the highest research income generator for the Faculty of Medicine at Monash University.

As researchers and staff members continue to settle into the Alfred Centre, we had the opportunity to acknowledge the work done by two of our predecessors: Dr Basil Hetzel, the first Department Head of the Department of Epidemiology and Professor Louis Opit, second Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine. We named the meeting rooms on levels five and six in the Alfred Centre after them, in acknowledgement of their work and effort. These rooms are heavily used by our staff and researchers.

Staff Achievements

Research conducted by our staff members continues to be highly regarded and acknowledged by professional institutions and the Australian community. Professor Andrew Tonkin was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia, for service to medical research in the field of epidemiology and preventative medicine by the Council for the Order of Australia (a body established under the Constitution of the Order to represent the Australian community). Also, the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand awarded Professor Michael Abramson, our Deputy Head of School, a Research Medal for his contributions to clinical epidemiology. I would like to congratulate and thank both Andrew and Michael on their achievements and their ongoing extensive contributions to the development and growth of SPHPM.

In addition, Professor Susan Davis was awarded the Henry Burger Prize and Associate Professor Robin Bell was awarded the Australasian Menopause Society Scientific Award. The Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Doctoral Thesis Excellence in 2011 was awarded to Dr Paul Burton. Last year, we had two Churchill fellowship recipients, Dr Diana Magliano and Dr Emma Ridley.

Staff at SPHPM published over 600 peer-reviewed articles, some of which appeared in prestigious journals like *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet* and the *Journal of American Medical Association*. My special congratulations and gratitude goes to Professor Michael Abramson, Professor Henry Krum, Professor Chris Reid, Professor Jamie Cooper, Professor Rinaldo Bellomo and Dr Eeshara Kottegoda-Vittana for their publications, their commitment and their dedication towards achieving excellence in research.

Funding and collaborations

In 2011, eleven NHMRC project grants were secured by SPHPM. Professor Jamie Cooper, Dr Alistair Nichols, Professor Rinaldo Bellomo, Professor Brian Oldenburg, Associate Professor Belinda Gabbe, Dr Deb Glass, Dr Donna Urquhart, Dr Anna Peeters, Professor Helena Teede, and Professor Jane Fisher headed these research grants.

Professor Peter Cameron was successful in receiving funds under the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) scheme to establish an Australian Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (Aus-ROC). Professor Henry Krum was awarded an NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship and his work on 'Novel therapeutic strategies to reduce the burden of chronic heart failure' was named as one of the top 10 projects funded by the NHMRC.

In addition, four early career researchers were awarded fellowships (Dr Carolina Weller, Dr Carol Hodgson, Dr Mary Panjari and Dr Xue Feng Zhong). Dr Anna Peeters was successful in securing an ARC linkage project with VicHealth, while Dr. Chris Stevenson was successful in securing an ARC project grant.

We continue to develop and strengthen our ongoing collaborations with industry and other funding bodies. Professor Malcolm Sim and Dr Deb Glass were successful in securing a contract from the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities to investigate the national cancer rates and mortality of Australia's fire-fighters. The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC) team (Associate Professor Andrew Davies, Associate Professor Alistair Nichol, Dr Carol Hodgson, Ms Lisa Higgins and Professor Jamie Cooper) together with the Alfred Intensive Care Department will run the PHARLAP project (Phase II trial Open Lung Ventilation versus Standard care for Patients with ARDS).

Professor Peter Cameron, Dr De Villiers Smit, Dr Harvey Newnham, Dr Peter Hunter, Dr Caroline Brand and Dr Anna Barker received an Alfred Health Research Grant for the 'Safe Elderly Emergency Discharge (SEED)' project to investigate best practice for safe discharge of the elderly. We secured further funding from the Department of Health and Medibank Private for the development of a new cardiac procedures registry.

Teaching and appointments

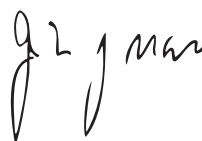
The School continues to offer a wide range of teaching programs. The SPHPM flagship Bachelor of Health Science program continues to grow, attracting over a hundred enrolments in 2011. Professor Flavia Cicuttini took over the postgraduate coordination in 2011, a year in which we saw an increasing demand for public health-based courses with enrolments exceeding 460.

Also, doctoral programs continue to grow under the direction of both Dr Elizabeth Douglas and Associate Professor Rory Wolfe. SPHPM now has 122 PhD students and 14 completed their PhDs last year.

Several staff members and students farewelled the School. I would like to thank Dr Anna Peeters (who took a position at the Baker IDI) for her excellent work on the Honours Program. I also extend my best wishes to Associate Professor Chris Stevenson in his pursuits at another university.

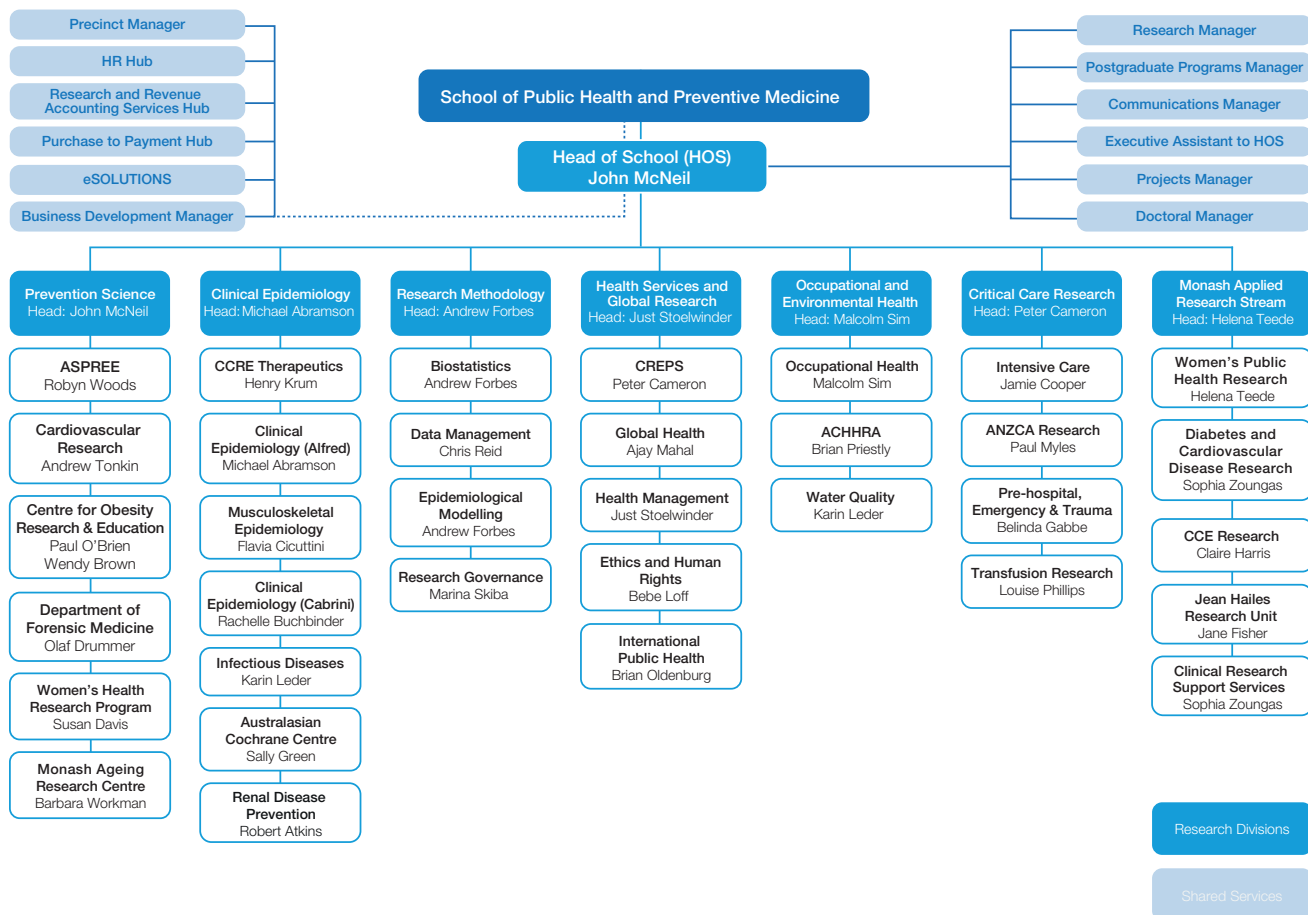
We welcomed several new staff members, among them Professor Jane Fisher who joined as the Deputy Director of the Jean Hailes Research Centre, bringing her wealth of knowledge in Women's Health.

I would like to thank a wonderful administrative team for their skill, patience and forbearance that keeps the School ticking over. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the senior staff of the School whose talent and dedication, yet again, has helped us through a challenging year.



John McNeil
Head of School

2011 Organisational Chart



Highlights

Forensic researchers identify Ned Kelly's remains

The Department of Forensic Medicine (DFM) is a part of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) which operates as both a publicly-funded institution and as an academic unit. DFM staff are located at the VIFM at Southbank. More information on DFM can be found on Page 66.

Researchers from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) identified Ned Kelly's remains, almost 131 years after he was tried and executed.

The team began looking for Kelly's remains at the end of 2009. They succeeded after identifying that the iconic bushranger's remains were among those that had been transferred from the old Melbourne Gaol to Pentridge Prison in 1929, and exhumed again in 2009. Kelly's remains were among those of 33 others, many of whose remains were co-mingled and incomplete. This makes the team's discovery all the more extraordinary.

Kelly's remains were found buried in a wooden axe box and were almost complete, except that most of the skull was missing. The identification involved an exhaustive historical and forensic scientific exercise. The team at the VIFM used scientific methods involving historians, pathologists, anthropologists, odontologists, radiologists, ballistics and DNA experts. Once the skeletal remains were identified as those of Ned Kelly, the finding was confirmed when Kelly's DNA was compared with a sample from Melbourne school teacher Leigh Olver, a great grandson of Kelly's sister, Ellen.

Their VIFM team began their search for Kelly's remains after Mr Tom Baxter handed a skull in to the VIFM on 11 November 2009. Baxter believed the skull was Kelly's. The skull was originally stolen from the Old Melbourne Gaol in December 1978, where it had been on display next to Kelly's death mask. On the side of the skull was the ink inscription, 'E. Kelly'.

Because death had occurred more than 100 years ago, the State Coroner ruled that the skull was out of the coronial jurisdiction. The Victorian State Government then asked Professor Stephen Cordner (Director, VIFM and Monash University, Chair of Forensic Medicine) and his team of forensic experts to try to identify the skull. The VIFM is recognised as one of the leading international institutions in forensic medicine.

Following a series of exhaustive tests including craniofacial superimposition, Computed Tomography (CT) scanning, anthropological and DNA testing, the team concluded that the skull was not Ned Kelly's. Nonetheless, it was this work that instigated the successful search for the remains of Ned Kelly.

Although the identity of the skull handed in by Baxter is not known, the team is continuing its investigation and is hopeful of a positive identification in the near future.



Highlights

First evidence-based guideline for the assessment and management of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)

In August 2011, the world's first evidence-based guideline for the assessment and management of polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) was launched. The guideline is the culmination of two years of rigorous work by the PCOS Australian Alliance of researchers, clinicians and health educators in collaboration with the Jean Hailes for Women's Health group (a national women's health organisation), and POSAA (Polycystic Ovary Syndrome Association of Australia), a consumer advocacy group.

PCOS is a hormonal condition that affects 12–18 per cent of reproductive-aged women across Australia. It can cause irregular or infrequent periods, difficulties becoming pregnant, weight management problems, excessive facial or body hair and acne and/or increased risk of diabetes. All of these problems can affect women's physical and emotional wellbeing. The new guideline provides 38 recommendations for improving the diagnosis and management of this poorly understood condition. It addresses long-term complications such as increased risk of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, depression and anxiety.

Professor Helena Teede (Monash Applied Research Stream Director, SPHPM) who led the development of the guideline said "bringing together an internationally renowned multidisciplinary team of experts with evidence synthesis experts, consumers and a strong translation team has led to the development of a guideline that should improve early diagnosis and clinical care in PCOS".

Other staff involved in developing the guideline included Ms Linda Downes (Project Manager), Dr Marie Misso (Senior Evidence Officer), Dr Amanda Deeks (Chair of the emotional wellbeing guideline development group), Dr Cate Lombard (dietitian and healthy lifestyle researcher), Dr Jennifer Wong (endocrinologist with clinical and evidence-based guideline expertise) and Dr Amanda Vincent (endocrinologist).

The Department of Health and Ageing funded the guideline. It was approved by the National Health and Medical Research Council and endorsed by the Endocrine Society of Australia and the Royal Australian College of General Practice. The guideline is currently subject to a large national dissemination program led by Jean Hailes for Women's Health to optimise reach and uptake. A full copy of the guideline and algorithms for use by health professionals can be downloaded for free from the Jean Hailes Managing PCOS website:

www.managingpcos.org.au/pcos-evidence-based-guidelines



Highlights

Medal of the Order of Australia awarded to Professor Andrew Tonkin



Although I feel honoured to receive this award in the Queen's Birthday honours, I believe that this also recognises the calibre of the other researchers with whom I have been privileged to work. The citation was for contribution to epidemiology and preventative medicine, itself recognition of the collaborators in our Department and School.

I have been very fortunate in my career, which has taken a number of turns over the years. After graduating in Medicine at Melbourne University, I trained in Cardiology at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, the Hallstrom Institute of Cardiology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney and then overseas at Duke University Medical Centre, North Carolina and the German Heart Centre in Munich. Subsequently, I was appointed as Director of Cardiology of Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide after it opened in 1976 and from 1988 at the Austin Hospital. During these periods, the main focus of my research related to mechanisms and assessment of heart rhythm disorders and assessing new treatments for heart disease in randomised controlled clinical trials. From 1997–2006, I was Chief Medical Officer of the National Heart Foundation and I continued clinical work at the Austin until recent months.

I regard myself as very fortunate to have had a part-time salaried appointment in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (since 2003). My research interests have expanded to include epidemiology, novel health care systems and the ASPREE study. While I was still at the Austin Hospital, Professor

John McNeil involved me in the PACE pilot study which formed the substance of the late Chris Silagy's PhD in the early 1990s. I have great respect for John's vision in formulating the research question being addressed in ASPREE, "Does aspirin prolong disability-free life years lived by healthy elderly people?"

I have been honoured to Chair the Management Committee of the LIPID Study of cholesterol lowering with a statin (since 1994). This is arguably the largest and one of the most successful clinical trials undertaken in Australia and New Zealand. It involves over 9000 coronary heart disease patients recruited from 87 hospitals across the two countries. The findings in the LIPID study have had a major impact on Australian and international treatment guidelines and recent biomarker analyses are elucidating mechanisms underlying atherosclerosis and suggesting new therapeutic targets. Our research involving this important cohort is still ongoing after 20 years.

I strongly believe in the importance of collaborations and working with researchers from other disciplines, in my case as diverse as mathematics, physics and spatial geography. Ultimately, the primary reason for undertaking research is to improve health outcomes particularly for vulnerable and disadvantaged people, to inform relevant health strategies, and to aid in the training of talented young individuals.

Finally, I would like to thank all my mentors, my many collaborators and my family.

Highlights

The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Research Medal awarded to Professor Michael Abramson

I feel honoured and somewhat humbled to receive this award. I am also very pleased to be sharing it with Bill Musk, someone who has long inspired me. I would like to start by thanking my family. I graduated in Medicine from Monash and undertook physician training at Prince Henry's and the Royal Newcastle Hospitals. I completed a PhD on bronchial reactivity in aluminium smelter workers at the University of Newcastle and returned to Melbourne to take up an academic position at Monash and a clinical appointment at the Alfred Hospital.

It is quite difficult to summarise 25 years' work in 10 minutes, so I will give just two examples. One is traditional risk factor epidemiology in occupational health; the other is clinical epidemiology. The question that I set out to answer in my PhD was "Why do aluminium smelter workers develop occupational asthma?". After another 15 years research in the HealthWise study, we have evidence that sulphur dioxide is the contaminant most likely to be responsible for such features as wheeze, airflow limitation and bronchial hyperresponsiveness (BHR)¹.

Spirometry is the standard of care in specialist practice. However evidence that it actually makes a difference to patients with asthma/chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in general practice was lacking. So we designed the SPIRO-GP trial, which recruited 305 adult patients from 31 general practices. Practices were randomised to: spirometry and regular medical review, spirometry before and after the trial (but no reports until the trial concluded) or usual care. The primary endpoint was quality of life as assessed by the short form 36 health survey questionnaire (SF-36). We found no significant or sustained improvement in the group receiving spirometry and regular medical review².

We do research because we want to change clinical practice. It has been a privilege to chair the committee tasked with updating the COPD-X guidelines for the Australian Lung Foundation.

I have learned the importance of mentoring, establishing collaborations, building research capacity and seizing opportunities when they present. I would encourage young researchers to find mentors, assess grants, serve on panels, review papers, serve on editorial boards and contribute to professional societies. I must thank the other members of the Monash Alfred Respiratory Epidemiology Group, my fellow investigators on the Capacity Building Grant for workplace public health and my current trainees. I would also like to thank the funding bodies that have supported our research, the Heads of my current departments, the participants and my nominators and the Society itself.



References

1. Abramson M.J., Benke G.P., Cui J., et al. Is potroom asthma due more to sulphur dioxide than fluoride? An inception cohort study in the Australian aluminium industry. *Occup Environ Med.* 2010;67(10):679-85.
2. Abramson M.J., Schattner R.L., Sulaiman N.D., et al. Do spirometry and regular follow-up improve health outcomes in general practice patients with asthma or COPD? A cluster randomised controlled trial. *Med J Aust.* 2010;193(2):104-9.

Highlights

Hetzel and Opit Meeting Room Naming Ceremony

In August 2011, the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) at The Alfred Centre celebrated the naming of their two meeting rooms in honour of Dr Basil Hetzel AC (Foundation Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine) and the late Professor Louis Opit (second Professor of Social and Preventive Medicine).

It was a great honour to welcome Dr Hetzel from Adelaide, Mrs Nicky Dorevitch (the daughter of Professor Opit), members of the Hetzel and Opit families (including children and grandchildren) and many foundation academic and professional staff from the School of Social Health and Preventive Medicine. About 50 people attended the ceremony, hosted by Professor Steve Wesselingh (Dean of SPHPM from 2007 to August 2011) and Professor John McNeil (Head of the SPHPM). They spoke

about the enormous contribution of these former Heads to Monash University and to the School of Public Health.

Dr Hetzel gave a very informative and entertaining presentation covering his period at Monash from 1968–1975.

Nicky Dorevitch spoke of her father's passion for debate, discussion and argument. She said it was fitting that Lou Opit should have a meeting room named in his honour where hopefully, passionate debate and rigorous discussion would continue.

At the conclusion of speeches, Professor Wesselingh and Professor McNeil with Dr Hetzel, Nicky Dorevitch, their families and invited guests made their way to the Hetzel and Opit Rooms where photos of Dr Hetzel and Professor Opit are now displayed on the walls.



Robert Hetzel, Pip Hetzel, John McNeil, Peter Hetzel, other Hetzel family members, Rebecca Hetzel, Basil Hetzel AC, Anne Hetzel, Jane Fisher.



Opit family members with photograph of the late Professor Lou Opit (from L to R) Judy, Professor Opit's daughter-in-law Judy visiting from the UK, granddaughter Rachael, daughter Nicky Dorevitch, granddaughter Anna, Nicky's husband Mike, granddaughter Maddy and grandson Josh.



Former members of the Department of Social & Preventive Medicine (from left: Maggie Roberts, Jeremy Maddox, Graeme Oliver, John Murtagh, Peter Clarke, Tony Ryan, Basil Hetzel [sitting], David Dunt, Marilyn Bushell, Joan Roberts) with John McNeil and Michael Abramson.

Highlights

Have mammographic screening or treatment reduced mortality from breast cancer?

A study of Breastscreen participants between 1991 and 2007 has revealed that most of the reduction in breast cancer-specific mortality was attributed to adjuvant chemotherapy and endocrine therapy. In fact, mammographic screening made only a minor contribution to the decline in mortality. Similar conclusions have been described for the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, Belgium and Ireland.

This is a significant finding as there is a continuing debate about why breast cancer-specific mortality has declined since the introduction of Breastscreen (the national breast cancer screening program) in 1991. The relative contribution of mammographic screening for breast cancer and improvements in adjuvant therapy has been discussed.

In our study, we have examined the time trends in participation in Breastscreen and breast cancer incidence and breast cancer-specific mortality in different age groups in Australia between 1991 and 2007.

The evidence from the countries mentioned above includes the original randomised trials of mammographic screening and studies that investigated trends in mortality in different age groups (where only some age groups are routinely screened). There is also evidence from studies comparing data from within and between countries with different population screening practices.

However, Australia is unique as we have six population-based breast cancer treatment surveys taken between 1986 and 1999. These recorded the initial treatment that women with breast cancer received. Our study included a review of these surveys and showed a continuous improvement over this period in both the number of women receiving adjuvant therapy and in the therapies received. This correlated with decreases in age-specific mortality and increases in five-year survival from breast cancer.

For example, since 1991, the entire increase in five-year survival and decrease in breast cancer specific mortality for women aged 60–69 years (who have had the highest participation in Breastscreen) occurred before the program could have been expected to affect breast cancer mortality. Furthermore, the incidence trends provided evidence of over-diagnosis of invasive breast cancer. This was due to the identification of cancers by screening that would not have otherwise become clinically evident. The over-diagnosis was also most evident for the 60–69 year age group.

On the basis of the current evidence, we believe women should be provided with more information about the balance of benefits to potential harm when they are counselled about mammographic screening for breast cancer.



“In fact, mammographic screening made only a minor contribution to the decline in mortality.”

Highlights

Multi-Centre Randomised Trial of Early Decompressive Craniectomy in Patients with Severe Traumatic Brain Injury



The Monash DECRA Study team (L to R) Professor Jennie Ponsford, Professor Jamie Cooper, Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld, Mrs Lynne Murray and Associate Professor Rory Wolfe.

Traumatic brain injury is a potentially devastating injury that predominantly affects young males. Approximately 10 per cent of patients admitted with severe traumatic brain injury have a diffuse injury and persistent brain swelling that is difficult to control with best medical management. Over the past decade, management of these patients has been shifting from barbiturate coma to decompressive craniectomy. This is a well established neurosurgical procedure in which a large piece of skull bone is removed, stored for 1–2 months and then replaced.

Professors Jamie Cooper and Jeffrey Rosenfeld led a team of researchers in a landmark international multi-centre randomised controlled trial to assess for the first time in adults the effectiveness of decompressive craniectomy (NEJM 2011; 364:1493-1502). Patients with severe diffuse traumatic brain injury that were suitable for the project were randomly assigned to receive best medical care or decompressive craniectomy and best medical care.

The results showed that surgery was extremely effective in decreasing intracranial pressure (a measure of brain swelling) and markedly decreased medical therapies required for treatment of intracranial pressure. There was also a shortened ventilation time and a shortened length of stay in the ICU. However despite these positive short term effects, the findings in relation to patient's functional outcome at six months were the reverse of what was expected. The group of patients who received surgery were more likely to have a poorer outcome (death or dependence) when compared with those who received best medical care. These results have enormous significance, as the functional outcomes of future patients with severe diffuse traumatic brain injury can be substantially improved by choosing best medical care rather than decompressive craniectomy for management of raised intracranial pressure.

Highlights

2011 ASPREE Update



Work inside the Biobus.

Landmark Aspirin Study Reaches New Targets in 2011

The largest primary prevention study ever undertaken in elderly Australians will determine if aspirin can help prevent or delay the onset of common age-related disease such as cardiovascular disease, dementia and some cancers in older people. ASPREE (ASpirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly) is the first study in the world to weigh the potential benefits against the risks of daily low dose aspirin in healthy people aged 70 and over.

The trial aims to recruit 12,500 participants from Australia and another 6500 participants across the US. ASPREE, an international collaboration between researchers, universities, general practitioners and the community, continued to reach new milestones throughout 2011.

ASPREE Participants

The ASPREE study is currently recruiting around 500 people per month from metropolitan and regional areas in Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT. Almost 5000 healthy elderly people enrolled in the trial in 2011.

Regional Victoria has been one of the fastest growing recruitment areas this year, reporting a 20-fold increase in the number of people participating in the study. At the start of 2011, only 78 regional Victorians were enrolled in ASPREE. By December 2011, it had grown to almost 1400 participants.

Regional Outreach

The Hon. Dr Denis Naphine MP, Minister for Ports, Major Projects, Regional Cities and Racing, officially launched the new Clinical Trial Centre in Warrnambool in June. This was the sixth regional ASPREE centre to open in Victoria.

The move into regional areas has created new employment and training opportunities at each site, developed working relationships with local health service providers and laid the foundations for future research in the area. Importantly, ASPREE's ongoing regional outreach has provided the opportunity for residents in rural and regional areas to engage in international research.



Community Support

This year, ASPREE has garnered extensive community support around Australia. Staff have given over 150 presentations to interest groups, including divisions of general practice and provided editorial services for numerous community newsletters. ASPREE has received broad coverage in local and metropolitan TV, radio and print media thanks to community support for the trial and to several study participants who have provided their own story to the media.

Most recently, over 250 ASPREE participants marked the first anniversary of ASPREE at functions in Ballarat and Traralgon. The events also celebrated the recruitment of the 250th ASPREE participant from each region and provided an opportunity for a study update and a chance to catch up with one another over scones and tea.

ASPREE Substudies

ASPREE Healthy Ageing Biobank

This year the ASPREE Healthy Ageing Biobank purchased its second 'Biobus', a fully equipped mobile laboratory. The Biobank staff have travelled extensively throughout metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria collecting, processing and storing blood samples for future analyses of biomarkers that may be predictors or diagnostics of diseases in the elderly. The Biobank stored its 3000th sample in November 2011 (compared with fewer than 400 samples stored at the start of 2011).

ASPREE Longitudinal Study of Older Persons (ALSOP)

The first of two questionnaires from a new cohort study, ALSOP (ASPREE Longitudinal Study of Older Persons), was sent to ASPREE participants in December. The study aims to capture medical and social factors (such as vision) and access to medical services that might relate to healthy ageing.

ENVIS-ion (Aspirin for the prevention of cognitive decline in the elderly: a neuro-vascular imaging study)

This year, the ENVIS-ion study (which investigates whether aspirin slows down vascular changes in the brain that are linked to ageing and cognitive decline) finished recruiting participants in Melbourne. The six hundred people who are enrolled in the ASPREE trial (300 participants in Canberra and 300 in Melbourne) are also participating in the ENVIS-ion study.

A study of international calibre

A major highlight in 2011 was a midyear visit by Dr Evan Hadley, Director of Geriatrics and Clinical Gerontology, from the US National Institute on Aging (NIA). The NIA is a branch of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), one of the largest research organisations and government funding agencies in the world. It awarded US\$50 million to the ASPREE study in 2009.

Following his visit, Dr Hadley praised the ASPREE research team in his email "we wanted to let you know how impressed we were with the ASPREE team at the site visit. We haven't encountered a clinical trials group with a greater combination of breadth and depth of crucial abilities. This was apparent at every stage of the visit (and your planning of it, too)"



Staff and participants from the Ballarat region take time out from their celebratory morning tea for a commemorative photo to mark the first 12 months of the trial.

Highlights

The Henry Burger Prize

The Henry Burger Prize, is the most prestigious award of the International Menopause Society. It was named to mark the great contribution that Professor Henry Burger of Monash University has made to the field of menopause. The prize is awarded to the investigator who is judged as having published the most significant contributions to the field of menopause in basic science or clinical studies in the two-year period immediately following the preceding World Congress.

The 2011 Prize was awarded to Professor Susan Davis of the Women's Health Research Program in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine for her published research contributions to the understanding of testosterone action, deficiency and substitution in postmenopausal women. Professor Davis gave the Henry Burger Prize lecture at the 13th World Congress on the Menopause in Rome in June 2011.



Professor Henry Burger and Professor Susan Davis at the Rome Congress after the award presentation.



New Registries

Registries

The School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) is a leader in developing a critical mass of expertise around the establishment, management and analysis of clinical registries.

What are clinical registries?

Clinical registries provide measurement and benchmarking of clinical procedures of high significance. They also may be established to monitor the safety of new devices, drugs and surgical procedures. Registries work by collecting an identical minimum dataset from patients at participating hospitals.

Outcomes reported by registries are measured in a systematic way using identical definitions across all sites.

How do registries work?

SPHPM specialises in developing and maintaining clinical quality registries. These are a particular subset of registries that focus on improving the safety and quality of healthcare by providing high quality and clinically relevant data (outcomes) back to clinicians to drive quality improvement.

High quality data

Clinical registries pay meticulous attention to collecting complete, accurate and epidemiologically sound data. This means that results generated from clinical registries are respected by clinicians and stimulate action when outliers are identified.

Clinically relevant data

Clinicians play a pivotal role in governing the registry. Working with epidemiologists, clinical leaders identify indicators to be reported by the registry. These indicators must reflect what should be happening in clinical practice (gold standard practice), be capable of being collected in a standardised manner and highlight an important issue that is amenable to change by clinicians.



Operating principles for clinical registries

SPHPM was invited by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare to develop national operating principles for clinical quality registries. These operating principles have been endorsed by Australian Health Ministers.

The purpose of the operating principles was to:

- Provide a means of improving existing clinical registers and enhance the value of the information they provide;
- Provide guidance for the establishment and maintenance of new Australian Clinical Quality Registries aiming to measure quality of care; and
- Suggest a best practice model to which both new and existing Australian Clinical Quality Registries should adhere.
- Funding agencies such as the Department of Human Services and Human Research Ethics Committees are using this document as the basis for determining the standard of clinical registries they review.

SPHPM registries

The School houses the following registries, monitoring procedures, diseases or healthcare services:

- Australian Society of Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeons (ASCTS) Database*
- Australian Cardiac Procedures Registry*
- Australian Rheumatology Association Database (ARAD)*
- Bi-National Burns Registry (Bi-NBR)*
- Bosentan Patient Registry
- Breast Device Registry*
- Massive Transfusion Registry
- Melbourne Interventional Group (MIG) Registry
- Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia (NAIT) Registry
- Prostate Cancer Registry*
- REACH Registry
- Surveillance of Australian workplace based respiratory events (SABRE)
- Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia Purpura (TTP) Registry
- Venous Thromboembolism Registry
- Victorian Cardiac Arrest Registry*
- Victorian Lung Cancer Registry*
- Victorian State Trauma Outcomes Registry Monitoring Group (VSTORM)
- Victorian Orthopaedic Trauma Outcomes Registry (VOTOR)

The School collaborates in the management of the following registries:

- Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) Registry*
- Colorectal Cancer Registry (with Cabrini Health)*

*** Denotes a clinical quality registry**

Visitors



Geoff Swetse (second from left) with Ben Smith, Helen Keleher, Minto Felix (student) and Darshini Ayton.

Dr Kun Hyung Kim, a researcher from the Korean Institute of Oriental Medicine specialising in randomised trials of acupuncture visited the Australasian Cochrane Centre. He is a recipient of the Commonwealth-funded Endeavour Fellowship and spent four months mainly working on Cochrane reviews.

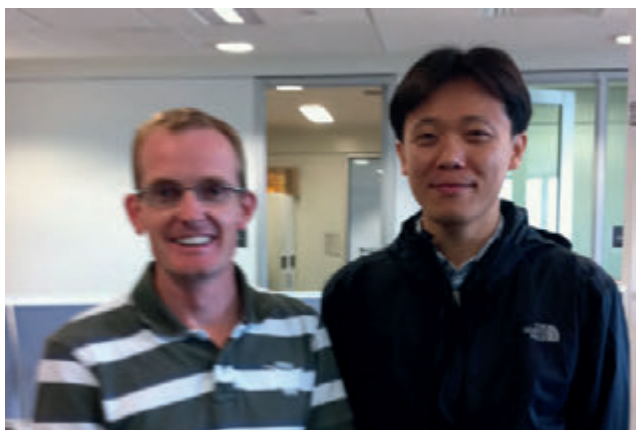
Ms Natasha Khamisa is a Monash MPhil student based at the Monash South Africa campus where she studies stress and health issues among South African nurses. Natasha was based in the International Public Health Unit (IPHU) for seven weeks and during her visit attended seminars and workshops relevant to her field of study. She also enrolled in two subjects as part of the Master of Public Health.



Dr David Tovey speaking at The Australasian Cochrane Centre annual Symposium on 1 July, 2011.

Dr Judith Finn, from the University of Western Australia in the School of Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care, visited Professor Peter Cameron. This visit is consolidated by a successful National Health and Medical Research Centre grant.

Dr Rainer Engelhardt, Assistant Deputy Minister in the Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Branch, Public Health Agency of Canada and Dr David Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer and Head of the Canadian Public Health Agency visited SPPHM this year.



Dr Kun Hyung Kim with Steve McDonald.

Professor C Barr Taylor (Professor of Psychiatry at Stanford Medical Centre and a Principal Collaborator on the Moodcare project), visited IPHU for the National Heart Foundation Conference held on March 17–19. He was a keynote speaker and presented his work on the mechanisms by which depression affects cardiovascular outcomes.

Professor Geoffrey Swetse visited the Department Health Social Science (DHSS) on Monday 4 April and with Professor Brian Oldenburg delivered a lecture to the 1st year Health and Social Science students. The students were delighted to meet Geoffrey and hear about their counterparts at the Monash South Africa campus. Having the opportunity to meet and talk with Geoffrey's students with 'chat' across the campuses via Blackboard (an online tool) added another dimension to their international experience.

Professor Gilles Capellier was a visiting academic at the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC). Gilles visited whilst he was on sabbatical from the Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, France where he runs a critical care and emergency department, is a member of the Board of the Medical Faculty, and a Professor of Intensive Care Medicine. Gilles' main research foci are Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), oxygen toxicity tolerance, and ICU management of ARDS including extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).

Dr Thomas von Lueder is a visitor from Norway working with Professor Henry Krum. Thomas will join us for three years.

Mr Clayton Velicer visited the IPHU to work on the Peers for Progress Diabetes Project with Brian Oldenburg. Clayton is visiting from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill to complete a two month Practicum towards his Masters of Public Health and Health Behaviour. During his stay with us, Clayton assisted with data collection, data entry and some preliminary qualitative analysis of peer support group meetings.

Dr Guillaume (Will) Carteaux was a visitor at the ANZIC-RC for one year. Prior to his visit Will spent three months in the Togolese Republic in West Africa. He spent his Residency in Pneumology (Respiratory Care) and Intensive Care Medicine in Paris. From 2007 to 2009 he worked as a Research Fellow on physiological and clinical studies concerning mechanical ventilation in the Respiratory Team led by Professor Laurent Brochard at the Intensive Care Unit of the Henri Mondor Hospital, Université Paris-Est. During his year at the ANZIC-RC he was working on his PhD thesis entitled "Patient-ventilator interactions during assisted mechanical ventilation". Will returned to Paris to take up a position as a Senior Specialist Intensivist.

Dr Jason Stein is the Associate Vice Chair for Quality in the Department of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia. He is also the Associate Director of Quality and Research in Emory's Division of Hospital Medicine. Dr Stein was a Visiting Academic with the Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety in the Division of Health Services and Global Research at the SPHPM.



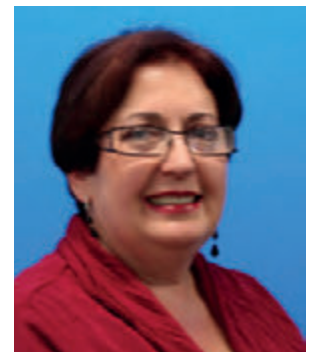
Professor Gilles Capellier



Dr Guillaume (Will) Carteaux



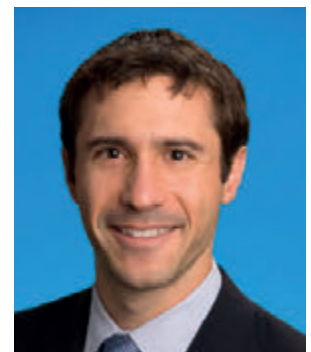
Dr Chebi Kipsaina



Dr Judith Finn



Dr Thomas von Lueder



Dr Jason Stein



Mr Clayton Velicer

Professor Syed Hassan, a psychiatrist at the Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia, met with Professor Barbara Workman (Head, Academic Unit of Geriatric Medicine and Director, Monash Ageing Research Centre) and Professor Daniel O'Connor (Head, Aged Mental Health Research Unit) on Friday 19 August.

Ms Gwenne van Rennes is a medical student from the University of Nijmegen in The Netherlands and is undertaking a five-month student internship as part of her medical course.

Mr Peter Loonga (bariatric surgeon), Ms Ina Frost Saxby (nurse), Ms Katerina Lunner (psychologist), Ms Marie Odin (nutritionist) and Ms Josefine Jonasson (nutritionist) from Sweden visited CORE to observe clinical practice and to participate in discussions about bariatric surgery and our research.

Dr Charoonsak Somboonporn (Khon Kaen University, Thailand) spent March–May, 2011 at the Australasian Cochrane Centre working on a thyroidectomy-related Cochrane review.

Dr David Tovey (Editor-in-Chief of The Cochrane Library) visited the Australasian Cochrane Centre while attending the Australasian Cochrane Symposium in June 2011.

Dr Georgia Salanti (University of Ioannina, Greece) gave a half-day workshop for statisticians on 'Comparing multiple interventions: multiple treatments meta-analysis' in June 2011 and spoke at the Australasian Cochrane Symposium.

Dr Setya Wandita, Dr Tunjung Wibowo, Dr Detty Nurdianti, Dr Ova Emilia, Dr Fauziah Basuki and Dr Diah Rumehti Hadiati, specialists in maternal and neonatal care from Gadjah Mada University Indonesia, attended a week long Cochrane review completion course at the Australasian Cochrane Centre in November 2011.



Barbara Workman, Daniel O'Connor and Professor Syed Hassan.

Mr Dominic Ammann, a pharmacy student from Saarland University, Saarbruecken, Germany, started a placement on 28 April and remained until 27 October 2011. He worked on the development of a validated multi-analyte method that detects the most common drugs (in the cathinones class) in human blood using HPLC-MS/MS.

Ms Julia Ammann, a pharmacy student from Saarland University, Saarbruecken, Germany, started a placement on 28 April and remained until 27 October 2011. She worked on the development and validation of an LC-MS/MS method for the quantification of synthetic cannabinoids in blood.

Dr Chebi Kipsaina, originally from Kenya, undertook an extended placement at the Department of Forensic Medicine (DFM), Monash University as part of her Victorian Public Health Training Scheme Fellowship and Doctorate of Public Health studies. Her focus has been on the development and piloting of the mortuary-based injury surveillance guide, a collaborative project between the WHO and the DFM. The WHO funded her project and allowed her to further her work in this area. Dr Kipsaina was invited to present her work in Madeira, Portugal in September as part of an International Forensic Summit Symposium. Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith supervises her work.

Professor Wayne Velicer, Codirector of the Cancer Prevention Research Centre at the University of Rhode Island, visited IPHU from 12–22 July. While here, Wayne presented a lecture to the school on 'Understanding behaviour change over time' and met with various IPHU staff and students to discuss 'development and implementation of strong intervention trials'.

Visitors

The Sri Lankan Public Health Training Program

The Monash University School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) trains Sri Lankan doctors and dentists for senior roles in public health. The Sri Lankan Ministry of Health sponsors the program, which is directed at mid-career medical and dental practitioners in the final stages of their training. The participants are typically highly accomplished graduates with strong potential for leadership in teaching and public health practice. Each must spend a year in an overseas centre of excellence in public health research before their qualification is granted. After returning to Sri Lanka, most will move into key public health and administrative roles throughout the country.

The program, which has been running for ten years, is co-ordinated by Dr Elizabeth Douglas. She arranges introductions to government and non-government public health organisations in Melbourne and provides supportive advice and mentoring to the practitioners.

This year, we had seven medical graduates at SPHPM who focused on gaining wider knowledge of their specialised areas. Three practitioners completed their traineeship mid-year and have left for Sri Lanka. Dr Inoka Isuraweera and Dr Manori Malawaraarachchi have taken up roles in the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka. Dr Chandima Siritunga is working as the Deputy Director at the Karapitiya teaching hospital in Galle. He is also in charge of the new Emergency and Trauma Centre. The new Centre was modelled after the Alfred Emergency Unit and built with a donation from the Victoria government after the 2004 Tsunami.

Dr Pushpika Jayalath, Dr Badrika Wijesundara, Dr Eeshara Kottegoda Vithana and Dr Vajira Nanayakara will be completing their training next year.

Dr Pushpika Jayalath is a medical practitioner with an interest in the ageing population, which has become a serious problem in Sri Lanka. "The rate of ageing has now reached the maximum of a developed country: 12–15 per cent of people are aged 60 years or more."

As Sri Lanka lacks strong policies to cope with an ageing population, Dr Jayalath is studying the aged care programs in Australia to help identify strategies suitable for Sri Lanka.



Above L to R: Dr Manori Malawaraarachchi, Dr Chandima Siritunga, Dr Inoka Suraweera, Dr Pushpika Jayalath, Dr Badrika Wijesundara.



Dr Eeshara Kottegoda Vithana presenting in federal parliament.

Dr Jayalath performed the first community-based cross-sectional survey in Sri Lanka on knee Osteoarthritis (OA). Her doctoral research assessed the prevalence and modifiable risk factors of knee OA in adults over 50 years of age. Dr Jayalath is currently in the Musculoskeletal Unit in SPHPM, studying attitudes towards weight loss in people with OA. Her study involves working closely with radiologists to measure meniscal tears in knee magnetic resonance imaging scans.

Dr Eeshara Kottegoda Vithana is a medical practitioner training at the Victorian Institute for Forensic Medicine (VIFM) Department of Forensic Medicine (DFM) in SPHPM. His training at VIFM is a natural extension of his work in Sri Lanka in disaster management and injury prevention.

He was a leader of the health sector rehabilitation program that commenced after the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004. In 2008, he was appointed the coordinator of the newly established Disaster Preparedness and Response Unit within the Ministry of Health. This unit served as the main coordination hub in health care provision to 300,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka in 2009. He was also instrumental in setting up National Injury Surveillance in Sri Lanka.

Dr Vithana said that VIFM was his obvious choice to carry out his research, as he had already started collecting data from mortuaries in Sri Lanka for his study. His work is on injury surveillance using mortuary data. This is the first ever study of this nature in a developing country and he is in the process of writing up the results of his pilot of a WHO-Monash guideline on mortuary-based injury surveillance.

Dr Vithana is also analysing mortality data of IDPs in Sri Lanka. He is in the process of preparing further articles for peer-reviewed journals, following one such article in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA). He also presented his work to the Australian Federal Parliament in August 2011.

Australian Centre for Human Health Risk Assessment (ACHHRA)



The Australian Centre for Human Health Risk Assessment (ACHHRA) was established in 2002 with funding from the Innovations Program of the Commonwealth Government's Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP). Following completion of the PHERP-funded project in 2006, ACHHRA became part of the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH).

ACHHRA offers a multidisciplinary approach to health risk assessment, with access to expertise in epidemiology, toxicology, environmental sciences, analytical chemistry, microbiology, communicable diseases, clinical evaluation and biostatistics. Through training programs and workshops, ACHHRA has assisted the development of the Human Health Research Assessment (HHRA) workforce for governments and the commercial sector. The main focus of ACHHRA is human exposure to hazardous chemicals and microorganisms arising from

environmental or occupational media (air, water, soil and food). Hazardous chemicals and exposures may be of natural origin or result from anthropogenic activities. ACHHRA has been active in supporting Federal and State government agencies in managing environmental health risks, through participation in expert advisory panels, preparation of risk assessment guidance documents and peer review of reports. Highlights in 2011 included: completing a major review of the Environmental Health Committee's (enHealth) guidance on environmental health risk assessment methodologies; assisting the Australian Federal Police with development of chemicals risk assessment methodology; advising Commonwealth government regulatory agencies on nanotechnology issues, peer reviewing human health risk assessments for various government authorities; and advising community liaison groups on pollution management at the Botany Industrial Park.

Director



Professor Brian Priestly

Reports

Priestly B.G. Peer review. 'Consolidated Human Health Risk Assessment (CHHRA) for the Orica Botany Industrial Park', (2011).

<http://www.oricabotanytransformation.com/index.asp?page=53&project=27>

Priestly B.G. Peer review and workshop presentation. 'A policy makers guide to mercury in CFLs'. A report prepared for the Australian Government (DCEE) and USAID, (2011).

Priestly B.G. Comments on proving trials for the Direct Thermal Destruction (DTD) facility at the Botany Industrial site Car Park Waste Remediation (CPWE) project, (2011).

Priestly B.G. Peer review. 'Queensland Health report on air quality at Mt Isa', (2011).

Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) Trials Group



The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) Trials Group has 13 Executive Committee members from Australia and New Zealand. This group functions as a collaboration between Monash and the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. The goals of the group include providing high quality research support to College Fellows, trainees and staff in areas such as survey research, the

Pilot Grant Scheme administration and ANZCA publications. It also aims to provide high quality research support to existing multicentre studies in anaesthesia, peri-operative and pain medicine and to new and emerging multicentre studies in anaesthesia, post-operative and pain medicine. Another aim is to develop collaborations (nationally and internationally) with other trials groups.

Director



Professor Paul Myles

Highlights in 2011

The ANZCA Trials Group conducted its first Strategic Research Workshop in 2009 at ANZCA House and a second workshop in 2010. This year, the third annual workshop was held in the exotic environs of Palm Cove, Queensland (August 12–14). The number of attendees has doubled each year. While many of the 60+ attendees were College Fellows participating, or keen to participate, in multi-centre research, many of the trial coordinators from around Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong were able to attend. A new group of attendees were the statisticians from university departments associated with anaesthesia and pain medicine studies.

The aim of these workshops is to further the primary role of the ANZCA Trials Group. That is, to improve the evidence base of anaesthesia and pain medicine by developing and conducting high quality, multicentre randomised controlled trials. Updates were given of existing multicentre trials, with an emphasis on finding new centres to participate in these trials. The ANZCA Trials Group Executive Committee takes the opportunity to meet in person to discuss strategy and policy at research workshops and at the ANZCA Annual Scientific Meetings. The three guest speakers were Professors Rinaldo Bellomo and Andrew Forbes, along with Professor Richard Hall (Professor of Anaesthesiology, Dalhousie University Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada).

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants

‘Nitrous oxide anaesthesia and cardiac morbidity in major surgery’, (2008–12).

‘Completion of the Aspirin and Tranexamic Acid for Coronary Artery Surgery (ATACAS) trial’, (2011–15).

Peri-operative ischemic evaluation-2 study (POISE-2). ‘A large, international, placebo-controlled, factorial trial to assess the impact of clonidine and aspirin in patients undergoing noncardiac surgery who are at risk of a perioperative cardiovascular event’, (2011–16).

ANZCA Project Grants

‘Long-term follow-up of patients in the Evaluation of Nitrous Oxide Anaesthesia and Cardiac Morbidity after Major Surgery-II (ENIGMA-II) trial’, (2010–12).

Staff

Professor

Professor Kate Leslie

Coordinator and Research Fellow

Ms Stephanie Poustie

PhD Students

Dr Frank Buchanan

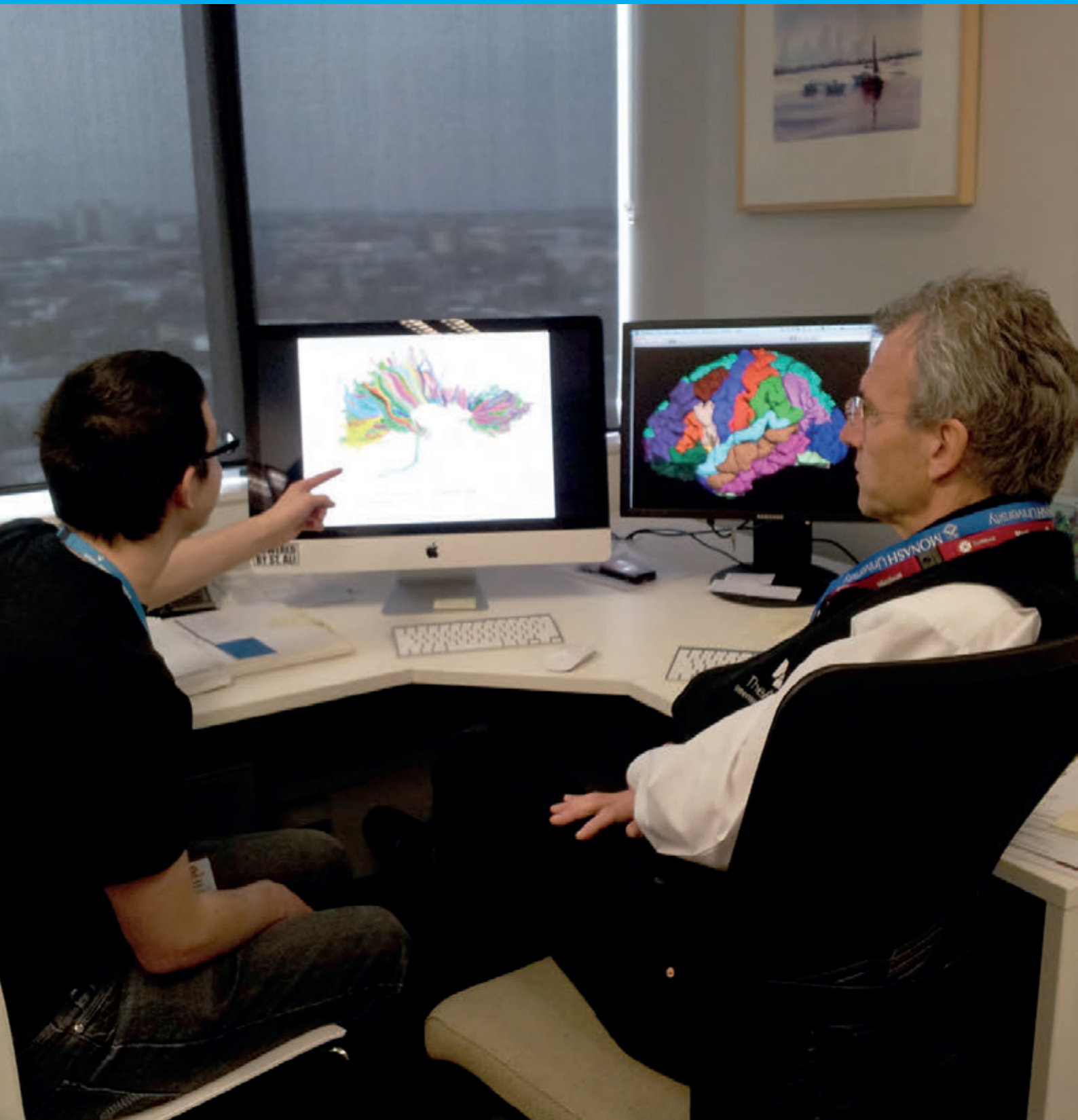
Ms Stacey Pritchett

Masters Students

Dr David Daly

Dr Mark Shulman

The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC)



The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC) is a bi-national intensive care clinical research methods centre. The ANZIC-RC assists with the design, funding and execution of clinical trials. Advice and assistance is available from experienced Intensive Care Unit (ICU) researchers, data management/bio-statistical consultants, project managers,

epidemiologists and health economists. The Centre coordinates and conducts comprehensive research programs including observational studies, feasibility projects and large multi-centred, interventional, randomised controlled trials. It has the ability to support small, medium and large clinical trials.

Directors



Professor Jamie Cooper



Professor Rinaldo Bellomo

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants

NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship Level II. DJ (Jamie) Cooper, (2006–2011).

NHMRC Postgraduate Public Health Research Scholarship. Lisa Higgins, (2008–2011).

NHMRC Early Career Research Fellowship. Carol Hodgson, (2011–2014).

National Centre for Intensive Care Research–Continuation of Enabling Grant, (2011–2015).

‘ARISE Study – The Australasian Resuscitation in Sepsis Evaluation randomised controlled trial’, (2008–2011).

‘POLAR Study – Prophylactic Hypothermia Trial to Lessen Traumatic Brain Injury. A randomised controlled trial of prophylactic hypothermia in severe traumatic brain injury’, (2009–2013).

‘EPO-TBI Study – Erythropoietin in Traumatic Brain Injury. A randomised, placebo controlled trial of erythropoietin in ICU patients with traumatic brain injury’, (2009–2013).

‘PHARLAP – A multi-centre RCT of an open lung strategy including permissive hypercapnia, alveolar recruitment, and low airway pressure in patients with ARDS’, (2012–2015).

‘TRANSFUSE – Standard issue transfusion versus fresher red blood cell use in intensive care – a randomised controlled trial’, (2012–2015).

‘ARISE II – The Australasian Resuscitation in sepsis evaluation – randomised controlled trial’. Continuation funding, (2012–2013).

Other grants held by the ANZIC-RC

Australasian Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (AusPEN) Project Grant. ‘POLAR-BEAR Study – Energy requirements in traumatic brain injury patients with and without induced hypothermia – a sub-study of the POLAR (the prophylactic hypothermia trial to lessen traumatic brain injury) randomised controlled trial’, (2010).

The Alfred Foundation. ‘POLAR-BEAR Study. The prophylactic hypothermia trial to lessen traumatic brain injury basal energy assessment research’, (2010–2011).

Victorian Neurotrauma Initiative (VNI). (A research program of the Transport Accident Commission) ‘EPO-TBI and POLAR Studies. Multi-centre randomised controlled trials of early acute interventions (hypothermia, erythropoietin, and decompressive craniectomy) to improve outcomes after traumatic brain injury’, (2010–2013)

Intensive Care Foundation (ICF). ‘RENAL-TBI Study. Acute kidney injury: Investigating treatments and finding new markers for its early detection in patients with traumatic brain injury’, (2010).

ICF Nutrition therapy in adult patients requiring ECMO in Australia and New Zealand (2011).

ICF SOFTER: A prospective, observational study of critical illness related changes in bone mineral density, bone turnover and calcium metabolism (2011).

ICF TEAM: Trial of early activity and mobility in ICU (2011).

VNI Early Career Practitioner Fellowship Alistair Nichol, (2008–2011).

Australian Postgraduate Scholarship Elizabeth Moore, (2008–2011).

Awards

Ms Emma Ridley. The Peter Mitchell Churchill Fellowship to study methods for determining the nutritional needs of critically ill patients (countries visited: Canada, Israel, Switzerland, Italy and Spain).

Research Centre Manager

Ms Siouxzy Morrison

Associate Professors

Associate Professor Alistair Nichol
(Intensive Care Medicine)

Associate Professor Michael Bailey
(Biostatistics)

Research Manager

Ms Lynnette Murray

Project Managers

Ms Belinda Howe (SPICE, STATInS and ARISE)

Ms Lorraine Little (EPO-TBI)

Mr Tony Trapani (POLAR-RCT)

Ms Louisa Lam (ARISE)

Ms Juliana Tasevska (SPICE)

Ms Emma Ridley (Nutrition, POLAR BEAR)

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Carol Hodgson

Research Fellow

Ms Lisa Higgins

Visitors

Dr Guillaume Carteaux

Professor Gilles Capellier

PhD Students

Mr Eldho Paul

Ms Lisa Higgins

Ms Elizabeth Moore

Dr Neil Orford

Dr Ruwan Wijemunige

Dr Antoine Schneider

Dr Daryl Jones

Administrative Officer

Ms Amanda Martin

Administration Assistants

Mr Gus Bives

Ms Jessica Callaghan



The Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE) Study



Monash University is leading the Australian arm of ASPREE (Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly), a landmark international study, which will determine whether all healthy older people

should take aspirin. Uncertainty persists around the balance of benefits versus risks of low dose aspirin for primary prevention in the elderly.

Directors



Professor John McNeil
(Principal Investigator)



Dr Robyn Woods
(Executive Officer)

Aims

The primary aim is to determine if regular, low dose aspirin prolongs healthy, disability-free life in those aged 70 years and over. The trial will also determine if low dose aspirin prolongs life free of dementia or significant, persistent physical disability. ASPREE is a large-scale, double-blind randomised, placebo-controlled trial of low dose aspirin for primary prevention in otherwise healthy older people and will recruit up to 19,000 people (12,500 in Australia and 6,500 in the US). The participants will be placed in a randomised group and receive either a daily dose of 100 mg enteric-coated aspirin or placebo. The participants will be followed up for five years on average.

Significance

It is estimated that by the mid 21st century, Australia will have proportionally the second highest population of retirees in the world. ASPREE is a study for the public good and the largest primary prevention trial ever undertaken in elderly Australians.

Low-dose aspirin may be one of the most effective agents to prevent or delay the onset of common diseases (likely to be co-morbid in later years) such as dementia, stroke, heart attack and certain cancers. Countering the potential beneficial effects of aspirin therapy are the risks associated with bleeding which are likely to increase as people age. ASPREE will use a composite endpoint – an extension of disability-free years – to determine the balance of benefit versus risk of aspirin.

In Australia, the Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) endorsed trial is conducted primarily through general practice. To date, almost 1300 general practitioners (GPs) are registered co-investigators to ASPREE in metropolitan and regional Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT. Another clinical trial centre is expected to open in South Australia in early 2012, bringing the total number of ASPREE centres to 12 nationally.

Currently, there are more than 5000 participants enrolled in ASPREE and the majority of these heard about the trial

through their GP. As a primary prevention trial, the involvement of GPs is critical to the success of this study.

Sub-studies

The Healthy Ageing Biobank

The Healthy Ageing Biobank is an important sub-study of ASPREE. The aim is to collect, process and store blood and urine specimens from 10,000 ASPREE volunteers. Combined with a wealth of clinical information collected over the five years, the stored samples will be available for future analyses of biomarkers that may be predictors or diagnostics of diseases in the elderly. Factors that are linked to healthy ageing may also be discovered.

ASPREE Longitudinal Study of Older Persons (ALSOP)

The first of two questionnaires from a new cohort study, ALSOP (ASPREE Longitudinal Study of Older Persons), were finalised for distribution to ASPREE participants. This observational study is capturing data on a number of medical and social factors (such as vision and hearing) that might relate to healthy ageing and would otherwise be missed. The ALSOP study will help determine factors that impact on quality of life in later years.

More information about ASPREE, the Healthy Ageing Biobank and ALSOP is at www.aspre.org or on 1800 728 745.

ASPREE Funding: National Institute on Aging (USA), (2009–2016).

ASPREE Regional Outreach Funding: Victorian Cancer Agency, (2010–2012).

ASPREE Healthy Ageing Biobank: CSIRO, \$3.4 million (2009–2013).

Support: Bayer HealthCare provides the enteric-coated low dose aspirin and matched placebo.

Collaborators: Monash University, the Menzies Research Institute (Tasmania), the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne, the University of Adelaide and the Berman Center for Outcomes and Clinical Research (USA).

Staff

ASPREE Project

Principal Investigator

Professor John McNeil

Executive Officer

Dr Robyn Woods

Study Investigators

Professor Andrew Tonkin

Professor Mark Nelson (Tasmania)

Professor Elsdon Storey

Professor Chris Reid

Senior Biostatistician

Associate Professor Rory Wolfe

Biostatistician

Mr Molla Huq

Business Manager

Dr Linda De Melis

ASPREE Medical Officer

Dr Jessica Lockery

End Point Monitor

Ms Louise Shiel

Research Officer

Dr Laura Rojas

Data Centre Manager

Mr Carl Costolloe

Monitor, Auditor and Data Manager

Dr Esther Apos

Finance Officer

Mr Udhara Ekanayake

ASPREE (Melbourne)

Melbourne Study Coordinator

Dr Ruth Trevaks

Communications Officer

Ms Trish Nichols

Community Officer

Ms Vanessa Bilog

Communications/Community Assistants

Ms Georgia Dempster

Mr Jack Hall

Senior Clinical Trial Coordinators

Ms Bodil Hook

Dr Sarah Hopkins

Ms Evelyn Lindsay

Ms Donna McCallum

Mr Andrew McGrath

Ms Susan Montgomery

Mr David O'Reilly

Ms Sally Rawson

Ms Kayte Robinson

Mrs Kathleen White

Ms Meredith Young

Clinical Trial Project Officers

Ms Fiona Collier

Mr Sean Connell

Ms Emily Kelly

Mr John Ly

Mr Simon Montgomery

Ms Monica Rundle

Ms Mary Sakellarides

Ms Trieu-Anh Truong

Ms Genevieve White

Ms Lynda Woods

Ms Sophie Yorkston

Recruitment Officers

Ms Jacqueline Dixon

Ms Pam Hendriks

Ms Robin Pennington

Ms Lucy Power

Programmer

Mr Kunnapoj Pruksawongsin

Data Analyst

Mr Nino Hay

Executive PA

Ms Ajitha Paldano

Administrative Manager

Ms Angela Norman

Assistant Administrative Manager

Ms Natalie Hunter

Administrative Assistants

Ms Robbie Brockhoff

Ms Christine Egan

Mr Aaron Ham

Ms Brittany Hendriks

Ms Samantha Johnstone

Mrs Davina Norman

Ms Erin O'Grady

Ms Kate O'Grady

Mrs Susan Shelton

Mrs Durga Shrestha

Mrs Jennifer Stephens

Ms Anita Zacharias

ASPREE Regional

Regional Manager and Coordinator

Dr Sharyn Fitzgerald

Victoria

ASPREE (Ballarat)

Senior Clinical Trial Coordinators

Ms Sussan Conway

Ms Theresa Grice

ASPREE (Bendigo)

Senior Clinical Trial Coordinators

Ms Lynn O'Neill

Mr Greg Ralph

ASPREE (Geelong)

Senior Clinical Trial Coordinators

Ms Ann Gardner

Ms Judy Hankin

Ms Christine Sherwell

Mr Seamus Wilson

ASPREE (Traralgon)

Senior Clinical Trial Coordinators

Ms Correna Boers

Ms Jane Weeding

Ms Judith Woods

Administration Assistant

Ms Helen Bye

ASPREE (Warrnambool)

Senior Clinical Trial Coordinator

Mr Mark Johnstone

Administration Assistant

Ms Joannie Pope

Tasmania

ASPREE (Burnie)

Senior Clinical Trial Coordinator

Ms Shirley Cleland

Ms Heather Dowling

Ms Audrey Heggarty

ASPREE (Hobart)

Senior Clinical Trial Coordinator

Ms Sharon Kelly

Ms Jan Nelson

Ms Helen Steane

Administration Assistant

Ms Sally Thurley

ASPREE (Launceston)

Senior Clinical Trial Coordinator

Ms Becky Judd

Ms Susan McCoy

Biobank Project

Director

Dr Robyn Woods

DataCentre Director

Professor Chris Reid

Biobank Manager

Dr Emily Parker

Assistant Biobank Manager

Dr Suzanne Orchard

Biobank Project Officer

Ms Megan Plate

Research Assistants

Mr Andreas Bellesis

Ms Jacqueline Duval

Ms Sarah Edwards

Ms Angela Petropoulos

Mr James Phung

Ms Fanny Sampurno

Ms Shreeleka Rao

Ms Zoe Stewart

Mr Elliot Wilson

Analyst Programmer

Mr Igor Yeykelis

Technical Assistants

Mrs Jenny Duncan

Mr Stevie Zacharias

ALSOP Project

Consultant Geriatrician

Dr Stephanie Ward

Project Manager

Dr Alice Owen

Study Coordinator

Dr Sarah Hopkins

The Australasian Cochrane Centre

The Australasian Cochrane Centre hosted their annual Symposium on 1 July 2011. The symposium was attended by 170 participants and speakers included David Tovey, Editor in Chief of The Cochrane Library, Paul Glasziou and Melissa Sweet.



The Australasian Cochrane Centre co-ordinates the activities of the Cochrane Collaboration in Australia and in the wider Asia-Pacific region in partnership with its branches in Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand. It provides training and support to authors of Cochrane reviews, works with policy makers, advocates on behalf of the Collaboration regionally, and promotes the use and uptake of *The Cochrane Library*. In addition to its core aims, the Centre has an aligned program of research that evaluates effective ways to inform healthcare decisions through the uptake of evidence. This includes projects investigating the synthesis, interpretation, dissemination and implementation of research evidence for clinical practice and policy.

In July, the Centre hosted the Australasian Cochrane Symposium in Melbourne. The theme of the symposium was 'Evidence, Communication and Impact' and showcased the many and varied ways in which the Cochrane Collaboration supports the use of evidence to inform decision-making. Over 170 people attended and listened to presentations from the co-chair of the Cochrane

Collaboration and the Editor in Chief of *The Cochrane Library*. The Centre ran an event before the symposium (led by Dr Georgia Salanti from the University of Ioannina, Greece) for statisticians on advanced methods for multiple-treatments meta-analysis.

Other highlights included the appointment of the Centre's Systematic Review Trainer, Miranda Cumpston, to the position of Training Co-ordinator for the Cochrane Collaboration (globally) and the start of a regular column in the *Medical Journal of Australia* summarising the latest reviews from *The Cochrane Library*.

Two major National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)-funded research projects began in 2011. SEA-URCHIN is investigating the effectiveness of an educational intervention to prevent hospital-acquired neonatal infection in hospitals in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. CIPHER is a collaborative project with the Sax Institute that is looking at how to increase the use of evidence from research within a policy environment.

Directors



Professor Sally Green
(Co-Director)



Mr Steve McDonald
(Co-Director)

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants

Project Grant. 'Evidence-based care of people with dementia: cluster RCT', (2008–2011).

Project Grant. 'SEA-URCHIN: South East Asia—using research for change in hospital-acquired infection in neonates', (2011–2015).

Project Grant. 'Centre for Informing Policy in Health with Evidence from Research (CIPHER)', (2011–2015).

Other Grants

Physiotherapists Registration Board of Victoria. 'Improving evidence-based care and outcomes in Victorian Physiotherapy through better understanding of current practice: a state-wide practice audit', (2008–2011).

Department of Health and Ageing. 'Supporting Australian-based Cochrane Collaboration activities', (2009–2012).

Neurotrauma Initiative Program Grant. 'Improving evidence-based care and the outcomes of patients with traumatic brain injury through a program to facilitate knowledge transfer and exchange', (2009–2014).

Awards

Ms Tari Turner

The School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Prize for her PhD.

‘Evidence-based clinical protocols in the real world: A pragmatic approach to evidence-based clinical protocol development’

Staff

Co-Directors

Professor Sally Green

Mr Steve McDonald

Research Fellows

Dr Marije Bosch

Ms Miranda Cumpston

Dr Simon French

Ms Fiona Kossenas

Ms Joanne McKenzie

Dr Kerry Murphy

Dr Denise O’Connor

Dr Tari Turner

Research Assistants

Ms Katherine Beringer

Ms Lana Klucharef

Ms Sharon Kramer

PhD students

Ms Sue Brennan

Mr Matthew Page

Ms Kate Phillips

Administrative staff

Ms Jenny Burchill

Ms Cindy Manukonga

Ms Melissa Murano



Biostatistics Unit



The 2011 SPHPM Biostatistics team.

The Biostatistics Unit is actively engaged in methodological biostatistical research in a variety of areas. It is also involved in numerous collaborative epidemiological research projects with staff within and external to the School. Staff are involved in teaching biostatistics to medical, biomedical and health science undergraduate

and postgraduate students and to students in postgraduate degrees specialising in Biostatistics. The Unit offers a Biostatistical Consulting Service for doctoral students and academic staff across Monash University and for researchers located at the Alfred Hospital, other Monash-affiliated hospitals, and for external health service groups.

Director



Professor Andrew Forbes

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Mediterranean diet and mortality: analysis of longitudinal dietary patterns using newly developed statistical methods', (2011–2013).

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Strategies for handling missing data in the development, validation and implementation of clinical risk prediction tools', (2009–2011).

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Design and analysis of interrupted time series studies in health care research: resolution of methodological issues', (2009–2011).

NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence

NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence Grant. The Victorian Centre for Applied Biostatistics (VCAB), Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the University of Melbourne. 'Building core methodological capacity for population health', (2012–2015).

Associate Professors

Associate Professor Rory Wolfe

Associate Professor Michael Bailey

Associate Professor Damien Jolley

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Dean McKenzie

Senior Lecturer

Dr Baki Billah

Research Fellows

Dr Muhammad Akram

Dr Elizabeth Williamson

Dr Roman Ahmed

Research Officers

Ms Pam Simpson

Ms Catherine Smith

PhD students

Mr Mohammadreza Mohebbi

Ms Sara Ivory

Ms Masoumeh Sanagou

Mr Eldho Paul

Cardiovascular Research Unit



In 2011, the major achievements of the Cardiovascular Research Unit involved large-scale clinical trials and public health research. The Unit provided ongoing leadership for the Long-term Intervention with Pravastatin in Ischaemic Disease (LIPID) study (National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grant). This study has completed an average of 16 years follow-up of 9014 coronary heart disease patients recruited from 87 hospitals in Australia and New Zealand. Analyses of biomarkers that might predict recurrent cardiovascular events and possible new therapeutic targets have been completed. All four abstracts submitted to the American Heart Association related to this work were accepted for presentation.

The Unit is also working with spatial geographers (under an Australian Research Council (ARC)

grant), to map availability of necessary medical services for those who are at risk of an acute cardiac event in Australia's 20,000 population centres. These findings will be used to develop new strategies to overcome access to barriers.

Professor Tonkin continues as International Associate Editor for Circulation (for Australia and New Zealand), the specialty journal in cardiovascular medicine with the highest impact factor (IF 14.429). He is also a member of the Cardiovascular Expert Reference Group and will work on the World Health Organisation's 11th revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), which will be used globally for classifying and coding diseases. He was also an expert content reviewer for a National Prescribing Service program to assess cardiovascular risk and has co-authored 17 peer-reviewed publications.

Director



Professor Andrew Tonkin

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants

NHMRC Health Services Research Grant. 'Reduction in disparities in health outcomes in cardiovascular diseases and chronic kidney disease for Indigenous Australians', (2007–2011).

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Aspirin for the prevention of cognitive decline in the Elderly: a neuro-vascular imaging study (ENVIS-ion) from ASPREE', (2008–2012).

NHMRC Primary Health Care Project Grant. 'Randomised trial of a 'polypill' to improve guidelines adherence for vascular disease prevention in primary health care', (2008–2011).

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Examining GWAS-identified loci of interest in predicting coronary events in subjects with known coronary heart disease: the LIPID Genetic Study', (2011–2013).

Awards

Professor Andrew Tonkin

Medal of the Order of Australia. For service to medical research in the field of epidemiology and preventative medicine (in the Queen's Birthday 2011 Honours List).

PhD students

Ms Alison Beauchamp

Unit Administrator

Ms Allison Byrnes

Centre For Clinical Effectiveness (CCE)



Kelly Allen, CCE Consultant in Clinical Effectiveness, during a 'hands on' teaching session in searching health databases as part of a two-day 'Introduction to Evidence Based Practice' course for Southern Health staff.

Southern Health is committed to evidence-based decision-making. The role of the Centre for Clinical Effectiveness (CCE) is to encourage and support health professionals, managers and policy makers so that they use the best available evidence to improve healthcare.

CCE provides information, expertise and resources to assist health service personnel in obtaining evidence from research and incorporating it into everyday clinical practice and evaluating the effect on patient care. This involves using:

- Evidence-based practice – clinical decisions made between health professionals and patients;
- Evidence-based decision-making – organisational decisions made by managers, policy makers and health service consumers;
- Evidence-based change processes – organisational change such as establishing new models of service delivery, introducing new clinical practice guidelines or instituting new systems for decision-making.

CCE services are provided in three areas of expertise. These are:

- Evidence synthesis: know what to do (eg systematic reviews of research evidence and guideline development);
- Implementation: do what is known (eg clinical practices, models of service delivery and organisational systems and processes); and
- Evaluation: understand what is done (eg health programs and services and projects).

Director



Adjunct Associate Professor
Claire Harris

Grants

Department of Health, Victoria. Health Technology Program. Project grant. 'Sustainability in Healthcare by Allocating Resources Effectively (SHARE)' project (Jan–Jun 2011, \$132,500).

Awards and Achievements

Emerald Literati International Network Award for Excellence 2011.

Turner T., Harris C and Green S. 'A pragmatic model for evidence-based guideline development in hospitals.' Clinical Governance. 2010, 15 (4): 255-265. www.emeraldinsight.com/journals.htm?articleid=1889723&show=html

Monash University School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine 2011 doctoral award for thesis excellence.

Dr Tari Turner for 'Bridging the gap between research and clinical practice where it matters most: Support for evidence-based practice in crises, low and middle income countries and hospitals.' Co-supervisors: Professor S Green and Adjunct Associate Professor C Harris.

Victorian Public Healthcare Better Health Awards. Excellence in healthcare outcomes 2011.

Nomination for Southern Health Evaluation Service.

Director and Manager of the Implementation Service

Adjunct Associate Professor Claire Harris

Senior Consultant and Manager of the Evidence Service

Dr Angela Melder

Senior Consultant and Manager of the Evaluation Service

Dr Kim Hider

Administration Manager

Ms Veena Peacock

Consultant

Dr Kelly Allen

Senior Project Officer

Ms Marie Garrubba

Graduate Project Officer

Ms Dina Farjou

Centre of Cardiovascular Research and Education in Therapeutics (CCRET)



The mission of the Centre of Cardiovascular Research and Education in Therapeutics (CCRET) is to improve clinical outcomes at the individual and community level through the use of evidence that is based on high-quality clinical research. CCRET conducts clinical trials that focus on mechanistic and hospital-based studies in the

Department of Clinical Pharmacology at the Alfred Hospital and at the Clinical Trial Centre at Caulfield Hospital. CCRET's Clinical Informatics and Data Management Unit (CIDMU) provides high-level platform technologies for the conduct of epidemiological, clinical trial and health services research.

Director



Professor Henry Krum

SCREEN-HFL (Screening Evaluation of the Evolution of New Heart Failure) – a longitudinal study

The objective of the SCREEN-HFL study is to identify over a five-year period of observation, individuals with cardiovascular risk factors who are destined to develop congestive heart failure (CHF) and/or echocardiographic evidence of left ventricular dysfunction (LVD). The utility and change of plasma N-terminal prohormone of brain natriuretic peptide (NT-proBNP) level will be used to identify these individuals.

Renin Academy

The renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS) is a hormone system that regulates blood pressure and water (fluid) balance. Following the success of the International and Japanese Renin Academies, CCRET has established the Australasian Renin Academy supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

HOPE-3 (Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation)

HOPE-3 is a five-year multinational double-blind longitudinal study to evaluate the effects of the 'polypill' (a combined cholesterol and blood pressure lowering drug), in 12,500 study participants who are without vascular disease at baseline. The study is expected to identify safe and effective cardiovascular prevention strategies that could substantially reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease in large proportions of the adult population worldwide.

For more detailed information on the work undertaken by CCRET visit our website at www.ccretherapeutics.org.au/

NHMRC Grants

Program grant. 'Prevention and treatment of chronic heart and kidney disease', (2010–2014).

Health Services Research grant. 'Which heart failure intervention is most cost-effective and consumer friendly in reducing hospital care: The WHICH study', (2007–2011).

NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship. C. Reid, (2008–2012).

Project grant. 'Aspirin for the prevention of cognitive decline in the elderly (EnVISION)', (2008–2012).

Enabling grant. 'Australian Rheumatology Association Database', (2006–2011).

Centres of Research Excellence grant. 'National Centre of Research Excellence to improve management of peripheral arterial disease', (2011–2015).

Equipment grant. 'Luminex (200) – a compact laboratory analysis system integrating lasers, optics, fluidics, a controller and advanced signal processing software unit, bar code reader and PC with flat screen monitor plus other accessories for the system', (2011).

Other Grants

National Heart Foundation and beyondblue. 'The Melbourne Depression in Heart Failure Collaborative Medication trial', (2008–2012).

National Institutes of Health. 'Aspirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE)', (2010–2016).

MBF Foundation. 'Utility of serial brain natriuretic peptide measurement in early detection of heart failure', (2010–2012).

CSIRO Public Health Flagship grant. 'ASPREE Healthy Ageing Bio-bank', (2009–2012).

Hong Kong Research Grant Committee General Research Fund. 'Efficacy, safety and cost-effectiveness of drug-eluting stents in real world Hong Kong cardiology practice' (2009–2011).

Associate Director

Professor Chris Reid

Senior Research Fellows

Ms Angela Brennan

Mr Carl Costoloe

Dr Diem Dinh

Dr Andrea Driscoll

Dr Alice Owen

Ms Louise Shiel

Mr John Varigos

Dr Bing Wang

Research Fellows

Dr Andrew Kompa

Dr Lavinia Tran

Visiting Overseas Fellows

Dr Masataka Watanabe (Japan)

Dr Thomas Von Lueder (Norway)

Lecturer

Mr Molla Huq

Research Assistants

Ms Molly Bond

Ms Rita Brien

Ms Harriet Carruthers

Ms Vibhasha Chand

Dr Justin Cole

Ms Lisa Curran

Ms Amy Finlay

Ms Emily Kelly

Ms Philippa Loane

Ms Dee Menezes

Ms Sue Montgomery

Ms Fanny Sampurno

Ms Masoumeh Sanagou

Ms Marina Skiba

Software Developers

Mr Waranon Buranasiri

Mr Adrian Buzgau

Mr Miteshkumar Chaudhari

Mr Xiaoxiang Guan

Mr Mahfuzal Haque

Mr Nino Hay

Mr Ramya Jaganathan

Ms Survana Joshi

Mr Kieran Love

Mr Yunus Nio

Mr Kunnapoj Pruksawongsin

Mr Philip Scotney

Mr Douglas Wong

Mr Igor Yeykelis

Nurses

Ms Jane Brack

Ms Anne Bruce

Ms Susie Cartledge

Ms Carolyn de Sliva

Ms Robyn Funston

Ms Michelle Hooy

Ms Kimberly Irwin

Ms Elizabeth Jenkins

Ms Sue Montgomery

Ms Christine Mulvaney

Ms Caroline Steer

Ms Louise Turnour

Ms Emma Windebank

Administrative Staff

Mr Callum Brennan

Ms Jill Edmonds

Ms Laura Ellis

Ms Jo Harwood

Ms Anne Jenes

Ms Lisa Li

Ms Sarah Mann

Ms Yesmie Paldano

Ms Maree Smith

Registrar

Ingrid Hopper

PhD Students

Ms Zanfina Ademi

Ms Venu Ariyaratne

Dr Enayet Chowdhury

Dr Ingrid Hopper

Dr Suree Lekawanjivit

Ms Shan Liu

Dr Michele McGrady

Ms Ella Zomer

BMedSci Student

Mr Rohit Samuel

RMIT Student

Mr Jewhara Suleiman



Clinical Informatics and Data Management Unit (CIDMU)



The Clinical Informatics and Data Management Unit (CIDMU) provides key platform technologies for the conduct of epidemiological, clinical trial and health services research. The platform technologies include:

- Multicentre clinical trials and registry data management;
- Web-based, e-CRF, fax- and paper-based data capture facilities;
- Web-based or telephone-based randomisation services;
- Trial and site management capabilities;
- Trial and site monitoring capabilities; and
- Statistical data analysis and study design capabilities.

The platform technologies have been developed in accordance with international regulatory and national privacy and ethical guidelines.

The staff in the Unit possess expertise in all aspects of data collection and data management. This includes expertise in form design, web-based data capture, entry and randomisation

services, data validation and quality control. The staff members are also involved in the provision of consulting services to external clients who have data management issues and in training of School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) research staff in the principles of database design and management.

Current activities include support for the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre. The Unit is also involved in the development and management of the data management systems for the Victorian Worksafe 'Workhealth' program, which is undertaking workplace health assessments in over 2 million Victorians over the next five years. Additional activities include the provision of cost-effective web and Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)-based randomisation services. CIDMU is also involved in the management of the data collection system for the Victorian Road Traffic Authority research study on novice driver education. This is one of the largest research trials ever undertaken in the area of driver education.

Director



Professor Chris Reid

Awards

Professor Chris Reid

National Health and Medical Research Council Senior Research Fellowship, (2008–2012).

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants

NHMRC Enabling Grant. 'Australian Rheumatology Database', (2006–2011).

NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence Grant. 'National Centre of Research Excellence to improve management of peripheral arterial disease', (2011–2015).

Other Grants

Victorian Cancer Agency. Translational Cancer Research Funding. 'Building translational research clinical research capacity in regional Victoria through ASPREE and the Healthy Ageing Biobank', (2010–2012).

George Institute for International Health. Contract Research. 'Kanyini guidelines adherence with the PolyPILL (GAP) study', (2009–2012).

CSIRO P-Health Flagship Grant. 'ASPREE Healthy Ageing Bio-bank', (2009–2012).

Senior Research Fellows

Ms Angela Brennan

Dr Diem Dinh

Research Assistants

Ms Rita Brien

Ms Harriet Carruthers

Ms Vibhasha Chand

Ms Amy Finlay

Ms Emily Kelly

Ms Philippa Loane

Ms Dee Menezes

Software Developers

Mr Waranon Buranasiri
Mr Miteshkumar Chaudhari
Mr Mahfuzel Haque
Mr Nino Hay
Ms Ramya Jaganathan
Mr Kunnapoj Pruksawongsin
Ms Suvarna Joshi
Mr Douglas Wong
Mr Victor Wong
Mr Guan Xiaoxiang
Mr Igor Yeykelis

Data Analysts

Mr Adrian Buzgau
Mr Yunis Nio

Business Analyst

Ms Maree Smith

Administrative Staff

Ms Jo Harwood
Ms Jill Edmonds
Mr Callum Brennan
Ms Yesmie Paldano



Clinical Epidemiology – Alfred



The Clinical Epidemiology Unit at the Alfred focuses on respiratory diseases and on the health effects of mobile phones. SPIRO-GP was a randomised controlled trial of spirometry in general practice. The findings from this trial have major implications in the management of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma. The Burden of Obstructive Lung Disease (BOLD) study, in collaboration with the Woolcock Institute in Sydney and other centres around Australia was

completed with National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding. We are also collaborating with the University of Melbourne on two large NHMRC supported cohort studies: the Tasmanian Longitudinal Health Study (TAHS) and the Melbourne Atopic Cohort Study (MACS). In addition, we are collaborating with the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH) on a study of the effects of mobile phones on cognitive development in primary school children.

Head



Professor Michael Abramson

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Third Euro-Australian respiratory health survey', (2011–2013).

NHMRC Project Grant. 'The impact of outdoor aeroallergen exposure on asthma exacerbations in children and adolescents', (2009–2011).

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Do mobile phones affect cognitive development in children?', (2009–2011).

NHMRC Project Grant. 'What increases the reactivity of airways in middle-age?', (2009–2011).

NHMRC Capacity Building Grant for Population Health. 'Linking research, policy and health services to build a better evidence base for workplace public health', (2009–2013).

NHMRC Strategic Award. 'Predictors and consequences of allergies that impact on children getting a healthy start to life: a prospective study', (2008–2011).

Other Grants

Australian Research Council/Linkage Grant. 'Smoking cessation program for smokers admitted to public hospitals', (2011–2014).

Collier Charitable Fund. 'Aerasense Nano Tracer', (2011).

Awards

Professor Michael Abramson

The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Research Medal, (2011).

Staff

Senior Lecturer

Dr Dragan Ilic

Research Fellows

Dr Martine Dennekamp

Dr Chandima Siritunga

Research Assistants

Ms Skye Macleod

Ms Angela Lewis (Alfred Hospital)

PhD Students

Ms Marsha Ivey (PhD)

Dr Marian Abouzeid (DPH)

Administrative Staff

Ms Paulette Theodoulis

Clinical Epidemiology Unit – Cabrini



SPHPM Clinical Epidemiology Unit – Cabrini.

The focus of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology is to perform high quality clinical research with an emphasis on answering clinically important questions that can be translated into better quality patient care and outcomes. We have performed an array of randomised controlled trials of promising new treatments for a range of musculoskeletal conditions. We manage the Australian Rheumatology Association Database, which is assessing the long-term health of patients with arthritis and particularly the outcomes of new therapies. The Department also houses one of the editorial bases for the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group (the other base is in Ottawa, Canada). Other major focuses have included determining interventions directed at the patient and the healthcare provider and at a policy level that have the potential to improve the ability of patients to function effectively in the health care system (health literacy). We have also been involved in the World Health Organisation Global Burden of Disease project to estimate the global burden for musculoskeletal conditions, particularly back and neck pain. Various local, national and international bodies support the Department's research.

The Department has also continued to play a role in the education of undergraduate and postgraduate students and early career researchers. This year, Dr Mario Lenza (an orthopedic surgeon from Brazil) visited Cabrini on a 6-month research fellowship that was sponsored by the Brazilian government. Since

2010, the Department has been involved in the 3e (Evidence, Expertise, Exchange) Initiative. This is a multinational collaboration aimed at promoting evidence-informed practice in rheumatology by developing practical recommendations that address important clinical problems. Professor Buchbinder is one of five international mentors, who each year, supervise ten international fellows in performing systematic reviews.

A major achievement in 2011 has been the development (as part of the Monash Master of Public Health) of a new online course in systematic reviews and meta-analysis. This currently runs during the second semester of 2011. As well as the two face-to-face block days, the course runs as weekly modules and online discussions. The students work in groups of two or three to produce their own mini-reviews.

In March this year, we were delighted to host the Melbourne International Forum XI Primary Care Research on Low Back Pain. This biennial conference is the pre-eminent meeting of leading international researchers in this field. Many of the greatest advances in back pain research, particularly as they pertain to improving health outcomes, have arisen as a direct result of the ideas generated and the collaborations formed at this conference. The overarching theme of the Melbourne Forum was 'how to better implement research findings into practice and policy initiatives'.

Director



Professor
Rachelle Buchbinder

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Enabling Grant

ARAD Australian Rheumatology Association Database, (2005–2012).

NHMRC Project Grants

'Is physiotherapy beneficial for hip OA?', (2010–2012).

'A randomised controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy of bisphosphonate therapy in patients with osteonecrosis of the hip', (2010–2014).

Other Funding

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. Cochrane Musculoskeletal Review Group (CMSG), Australian satellite, (2009–2012).

ANZ Trustees Medical Research and Technology in Victoria Program. The Appel Family Bequest. 'A new approach for measuring the personal burden of back pain', (2010–2011).

Arthritis Australia. 'Incidence of malignancy and cause of death in patients taking biological therapy for inflammatory arthritis in Australia', (2011).

Awards and Achievements

Professor Rachelle Buchbinder
NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship,
(2010–2014).

Professor Rachelle Buchbinder
and Dr Margaret Staples
Recipients of the Helen Moran
Award from Arthritis Victoria for
the second year in a row.

Biostatistician

Dr Margaret Staples

Managing Editor, Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group

Dr Renea Johnston

ARAD Project Coordinator

Ms Maree Williams

Visiting Research Fellow

Dr Mario Lenza (Brazil)

Research Assistant

Ms Joan McPhee

Administrative Staff

Ms Lavonne Collins



The Centre for Obesity Research and Education (CORE)



The Centre for Obesity Research and Education (CORE) is dedicated to understanding and optimally managing the chronic disease of obesity and measuring the effects of weight loss on health, quality of life and survival (*Mission Statement 2011*).

Our research aims to better understand obesity, obesity-related diseases (including psychosocial conditions) and to identify optimal methods for the safe, cost-effective, long-term management of this disease. Also, we seek to identify preventive strategies that can be implemented in the community.

CORE is unique in applying a multidisciplinary approach to the study of obesity. The Centre is a leader in clinical and psychosocial research into obesity and weight loss. It integrates a clinical obesity management program with strengths in medicine, surgery, psychology, epidemiology, public health and professional and community education. Through this integration, CORE is expertly placed to measure the health consequences of obesity and has the capacity to evaluate the health benefits of weight loss.

Director



Associate Professor
Wendy Brown

Emeritus Director



Professor Paul O'Brien

Grants

Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Strategic Grant. 'Improved neurocognitive function associated with reduction in obesity – understanding underlying mechanisms: A pilot study', (2011).

Awards

Mr Paul Burton
(Senior Research Fellow)

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Post Doctoral Fellowship (2011–2013).

Dr Leah Brennan

2011 ANZOS Young Investigator Award from the Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society (ANZOS).

SPHPM 2011 Travel Grant for international travel.

Director

Associate Professor Wendy Brown

Emeritus Director

Emeritus Director Professor Paul O'Brien

Executive Officer

Ms Tania Richter

Senior Research Fellows

Dr Leah Brennan

Mr Paul Burton

Dr John Wentworth

Research Fellow

Dr Melissa Hayden

Research Officer

Ms Kylie Murphy

Research Assistants

Ms Margaret Anderson

Ms Leah MacDonald

Research Nurses

Ms Cheryl Laurie

Ms Julie Playfair

Administrative Staff

Ms Monica Liston

Ms Renate Johnson

Students

Master of Surgery

Dr Sarah Birks

Doctor of Psychology

Ms Katrina Parker

Ms Christina Prickett

Ms Kymberlie Preiss

Master of Clinical Psychology

Ms Irina Moroshko

Honours (Psychology)

Ms Pree Benton

Mr Nick Levin

Bachelor of Medical Science

Ms Tamishta Hensman

Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety (CREPS)



The Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety (CRE-PS) was established in late 2005 to develop national research capability and capacity that would result in improved patient safety. The CRE-PS designs, conducts, promotes and promulgates high quality multi-centre research to improve the quality, safety, efficiency and

effectiveness of health care for Australians. CRE-PS undertakes research and patient safety initiatives in each state and territory, and internationally. Our research has focused on four main areas: using data to monitor quality of care, improving information transfer, reducing medication error and increasing patient safety.

Director



Professor Peter Cameron

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Centre of Research Excellence Grant

'Centre of research excellence in patient safety (CREPS)', (2005–2010).

NHMRC Health Services Research Grant

'Using data to improve quality of health care', (2007–2011).

NHMRC Project Grant

'Falls prevention in the acute hospital setting: a multi-centre cluster randomised controlled trial of efficacy, cost effectiveness and sustainability in the 6-PACK program', (2011–2014).

Other Funding

Prostate Cancer Foundation Australia. Department of Health and Ageing. Cancer Australia. Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme, 2009. 'Pilot of a population-based prostate cancer clinical registry', (2010–2013).

Cancer Australia. Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme, 2010 'Determining the causes of observed variation in survival after diagnosis of prostate cancer', (2011–2013).

Department of Health. Project Grant. 'Expansion of the Victorian Prostate Cancer Registry across Victoria', (2011).

Victorian Cancer Association. 'Victorian Lung Cancer Initiative – Lung Cancer Registry' (2011–2013).

Victorian Managed Insurance Authority. 'Causes and contributing factors driving preventable adverse events in priority areas', (2011).

Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons. 'Breast Implant Registry', (2011).

Awards

Ms Judy Lowthian
Winner of the 2011 Alfred Health Chairman of the Board Award for Patient Safety and Quality Improvement for 'The effectiveness of streamlining elective surgery care at the Alfred'.

Dr Carolina Weller
Completed her PhD titled 'Management of venous ulcers'.

Associate Directors

Dr Sue Evans
Associate Professor Caroline Brand
Professor Joseph Ibrahim

Senior Statistician

Associate Professor Damien Jolley

Statistician

Dr Nick Andrianopoulos

Consultants

Dr Ian Scott

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Anna Barker

Project Managers / Research Assistants

Ms Julie Wood
Ms Judy McInnes
Ms Renata Morello
Ms Megan Bohensky
Ms Judy Lowthian
Ms Nikki Klopfer

PhD Students

Dr Georgiana Chin
Ms Carolina Weller
Dr Ben Clissold

Administrative Officers

Ms Catherine Pound
Ms Jessica Callaghan

Department of Health Social Science (DHSS)



The Department of Health Social Science (DHSS) is focussed on improving and understanding health and wellbeing from a social perspective. DHSS offers comprehensive programs in health promotion and prevention, population health and policy. The Department, based at the Caulfield campus, is part of the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM). Courses offered by DHSS include Bachelor of Health Science, Bachelor of Health Science/Bachelor of Social Work, Honours

in Bachelor of Health Science, postgraduate coursework programs and Doctor of Philosophy.

DHSS has fostered active partnerships with community agencies to pursue applied research and evaluation work. We have a vision that all our graduates will have a strong sense of civic engagement and a commitment to public health, healthy public policy and the health and wellbeing of all people and their communities (in Australia and globally).

Head



Professor Helen Keleher

Grants

Windermere Foundation. 'The impact of the COACH mentoring program on child and youth health and wellbeing', (2011).

Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Project. Multi-institutional agreement. 'Food and drink company sponsorship of children's sport: publicity or philanthropy', (2009–2011).

ARC Discovery Project Grant. Multi-institutional agreement. 'Changing the media diet – investigating the power of the news media to prevent obesity', (2010–2012).

ARC Discovery Project Grant. 'Determining the individual, community and societal impacts of compensable injury in Australia', (2011).

ARC Discovery Project Grant. Multi-institutional agreement. 'The Effectiveness of Health Impact Assessments Conducted in Australia and New Zealand', (2010–2011).

Inner South Community Health Service. Joint Chair in Health Equity (2010–2011).

MonashLink Community Health Service. 'Development of Community Health Profile', (2011).

Commonwealth Department of Veteran's Affairs. 'Health Promotion Advisory Services', (2006–2011).

VicHealth. 'Gambling and Sport', (2011).

South East Healthy Community Partnerships. 'Development of an online training tool for health and welfare professionals – problem gambling issues, City of Greater Dandenong', (2011).

South East Healthy Community Partnerships. 'Problem Gambling Project

Evaluation', (2010–2012).

VicHealth. 'APG Rural and Regional Sustainability Program 2010 to 2012 Evaluation', (2010–2013).

VicHealth. 'Evaluation of the Metropolitan Active Participation Grants Program', (2009–2012).

Awards

Professor Helen Keleher
National president of the Public Health Association Australia (PHAA) for the next two years.

Dr Charles Livingstone
The Honourable Jenny Macklin, Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs has appointed Dr Livingstone to the Australian Government's Ministerial Expert Advisory Committee on Gambling.

Associate Professor Ben Smith
Editor-in-Chief of the Health Promotion Journal of Australia and a Board Director of CBM Australia.

Staff

Head

Professor Helen Keleher

Deputy Head

Associate Professor Ben Smith

Senior Lecturer

Dr Charles Livingstone

Dr Rosalie Aroni

Dr Belinda Crockett

Lecturers

Dr Emma Bruce

Ms Nerida Joss

Research Officers

Ms Sarah Carmody

Mr Dimitri Batras

Course Administration Officer

Ms Janet Christensen

PhD students

Ms Darshini Ayton

Ms Tess Nagorcka-Tsindos

Ms Nerida Joss

Ms Sarah Carmody

Ms Kate Roberts

Mr Dimitri Batras

Ms Sabrina Gupta

Ms Barbary Clarke

Ms Deb Colville

VPHTS (Victorian Public Health Training Scheme)

Ms Claire Tobin

Dr Chebi Kipsaina

Ms Susan Heywood

Ms Angela Rintoul

Ms Karen Moore

Honours (Bachelor of Health Science)

Ms Rebecca Bishop

Ms Ruth Klein

Ms Alana Russo

Ms Cassandra Wright



Department of Forensic Medicine (DFM)



The Department of Forensic Medicine (DFM) is the only university department in Australia to be set up in parallel with a forensic medical service facility. DFM is a part of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) which operates as both a publicly-funded institution and as an academic unit. This unique arrangement has contributed

more to forensic medicine and the allied forensic sciences than any other facility in this country. Many of our staff members are world leaders in their disciplines and this has contributed to an international reputation for excellence. DFM staff are located at the VIFM at Southbank.

Head



Professor Olaf Drummer

Since its inception 22 years ago, the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) together with the DFM has produced many significant research findings that have contributed to prevention of disease and public health. It has also developed a significant postgraduate teaching output. In over 10 years, approximately 70 graduates have completed the postgraduate courses in forensic medicine. In addition, numerous students have graduated with Bachelor of Science (honours) and Bachelor of Medical Science degrees. There were also 20 postgraduate degrees by research (including PhDs), many of whom have remained with us and work at the VIFM. The VIFM together with the DFM has published over 600 articles, covering a variety of themes related to disciplines that encompass forensic medicine.

This year saw a continuation of these activities but with a stronger focus on prevention; both fatal and non-fatal injuries. The work carried out in these areas has led to over 40 papers and numerous communications at scientific meetings throughout the world. Our teaching commitments, primarily through the Master of Forensic Medicine, continued both at the undergraduate level but predominantly at the postgraduate level. The Master of Forensic Medicine course will expand in 2012 to allow dental graduates to enter.

This section summarises the academic activities of the DFM in association with its partner organisation the VIFM.

Prevention Research Unit

Work-related fatalities

The DFM received funding from the Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research (ISCR) over a two-year period to conduct research on 'Work-related fatalities'. This project was completed on September 30, 2011.

The database of broadly defined work-related fatalities that was established between July 2001 and Sept 2011 contains 2854 total work-related fatalities. Cases closed by the Coroner in that period include the following work-related fatalities: unintentional (1287), suicide (777) and undetermined (56).

The stream of research on work-related fatalities identified suicide following work injury and work stress as two important issues requiring policy responses. Other topics addressed in 2011 included out-of-vehicle truck driver fatalities, an evaluation of roll-over protection measures for tractor related fatalities and workplace pedestrian fatalities.

Preliminary work has been completed for future studies of injury risk and prevention in an ageing workforce.

Mortuary-based fatal injury surveillance

The mortuary-based fatal injury surveillance, a joint project of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the DFM was completed in 2011 in five low and middle-income countries. A WHO/Monash manual based on this work is expected to be published by the WHO early in 2012.

Process evaluation of the pilot study was conducted in 2011 and the Sri Lankan mortuary data has been analysed.

The project is lead by Drs Margie Peden, Kidist Bartolomeos of the WHO and Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith of the DFM. Dr Chebi Kipsaina, a Victorian

Public Health Fellow and public health doctoral candidate who was on placement at the Department in 2011, supported this project. The WHO also provided financial support for this project. Visiting Fellow, Dr Eeshara Kottegoda Vithana, carried out the Sri Lankan pilot and the data analysis.

RS-10 road safety intervention in China

The Department's involvement in this five-year intervention project continued in 2011, with Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith undertaking the WHO lead consultant role. The Department also hosted an RS10 China study tour for 16 WHO Fellows from Chinese national ministries and for participants from the intervention cities of Dalian (Liaoning Province) and Suzhou (Jiangsu Province). The study tour aimed to build capacity regarding international best practice in the prevention of speeding and drink-driving.

Another capacity building venture for this project was to conduct a process evaluation workshop in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province in conjunction with a broader project management workshop.

The Bloomberg Foundation funds similar road safety intervention projects in 10 countries.

Deaths involving Oxycodone

Ms Angela Rintoul, (a School doctoral candidate) and collaborators at the DFM, continued the 'Deaths involving Oxycodone' study in 2011. This project included 2010 data and further analyses were conducted on all data. Her 2010 published paper on this topic has contributed to substantial international debate.

Prizes and Awards

Dr Julia Ammann

Best Poster Award at the Forensic and Clinical Toxicology Association (FACTA) Conference, 31 July–3 August 2011, Melbourne.

Ms Eva Saar

Best Oral Presentation at the Forensic and Clinical Toxicology Association (FACTA) Conference, 31 July–3 August 2011, Melbourne.

Best Oral Presentation at The International Association of Forensic Toxicologists (TIAFT) Conference, September 2011, San Francisco.

Dr Richard Bassed

Best Presentation at the Australian Society of Forensic Odontology Conference, Darwin, October 2011.

Grants

Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research (ISCRR). 'Work-related fatalities', (2009–2011).

Australian competition and consumer commission. 'Targeted study of injury data involving motorised mobility scooters', (2010).

Victoria Police. Contract Research. 'Suicide and the Victorian road toll', (2010–2011).

Staff

Chair in Forensic Medicine

Professor Stephen M Cordner

Head, Department of Forensic Medicine

Professor Olaf H Drummer

Department Manager

Ms Vicki McAuliffe

Administrative Officers

Ms Dimitria Semertjis

Ms Lucia MacFarlane

Personal Assistant and Publications Officer

Ms Ceril Pereira

Librarian

Ms Kerry Johannes

Principal Research Fellow and Head (Prevention Research Unit)

Director (National Coronial Information System)

Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith

Senior Researcher and Public Health Physician

Professor Joseph Ibrahim

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Wendy Watson

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Virginia Routley

Research Fellow

Dr Christopher Jones

Victorian Public Health Fellow

Dr Chebi Kipsaina

Dr Angela Rintoul

Research Assistants

Dr Angela Rintoul

Ms Fiona Kitching

Mr Matthew Green

Ms Gayle Trytell

Ms Marie-Claire Davis

Teaching

Graduate Programs

Master of Forensic Medicine, Unit Coordinators

Associate Professor David Wells

Dr Anne Smith

Emeritus Professor Louis Waller

Mrs Anna Davey

Professor Olaf Drummer

Associate Professor David Ranson

Professor Michael Levy

Dr Vanita Parekh

Graduate Certificate in Nursing (Forensic), Unit Coordinators

Dr Angela Williams

Dr Janet Towns

Dr Jo Ann Parkin

Administrator, Graduate Programs

Mrs Debbie Hellings

Medical Law Programs

Associate Professor Leanna Darvall

Administrator, Medical Law Programs

Ms Natalie Oakley

Honours Student

Ms Qerime Alimovski
(Department of Pharmacology)

PhD Students

Mr Luke Rodda

Ms Eva Saar

Ms Janet Davey

Ms Jennifer Pilgrim

Mr Richard Bassed

Visitors

Dr Dominic Ammann

Dr Julia Ammann

Dr Chebi Kipsaina



The 2011 SPHPM, DFM team.

Epidemiological Modelling Unit



This Epidemiological Modelling Unit focusses on developing epidemiological modelling to improve the effectiveness of chronic disease and disability prevention in Australia. The costs and benefits of preventive health interventions will often occur many years into the future. This is well beyond the maximum five to six years that is studied by most prevention trials. Prediction of long-term benefits requires statistical epidemiological modeling. This is modelling that integrates information from a variety of data sources, including clinical trials and epidemiological studies.

The aim of the Unit is to develop epidemiological models that can assist policy-makers to make more informed choices of which preventive programs to fund, improve the ability of clinicians to provide accurate preventive advice and to

increase the ability of consumers to make decisions about preventive activities (that may relate to themselves or their communities).

The main work undertaken by the Unit is in cardiovascular disease. A National Health and Medical Research Council Health Services Research Grant funds this work. However, we are broadening our work program and current projects include disease and risk factor models in cardiovascular disease (CVD), diabetes and obesity, and chronic obstructive lung disease and the relationship between modifiable health risk factors and the onset of disability. We are also interested in the relationships between CVD and mental health and health system level models for the supply of blood for transfusions.

Head



Dr Christopher Stevenson

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Project Grant

McNeil, J., Peeters, A., Hollingsworth, B., Nelson, M., De Courten, M., Frederick, B., 'Better targeting of preventive services using epidemiological modelling', (2007–2011), \$183,8750

Other Grants

Cancer Australia. Stevenson, C. E. 'Request of the small numbers index tool', (2011–2012), \$13,200

Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project

Stevenson, C. E., Peeters, A., Mannan, H., Reid, C. M., Magliano, D., Hodge, A. 'Developing a disability policy model to target the prevention or reduction of limitations on functioning and wellbeing', (2012–2014), \$173,240.

ARC Linkage Grant

Peeters, A., Magliano, D. J., Stevenson, C. E., Martin, J. E., Ball, K., Beauchamp, A. 'What will it take to decrease socio-economic inequalities in obesity?', (2012–2014), \$140,208.

NHMRC Project Grant

Peeters, A., Magliano, D. J., Stevenson, C. E., Mannan, H.R., Briffa, T. 'Predicting the impact of current obesity and diabetes trends on future prevalence of cardiovascular disease in Australia', (2012–2013), \$217,430.

Research Fellow

Dr Haider Mannan

PhD Student

Ms Evelyn Wong

The Health Services Management and Research Unit



The main aim of the Health Services Management and Research Unit is to contribute to the effectiveness of clinicians by assisting them to develop competencies in management, health policy and

health services research. The Unit is a research partner with the Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety (CRE-PS) and it conducts research in health policy, workforce and financing.

Head



Professor Just Stoelwinder

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Project Grant

'Understanding the dynamics of the medical workforce to improve population health and equity of access: the Australian longitudinal survey of doctors', (2008–2011).

NHMRC Health Services Program Grant

Cameron P., McNeil J., Stoelwinder J., Campbell D., Forbes A., Sprivulis P. 'Using data to improve quality of health care', (2007–2011).

Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage with SA, Queensland and ACT health Departments

Oldenburg B., Joyce C., Segal L., O'Brien S., Ball J., Pauter D., O'Donoghue R., Tennant M., Gericke C., Mutch A., Eager K., Lin V., Seattle C., Dugdale P., Hartz-Karp J. 'Citizen engagement: listening to citizen's views about Australia's health system and prevention', (2009–2011).

Other grants

Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health. Contract Research. 'Risk-equalisation methodologies in health insurance: an international perspective', (2010–2011).

Senior Research fellow

Dr Sue Evans

Senior Lecturer

Dr Catherine Joyce

Teaching – Senior Lecturers

Mrs Elizabeth Kennedy

Ms Kelly Makarounas-Kirchmann

Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) moderators

Dr Peter Bradford

Dr Guy Haller

Dr Erwin Loh

Dr Biswadev Mitra

Dr Lakshmi Sumithran

Doctoral students

Mr Asnawi Abdulla (PhD completed 2011)

Ms Katherine Gibson (DPH candidate)

Ms Elizabeth Headley (DPH candidate)

Mr Danny Hills (PhD candidate)

Mr Peter New (PhD candidate)

Ms Durga Shrestha (PhD candidate)

Infectious Diseases Epidemiology Unit



The research of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit (within the Division of Clinical Epidemiology) covers a broad range of topics. These include the burden of communicable diseases, vaccination, modelling of infectious diseases, traveller/immigrant health, and communicable disease surveillance. The Unit is also involved in studies of specific infectious diseases (such as nosocomial

infections, influenza and measles) that represent important problems in clinical practice and in the development of national and international management guidelines.

Part of the work of the Unit falls under the Division of Occupational and Environmental Health, which addresses issues around environmental impacts on infections, water quality and public health.

Head



Associate Professor
Karin Leder

Grants

Department of Health. 'A novel, multifaceted approach to improving the health of international students in Melbourne, Victoria', (2011).

Industry. 'Tracing, testing and vaccinating HBV contacts', (2011–12).

Awards and Achievements

Associate Professor Karin Leder
NHMRC Career Development Award,
(2011–2014).

Associate Professor Allen Cheng
NHMRC Career Development Award,
(2011–2014).

Associate Professor

Associate Professor Allen Cheng

Senior Research Fellows

Dr Robert Hall

Dr Katherine Gibney

Research Fellow

Ms Amanda Brass

Research Assistant

Ms Pam Hayes

PhD Student

Mr Surendra Karki

International Public Health Unit



The Vizhinam Community Health Centre in Kerala, India. IPHU is conducting a 5-year, NHMRC-funded intervention (Kerala Diabetes Prevention Program – K-DPP), aimed at reducing the incidence of type-2 diabetes in this state.

A team of researchers from the Australian, Malaysian and South African campuses of Monash University and support staff make up the International Public Health Unit (IPHU). The Unit works to develop research, education and capacity-building programs that improve health and wellbeing relating to the origins, prevention and management of non-communicable diseases (principally cardiovascular diseases and Type 2 diabetes) in low-, middle- and high-income countries. The IPHU is headed by Brian Oldenburg, a Professor of International Public Health and an Associate Dean (Global Health and International campuses).

The major research areas of the unit are:

- Prevention and management of non-communicable disease;
- Information and communications technology to improve health;
- Health and wellbeing of Indigenous populations;
- Life course metabolic and circulatory health; and
- Policy development, evaluation and implementation.

Head



Professor Brian Oldenburg

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Kerala Diabetes Prevention Program (K-DPP): A cluster RCT of its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness', (2011–2015).

NHMRC Project Grant (Also funded by Queensland Health and HCF). 'Using conversational computer technology to improve diabetes management: A randomised controlled trial (TLC)', (2007–2011).

NHMRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) Project Grant. 'Circulatory and associated conditions in urban Indigenous people', (2007–2011).

NHMRC Development Grant. 'Better targeting of preventive services using epidemiological modelling', (2007–2012).

Other Grants

National Institute of Health (NIH) Grant. 'Building the Asian non-communicable disease research network for regional research capacity', (2010–2015).

Australian Research Council (ARC). 'Developing methods for citizen engagement: Listening to citizens' views about health promotion and the Australian health system.', (2009–2011).

Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. 'An implementation trial of a telehealth program for depression in patients following myocardial infarction (MoodCare)', (2009–2011).

Department of Health and Ageing. 'An implementation trial of a telehealth program for depression in patients following myocardial infarction', (Proactive) (2009–2011).

Academy of Family Physicians Foundation. Peers for progress program. Research evaluation grant. 'A controlled evaluation of the Australasian peers for progress diabetes program (PfP-DP) and its transferability to other countries', (2009–2011).

Diabetes Australia (Queensland). 'Best Buys in Type II Diabetes, Detection Management', (2011).

Diabetes Australia (Queensland). 'AUS TLC Mark II', (2011).

Monash Faculty Strategic Grant. 'The relationship between inflammation and psychosocial risk factors in the development and progression of type 2 diabetes', (2011).

Senior Lecturer

Dr Catherine Joyce

Dr Deborah Zion

Project Managers

Ms Bianca Chan (MoodCare)

Dr Dominique Bird (TLC Diabetes)

Dr Michaela Riddell (Peers for Progress)

Ms Naanki Pasricha (Kerala/ASCEND)

Research Fellows

Dr Fahad Hanna

Dr Ben Xue

Psychologists

Ms Janice Whetton

Ms Megan DeSouza

Research Assistants

Ms Margaret Brand

Dr Sheila Cyril

Ms Megan Rollo

Ms Allison Byrnes

PhD Students

Ms Marlien Varnfield

Ms Adrienne O'Neil

Ms Catherine Chamberlain

Ms Natasha Khamisa

Mr Lal Rawal

Dr Monira Hussain

Mr Tilahun Nigatu Haregu

Honours Students

Ms Amanda Wardani

Visiting Research Fellows

Dr Hang Li

Dr Emily Williams

Dr Vajira Nanyakkara

Office Manager

Ms Sally Kerr



The Michael Kirby Centre for Public Health and Human Rights



The Michael Kirby Centre for Public Health and Human Rights is an exciting collaboration of interdisciplinary scholars in Monash University's School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM). The Centre was created to consolidate existing capacities, developed over 20 years, in the study of public health and human rights within the School.

The Centre comprises activists, lawyers, scientists and ethicists who undertake research that critically examines the contribution of human rights and law to the realisation of good health, particularly among vulnerable communities in Australia and in the developing world. The Centre aims to conduct research that informs the development of public health policies and examines programs in which human rights standards and norms are critically considered. It also undertakes teaching programs that facilitate informed inquiry about public health, law and human rights.

The current research, teaching and consultancy projects of the Kirby Centre include:

- Examining the relationship between the legal status of sex workers in the developing world as well as the HIV prevalence in that population;
- Developing a reform strategy that addresses the local, national and international regulatory environments that promote obesity;
- Investigating the attitudes of the Australian population and expert stakeholders towards the protection of personal privacy when conducting health and medical research;
- Developing a framework for the ethical conduct of health research in developing countries;
- Exploring the testing of women for HIV in antenatal settings in Tamil Nadu, India; and
- Collaborating with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine to examine and document the role and contribution of forensic medical and nursing staff to the welfare of survivors of sexual assault.

Director



Associate Professor
Bebe Loff

Interns

In March, the Kirby Centre offered internships for law and public health students to work with us on our projects. Over 50 applications were received and six interns spent eight weeks at the Centre between March and May. Since then, three further interns have worked with us in a voluntary capacity. Professor Bebe Loff is also supervising a member of the School so that she satisfies her College of Law requirements.

Fieldwork outside Australia

Ms Bridget Pratt, the Kirby Centre doctoral candidate, has been collaborating with researchers from the Shoklo Malaria Research Unit (SMRU), which is part of the Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit in Thailand. As part of the collaboration in

2011, Ms Pratt spent six weeks in Mae Sot on the Thai-Burma border. She conducted qualitative research on one of SMRU's ongoing clinical trials and gathered data on whether and how the trial was able to uphold ethical international research requirements that are often described as "aspirational" and "unrealistic." Ms Pratt's work with SMRU has shown that requirements for conducting international clinical research that is responsive to local health priorities, research capacity building, the provision of ancillary care and post-trial benefits to trial participants and their communities can be upheld simultaneously. She also identified the factors that made their implementation by SMRU investigators possible.

Senior Research Fellow Dr Cheryl Overs has undertaken a 'Legal Mapping Project' among sex workers in Ethiopia, Malaysia, Fiji, Cambodia and Myanmar. Her project

involves identifying how the law affects the status and health of sex workers in practice in those countries for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). She is also been responsible for the establishment of a legal service for sex workers in Cambodia and will shortly be carrying out an evaluation of whether and how the provision of legal advice and support affects those who live with and are at risk of HIV/AIDS.

Grants

National Health and Medical Research Council. 'What do Australians think about privacy and participation in epidemiological research?', (2009–2012).

National Health and Medical Research Council. 'A comprehensive regulatory strategy for obesity prevention in Australia', (2007–2012).

UNAIDS. 'Establishment of a legal service for sex workers in Cambodia', (2010–2013).

UNDP. 'Legal Mapping Project', (2011–2012).

Open Society Institute. 'Evaluation of a legal service for sex workers in Cambodia', (2011–2014).

Staff

Lecturers

Dr Liz Bishop

Mr Brad Crammond

Senior Research Fellow

Ms Cheryl Overs

Research Fellow

Dr Claudia Slegers

Research Assistants

Ms Cassandra Van

Mr Michael Williams

Ms Elissa Campbell

PhD Students

Ms Shyamala Nataraj

Ms Bridget Pratt

Ms Molly Bond

Mr Brad Crammond

Ms Bridget Haire

POLICY



Monash Ageing Research Centre (MonARC)



The Monash Ageing Research Centre (MONARC) was established in 1999 for the International Year of the Older Person. MONARC is based at the Kingston Centre and has three divisions: the Academic Unit of Geriatric Medicine (AUGM), the Aged Mental Health Research Unit (AMHRU)

and the Clinical Research Centre for Movement Disorders and Gait (CRCMD&G). Each division is autonomous and retains its own identity. These divisions are headed by Professors Barbara Workman, Daniel O'Connor and Robert Lansek, respectively.

Director



Professor Barbara Workman

Academic Unit of Geriatric Medicine

The AUGM focuses on clinical research in geriatric medicine that can be rapidly introduced into clinical practise. The Unit has interests in the use of best evidence, clinical ethics, health care of older people and medical education. It links Southern Health to Monash University in the teaching and training of future health care practitioners and actively promotes translational research. This research is an integral part of health care delivery and quality of care.

Aged Mental Health Research Unit

The research interests of AMHRU include depression in residential care, electroconvulsive therapy and challenging behaviours in dementia. The Unit is a partner of the Commonwealth Government's Dementia Collaborative Research Centre and has the responsibility for identifying non-pharmacological treatments of the behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia. It also organises trials to determine the efficacy of non-pharmacological treatments.

Clinical Research Centre for Movement Disorders and Gait

The CRCMD&G investigates neurological conditions and in particular basal ganglia and cerebellar disorders such as Parkinson's disease and autism. The CRCMD&G has continued to expand its fields of research with new studies in Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Collaboration between the three divisions will be developed. Benefits for Monash University and Southern Health include integration of health care delivery and research and education within the disciplines of geriatric medicine, psychological medicine and geriatric neurology. Furthermore, the establishment of the Allied Health Clinical Research Unit presents opportunity for links and collaborative projects in the areas of aged care, older persons' rehabilitation, falls and evidence-based medicine.

Grants

Alzheimer's Australia National Quality Dementia Care Initiative. 'Re-establishing a good relationship when a person with dementia resides in long-term care: training dementia carers to conduct activities with their relatives in the nursing home setting', (2011, \$250,000).

Monash University Health Education and Assessment Research Team. 'Review of aged care service system – Peninsula Clinical Placement Network', (2011, \$120,000).

National Health and Medical Research Council. 'Motor functioning in young people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder combined type: A three-dimensional motion analysis study', (2011, \$369,417).

Lions John Cockayne Memorial Fellowship Trust Fund. 'Investigation of the stride length- cadence relationship in Huntington's Disease to map changes in the gait control pathways' (2011).

Staff

Manager

Dr Judith Munro (Feb 2010 – Apr 2011)

Ms Kerith Sharkey (current)

Academic Unit of Geriatric Medicine (AUGM)

Head

Professor Barbara Workman

Academic Geriatrician

Dr Christina Johnson

Academic Geriatricians/ Adjunct Senior Lecturers

Dr Stephanie Ward

Dr Seema Parikh

Senior Research Officer

Dr Bridget Regan

Adjunct Lecturers

Dr Belinda Flanc

Dr Anne-Marie Cassano

Dr Olivia Gobbo

Dr Julie Lustig

Dr Helena Ng

Aged Mental Health Research Unit (AMHRU)

Head

Professor Daniel O'Connor

Psychologists/Research Fellows

Dr Susannah Runci

Dr Eva van der Ploeg

Research Fellow

Ms Barbara Eppingstall

Psychiatrist/Research Fellow

Dr Chris Plakiotis

Administrative Assistant

Ms Samantha Cunningham

Clinical Research Centre for Movement Disorders and Gait (CRCMD&G)

Head

Professor Robert Iansek

Manager/Adjunct Senior Lecturer

Dr Anna Murphy

Physiotherapist/Adjunct Research Fellow

Ms Dianne Cameron

Physiotherapist

Ms Mary Danoudis

Ms Stella Kravtsov

Senior Research Fellow

Dr Jenny McGinley

Administration Manager

Ms Tracy Taylor

Administration Assistant

Ms Gracy Presti

National Parkinson Foundation Project Manager

Ms Rebecca Madill

Laboratory Scientist

Ms Megan Moreau

Laboratory Assistant

Mr Ben Kasehagen



Monash Applied Research Stream (MARS)



The 2011 SPHPM Womens Health Research – Clayton team.

During 2011, the Southern Health based SPHPM team expanded considerably with several new research groups joining the school. Professor Teede moved on from her research position with Jean Hailes; expanding her team under the banner of Monash Applied Research Stream (MARS).

Several other groups joined the SPHPM at Southern Health. including a Diabetes and Cardiovascular research team, an Indigenous research team and a Women's Mental Health team. The latter group subsequently became the new Jean Hailes research unit in late 2011, after Prof Jane Fisher accepted the Director of research position within SPHPM.

The team maintain core collaborations with Southern Health (the largest health service in Victoria) and has active research collaborations with a diverse group of clinical teams. We provide a clinical research service to Southern Health and build capacity for applied research.

This group take a cross sector approach to improve healthcare outcomes through applied research, education, advocacy, translation into practice and innovation in the areas of clinical care, service delivery and public health and health policy. There is a strong focus on prevention, lifestyle-related diseases including diabetes and women's health. MARS with the school incorporates a diverse, talented multidisciplinary

team with expertise in the synthesis of evidence, national guidelines development and translation, implementation of best practice and evaluation of change. We work with clinicians, consumers, managers and policy makers.

Highlights included Professor Jane Fisher and her team joining the team. Dr Jacqueline Boyle established an Indigenous Women's Health research program and Associate Professor Sophia Zoungas led the Clinical Research Service and the Diabetes Research Program. Current research programs include healthy lifestyles, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, clinical research, menopause, obesity and reproductive health, women's mental health and Indigenous health.

The unit also undertook an internationally funded research program into the prevention of excess weight gain in pregnancy addressing the rising burden of ill health, including gestational diabetes. We undertook formative research on needs then developed a risk-screening tool to detect high-risk pregnancies. We then completed an RCT to prevent excess gestational weight gain in high risk women and showed that 60 per cent of overweight control women exceeded international weight gain recommendations compared with only 15 per cent of women in the intervention group. This work has public health implications and was internationally recognised. A health economic analysis is under-way currently to assist policy maker engagement and to optimise implementation into antenatal care.

Director



Professor Helena Teede

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Insulin resistance in polycystic ovary syndrome and the role of skeletal muscle and adipose tissue', (2010–2011).

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Randomised sham-controlled trial of acupuncture for post-menopausal hot flushes', (2011–2015).

NHMRC Project Grant. 'What matters to women diagnosed with breast cancer during their reproductive years?

A qualitative investigation of fertility, reproductive health, heritability, and related psychosocial needs using a population-based sample', (2011–2013).

Other key grants

Perpetual Trustees Grant. 'Building Research Capacity', (2009–2013).

Department of Health and Ageing. 'PCOS Alliance and Evidence Based Guidelines', (2009–2011).

Bupa Health Foundation. 'Application of integrated disease self-management in type 2 diabetes mellitus', (2010–2012).

ARC: Maternal mental health and anaemia as determinants of infant health and development in resource-constrained settings', (2009–2011).

ARC. 'Understanding fertility management in contemporary Australia', (2010–2013).

Fellowships

Professor Helena Teede: NHMRC CDA (2009–2012).

Professor Jane Fisher: Monash Fellowship, Monash University (2011–2015).

Associate Professor Sophia Zoungas: NHF Postdoctoral Fellowship (2011–2015).

Dr Jacqueline Boyle: NHMRC Postdoctoral Fellowship (2011–2014).

Key awards

Dr Cheryce Harrison

Women in Endocrinology Young Investigator Award at the 2011 Endocrine Society Annual Meeting in Boston, 4–7 June.

Four separate Southern Health Research Week 2011 Poster awards.

Dr Cheryce Harrison, Dr Heather Rowe, Dr Jane Fisher, Dr Anju Joham

Research Program Staff

Reproductive Health

Professor Helena Teede

Dr Cheryce Harrison

Dr Lisa Moran

Dr Georgia Soldatos

Ms Samantha Cassar

Ms Katherine McMahon

Ms Genia Burchall

Ms Nicole Ng

Women's Mental Health

Professor Jane Fisher

Dr Heather Rowe

Dr Maggie Kirkman

Dr Karen Wynter

Dr Karin Hammarberg

Dr Sonia McCallum

Dr Sara Holton

Dr Jillian Graham

Mr Thach Tran

Ms Minh Le Thi Hong

Ms Soledad Coe Calcagni

Ms Yao Xu

Healthy Lifestyles

Dr Cate Lombard

Ms Samantha Kozica

Indigenous Women's Health

Dr Jacqueline Boyle

Ms Madeleine Finney-Brown

Menopause

Dr Amanda Vincent

Dr Eveline Jona

Diabetes and Clinical Research

Associate Professor Sophia Zoungas

Dr Jennifer Wong

Dr Katherine Kibbey

Mr Sanjeeva Ranasinha

Dr Clem Lo

Dr Chin Tan

Ms Stella Chavarras

Ms Amanda Hulley

Evidence Synthesis

Professor Helena Teede

Dr Marie Misso

Ms Linda Downes

Research Operations

Ms Denise Best

Ms Melanie Gibson-Helm

Mr Sanjeeva Ranasinha

Ms Nicole Ng

Mr Eldho Paul

Ms Deborah Thompson

Honours student

Ms Madeleine Finney-Brown

PhD Students

Dr Anju Joham

Dr Samantha Hutchison

Dr Padaphet Sayakhot



Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH)



The Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH) is one of Australia's leading research and education centres in this field. The Centre brings together a vibrant team of over 30 researchers, PhD students, teaching and administrative staff who undertake and deliver diverse programs.

With expertise in a diverse range of epidemiological studies, MonCOEH's research focus is on the role and impact of workplace and environmental hazards. Our program includes studies on:

- Emerging technologies, such as nanoparticles;
- Mobile phone use and brain cancer and neurocognitive effects in young people;
- Respiratory and cardiac effects from air pollutants;
- Trends in workers' compensation data;
- Musculoskeletal disorders in nurses;
- Asbestos and mesothelioma;

- Bushfires and firefighters;
- The health of workers in the aluminium and petroleum industries;
- Health screening in workplaces; and
- Occupational contact dermatitis, the physiological work environment and the health effects of exposure to occupational sedentary time.

The Centre has an active PhD program, runs regular short courses and offers several postgraduate courses in occupational and environmental health (part or full-time study).

MonCOEH has many national and international research collaborators. The Centre is also applying to become a World Health Organisation Co-ordinating Centre in Occupational Health and has strong collaborative links in the Asia-Pacific region (including in Thailand, Malaysia and Sri Lanka).

Director



Professor Malcolm Sim

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

NHMRC Public Health Capacity Building Grant. 'Linking research, policy and health services to build a better evidence base for workplace public health', (2009–2013).

NHMRC-EU Grant. 'Risk of brain cancer from exposure to radiofrequency fields in childhood and adolescence', (2009–2013).

NHMRC Project Grant. 'Mobile phones, radiofrequency exposure and the development of cognitive function in primary school children', (2009–2011).

Other Grants

Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council. 'A retrospective cancer and mortality cohort study in Australian firefighters', (2011–2013).

WorkSafe Victoria. 'Evaluation of WorkHealth', (2010–2012).

ALCOA of Australia. HealthWise. 'A study of health and work in employees of Alcoa of Australia Limited', (2001–2012).

Department of Veterans Affairs. 'Follow-up study of the Australian Gulf War Veterans', (2010–2013).

Australian Institute of Petroleum. Health Watch. 'Maintenance of the Health Watch Cohort and commencement of New Health Watch Cohort', (2005–2012).

Institute for Safety Compensation and Recovery Research (ISCRR) Development Grant. 'A study on the comparison of wet work exposure, diagnosed occupational contact dermatitis and workers' compensation claims: Developing a public health policy response to wet work exposure', (2011).

Defense Health Foundation Grant. 'Musculoskeletal conditions – psychological comorbidities, quality of life and risk factors in Australian Gulf War veterans' (2011–2012).

Awards

Dr Peter Smith
Monash University Larkins Fellowship,
(2011–2013).

Dr Anjali Haikerwal
PhD Scholarship. Bushfire CRC,
(2011–2013).

Ms Aleksandra Natora
PhD Scholarship. WorkSafe Victoria/
ISCRR, (2011–2013).

Ms Breanna Wright
PhD Scholarship. Department of
Veterans Affairs, (2011–2013).

Dr Martine Dennekamp
Collier Charitable Fund. Equipment
Grant, (2011).

Dr Geza Benke
Career Development Award.
(2007–2011).

Dr Tessa Keegel
NHMRC Public Health Australian
Fellowship, (2010–2013).

Australasian Epidemiology Association
2011 International Travel Award.

Other Achievements

Dr Deborah Glass
Annals Occupational Hygiene.
Assistant Editor, (2011).

Dr Helen Kelsall
Member. Royal Australasian College of
Surgeons Ethics Committee, (2011).

Senior Research Fellows

Dr Geza Benke

Dr Deborah Glass

Dr Ryan Hoy

Dr Helen Kelsall

Dr Samia Radi

Dr Frederieke Schaafsma

Dr Peter Smith

Senior Lecturers

Mr Neville Betts

Dr David Elder

Dr David Fish

Dr David Goddard

Dr Rwth Stuckey

Research Fellows

Dr Jill Blackman

Mr Anthony Del Monaco

Dr Martine Dennekamp

Dr Tessa Keegel

Dr Ewan MacFarlane

Dr Imo Inyang

Research Assistants/ Research Officers

Ms Kristen Benke

Dr Roslin Botlero

Ms Christina Dimitriadis

Ms Stella Gwini

Ms Natasha Kinsman

Ms Ros Moye

Ms Sabine Pircher

Dr Mina Roberts

Mrs Rosa Schattner

Ms Elisa Wood

Visiting Academic

Dr Inoka Suraweera (Ministry of
Healthcare and Nutrition, Sri Lanka)

PhD Students

Dr Victor Hoe

Dr Anjali Haikerwal

Ms Aleksandra Natora

Ms Breanna Wright

Victorian Public Health Training Scheme Doctor of Public Health Program

Dr Marian Abouzeid

Dr Nathan Grills

Administrative Staff

Ms Emily Mulholland (Centre Manager)

Ms Jane Miosge (Administrator)



Musculoskeletal Epidemiology Unit



The focus of the work in the Musculoskeletal Epidemiology Unit is on novel approaches to the treatment and prevention of musculoskeletal diseases, particularly osteoarthritis (OA). This year, work continued in understanding the pathogenesis of knee OA. This has been underpinned by the ability to non-invasively examine joint structures with magnetic resonance imaging. The use of this technique has enabled us to explore the relationship between obesity and body composition and the association of these factors in OA. The results of some very exciting new work have provided evidence for the role of metabolic factors in knee OA. This offers potential for novel approaches to the treatment of knee OA. Parallel work is also continuing that explores the effect of physical activity on joint health.

We also commenced an NHMRC funded study aimed at determining whether Vitamin D prevents progression of knee osteoarthritis.

Following the success of the work in the knee, we are turning our attention to the hip, foot and back. These areas are relatively under-investigated but are major causes of pain and disability in the ageing population. We are developing the work through a number of key collaborations. These include The University of Tasmania, The University of Melbourne, The Anti-Cancer Council, La Trobe University, Griffith University, the Australian National Joint Replacement Registry, Deakin University, VU University Amsterdam, The University of Florida and The University of Montreal.

Head



Professor Flavia Cicuttini

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Project Grants

'Young people with old knees: knee ligament reconstruction and early joint changes', (2009–2013).

'Does vitamin D supplementation prevent progression of knee osteoarthritis? A randomised controlled trial', (2010–2012).

'Is low dose amitriptyline more effective than placebo in the management of chronic, neuropathic low back pain? A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial with an economic evaluation', (2012–2014)

Other Grants

Mesoblast Limited. Contract Research. 'A randomised, double-blind comparator study to assess the safety and tolerability of a single injection into the knee joint of two different doses of MSB-CAR001 combined with Hyaluronan compared to Hyaluronan alone in patients who have recently undergone knee reconstruction', (2009–2011).

Awards

2011 Spine Young Investigator Award (The International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine). The award was announced at the meeting in Gothenburg in June 2011 for the following study:

Urquhart, D.M., Berry PA, Wluka, A.E., Strauss, B., Wang, Y., Proietto, J., Jones, G., Dixon, J., Cicuttini, F.M. 'Increased fat mass is associated with high levels of low back pain intensity and disability'. Spine. 2011;36(16):1320-5.

Professor Flavia Cicuttini
2010 Parr Prize for best rheumatology research over the last three years.

Associate Professor Anita Wluka
NHMRC Career Development Award. 'Using good measurement principles to examine musculoskeletal disease and improve the evaluation of new diagnostic tests', (2009–2012).

Dr Donna Urquhart
NHMRC Career Development Fellowship. 'Optimising prevention and treatment strategies for low back pain and disability', (2011–2014).

Associate Professors

Associate Professor Anita Wluka
Associate Professor Changhai Ding

Research Fellows

Dr Donna Urquhart
Dr Yuanyuan Wang
Dr Fahad Hanna

Post Doctoral Fellow

Dr Miranda Davies Tuck

PhD students

Ms Stephanie Tanamas
Dr Andrew Teichtahl

Honours Students

Ms Alberta Jesslyn
Ms Ayudya Putri
Mr Jackson Kamaruddin
Mr Kevin Triangto
Ms Siti Fadhila

Visiting Academics

Dr Pushpika Jayalath
Dr Badrika Suranganie Wijesundara

Research Nurses

Ms Judy Hankin
Ms Alice Noone

Measure.

Tune.

Contrivance.

Ingenuity.

Dexterity.

Modulation.

Order.

System.

System.

Figures.

Calculation.

Estimates.

Desire for
Liquids.

Alimentiveness.

Obesity and Population Health Research Unit



The research program of the Obesity and Population Health Research Unit (OPHRU) aims to build the evidence base for public health policy regarding the prevention of obesity and its consequent diseases. The approach of this Unit is to identify and fill evidence gaps in three key areas. These are:

- Population distribution and trends in obesity;
- Health risks associated with obesity; and
- Health benefits associated with obesity-related interventions.

These three research strands are then combined using chronic disease modelling to interpret the associated population health implications. Currently the work is funded through a combination of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Australian Research Council (ARC) and VicHealth. Funding is also obtained from industry research contracts. PhD, Masters and Honours students are involved in most of the ongoing OPHRU projects.

Director



Dr Anna Peeters

The main research interests of the Unit are:

Trends and projections

The prevalence of obesity in children and adults has risen rapidly over the last few decades, in Australia and worldwide. It is important to understand the nature of these trends (and likely future trends), in order to appropriately prioritise obesity prevention and management strategies. In this work program, the Unit combines epidemiological analysis with chronic disease modelling techniques to fully understand the trends in obesity and related diseases.

Social inequalities in obesity and related diseases

It is well known that in Australia obesity is strongly socially patterned. However, there has been no analysis of the health implications of this unequal distribution of obesity or of the extent to which social inequalities in obesity may widen or of the potential effect of obesity prevention and management strategies on this health divide. This program of work focuses on each of these critical questions.

Obesity and disability

Obesity is a sizeable risk factor for many chronic diseases and with its increasing prevalence and multiple associated health risks it is one of the few threats to healthy ageing in Australia. It is critical to determine the extent to which the obesity epidemic will compromise our extra longevity. It can result in potentially leading us to live longer with disease and disability rather than free of it. There are no contemporary estimates of the

association between obesity in middle age and long-term disability. Nor are there any predictions of the potential population increases in disability associated with the current obesity trends. This work program aims to quantify the relationship between obesity in middle age and long-term incident disability and to predict the population increases in disability in Australia associated with current obesity trends.

The Global Corporate Challenge® Evaluation Study

Societal increases in obesity and physical inactivity have led to consideration of workplace interventions as a potential for improving health. However, long-term evaluations of such interventions are rare. In this program of work we have evaluated the Global Corporate Challenge® (GCC®), which engages employees to participate in a four month pedometer-based program aimed at increasing their physical activity levels. We have followed 750 participants for two years to determine the short and long-term health benefits of the program and to provide insight into factors that may improve the success of such programs. Such findings are essential for appropriate government and industry policy decisions in this area of chronic disease prevention.

Policy and regulation

There is an increasing acceptance that to manage the obesity epidemic will require government-led high-level policy and regulatory interventions. In this program of work, we are collaborating with Deakin University and the Michael Kirby Centre

for Public Health and Human Rights on an NHMRC grant to explore novel regulatory approaches to improving nutrition and physical activity levels in the population.

Grants

ARC Linkage Grant and VicHealth. 'What will it take to decrease socio-economic inequalities in obesity?', (2012–2014).

ARC Discovery Project Grant. 'Developing a disability policy model to target the prevention or reduction of limitations on functioning and wellbeing', (2012–2014).

NHMRC Discovery Project Grant. 'Predicting the impact of current obesity and diabetes trends on future prevalence of cardiovascular disease in Australia', (2012–2013).

NHMRC Discovery Project Grant. 'The role of Bisphenol A in the development of chronic disease', (2012–2013).

Other Grants

DART Project Grant. 'Long term population health impact of type 2 diabetes screening and prevention strategies among Australian adults', (2012).

Indonesian Danone Institute Foundation Grant. 'Total Exposure to Obesity in Terms of Obese-Years and the Risk of Cardiovascular Disease', (2012).

Monash Strategic Grant. 'Improved neurocognitive function associated with reduction in obesity – understanding underlying mechanisms: A pilot study', (2012).

Awards

Dr Helen Walls, Best PhD thesis. Monash School of Population Health and Preventive Medicine.

Ms Rosanne Freak-Poli, Winner best oral presentation. AMREP Early Career Researcher retreat. Best student paper. Australian Epidemiology Association Annual Scientific Meeting.

Ms Jessica Harding, Best public health abstract. Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society Annual Scientific Meeting.

Dr Karen Backholer, Nominee for best public health abstract. Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society Annual Scientific Meeting.

Staff

Dr Kathryn Backholer

Students

PhD Students

Ms Rosanne Freak-Poli

Dr Asnawi Abdullah
(completed PhD in 2011)

Masters Students

Ms Alexander Skinner

Honours Students

Ms Kumar Pasupathi

Ms Emma Gearon

BMedSci Student

Ms Imra Savitri



Pre-hospital, Emergency and Trauma Unit (PET)



The Pre-hospital, Emergency and Trauma Unit is headed by Associate Professor Belinda Gabbe. The unit is responsible for a number of clinical quality registries including the Victorian State Trauma Registry Outcomes Monitoring Group (VSTORM), the Victorian Orthopaedic Trauma

Outcomes Registry (VOTOR) and the Bi-national Burns Registry (Bi-NR). These registries play an important role in the health system and involve high-level interaction with senior industry, government, medical specialists and other professional and academic personnel.

Head



Associate Professor
Belinda Gabbe

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Project Grants

'Hyperbaric oxygen in lower limb trauma: a randomised controlled clinical trial', (2008–2012).

'The RINSE trial: the rapid infusion of cold normal saline by paramedics during CPR', (2011–2014).

Other Grants

Department of Health and Transport Accident Commission. 'The Operation and Utilisation of the Victorian State Trauma Registry', (2009–2011).

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. Research Grant. 'Burns Registry', (2010–2012).

Julian Burton Burns Trust Research Grant. 'Burns Registry', (2011–2012).

Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research (ISCRR). 'Victorian Orthopaedic Trauma Outcomes Registry (VOTOR)', (2011–2012).

Institute for Safety Compensation and Recovery Research, 'Classification, management and outcomes of severe pelvic ring fractures', (2011).

Institute for Safety Compensation and Recovery Research, 'Exploring patient perceptions of barriers and facilitators of recovery following trauma', (2011).

Spinal Cord Injury Network. 'Scoping study to enhance a spinal cord injury data connectivity within Australia and internationally', (2011).

Awards

Associate Professor Belinda Gabbe NHMRC Population Health Career Development Award. 'Improving the measurement and monitoring of long term outcomes following trauma', (2007–2011).

Mr Paul Jennings

Institute for Safety Compensation and Recovery Research. Fellowship. 'Persistent pain following transport and work related trauma in Victoria', (2011–2013).

Ms Natalie Picton

Australian and New Zealand Burns Association Conference. 'Best Science and Research Paper', (2011).

Senior Research Fellow

Associate Professor Belinda Gabbe

Data Systems Analysts

Mr Andrew Hannaford

Mr John Liman

Mr Yunus Nio

Research Fellows

Ms Dina Watterson

Mr Cameron Gosling

Mr Paul Jennings

PhD Students

Mr Cameron Gosling

Mr Paul Jennings

Dr Conor Deasy

Dr Luke Bonato

Ms Nadine Andrew

Dr Biswadev Mitra

Dr Gerard O'Reilly

Mr Cameron Palmer

Ms Lara Kimmel

Project Managers

Ms Ann Sutherland

Ms Melissa Hart

Ms Krystle Hiller

Ms Vina Nguyen

Ms Natalie Picton

Ms Sue McLellan

Senior Administrative Officer

Ms Jessica Oddy

Research Program Manager

Ms Mimi Morgan

VSTORM Data Manager

Ms Sue McLellan

The Preventive Medicine Unit



The Preventive Medicine Unit undertakes research and teaching activities in a broad range of areas related to disease prevention and public health. The research program includes elements of both community-wide and high-risk interventions. Individual projects include clinical trials, epidemiological modelling and cost-effectiveness analyses. Principal activities of the Unit include the Aspirin Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE) study

(please refer section on ASPREE page 28) that examines low-dose aspirin therapy in the elderly and the planning of a major cohort study of the elderly (VICS cohort).

Through its interest and expertise in study design, the Unit is also involved in collaborative projects with the Health Services Management Unit (page 72).

Head



Professor John McNeil

The Unit holds a number of grants most of which are shared between other Units and Divisions.

Senior Research Fellows

Dr Andrea Curtis

Dr Lisa Demos

Dr Louise Prentice

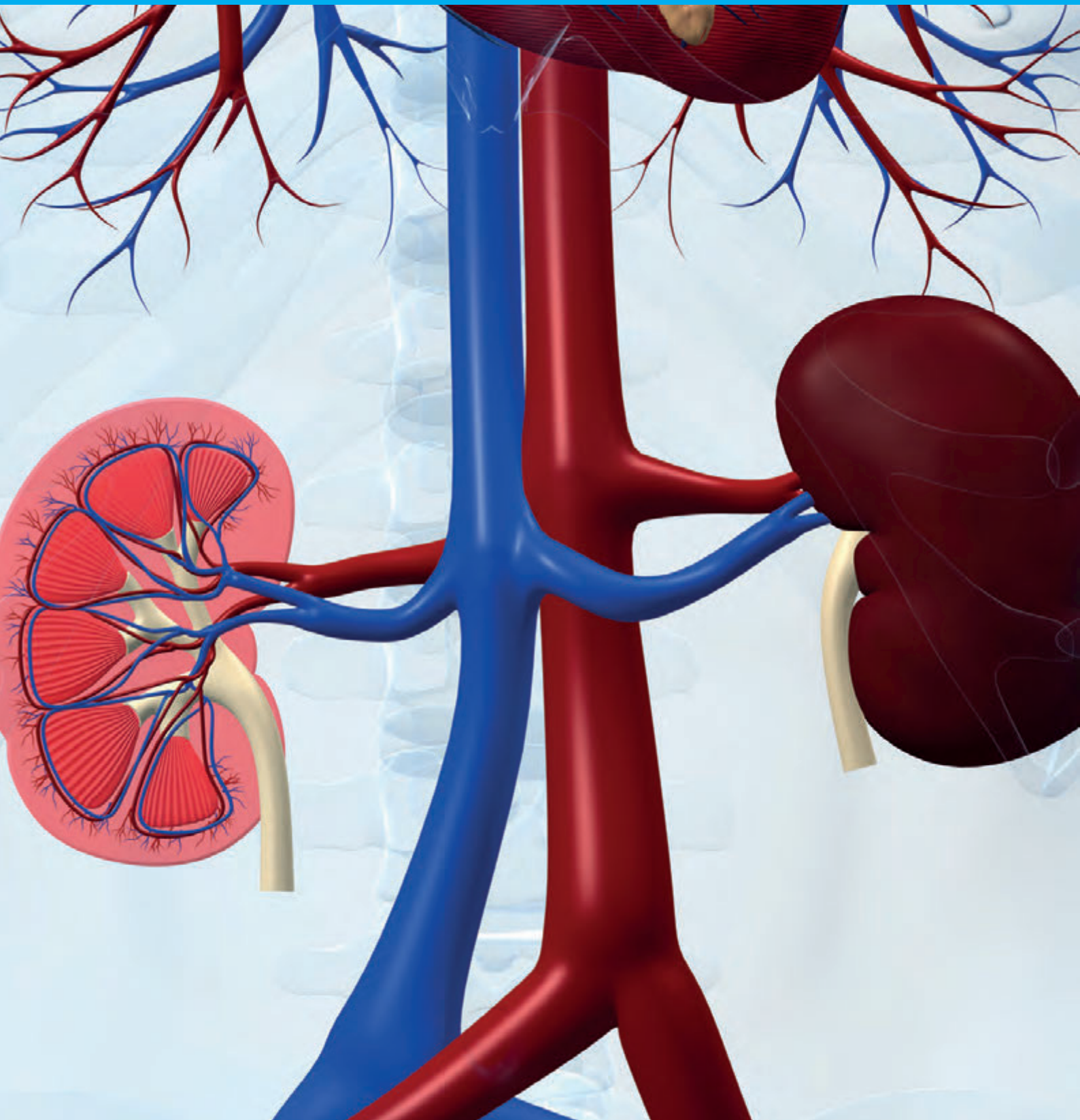
Dr Kathlyn Ronaldson

PhD Students

Professor Rinaldo Bellomo

Ms Basia Diug

Renal Disease Prevention Unit



The focus of the Renal Disease Prevention Unit is on the epidemiology of chronic kidney disease and its prevention. It is an integral part of the ongoing Australian Diabetes, Obesity, and Lifestyle Study (Aus-Diab), which has provided and continues to provide the most comprehensive data on kidney disease in the Australian community as well as interrelationships between kidney disease and other lifestyle diseases. The emphasis in this unit is on diabetic kidney disease, the most common cause of end stage kidney disease in Australia and worldwide. The Unit is part of a global Chronic Kidney Disease

Prognosis Consortium, a group that analyses multiple national studies for an international perspective.

The Unit also heads the Asia Pacific Co-coordinating Centre of the Collaborative Study Group, a collective of 300 worldwide nephrology centers. This group undertakes physician-initiated pharmaceutical studies on chronic kidney disease, in particular, diabetic nephropathy. Over the past five years, three major trials have been undertaken on three new drugs that reduce the progression of both mild and severe kidney disease.

Head



Professor Bob Atkins

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grant

NHMRC Project Grant. The Australian Diabetes Obesity and Lifestyle Study 3 (Ausdiab 3). 'Emerging risk factors for, and long term incidence of, cardio/metabolic diseases', (administered by Baker-IDI).

Other Grants

Lilly Protocol. 'H9V-MC-GFRF study', (2010–2012).

Research Governance

Below: The 2011 Research Governance Committee (L to R) front: Professor Olaf Drummer, Professor Andrew Forbes, Ms Marina Skiba, Dr Danny Hills; (L to R) back: Dr Elizabeth Douglas, Dr Jayamini Illesinghe, Associate Professor Robin Bell and Ms Jo McKenzie.



Research governance is defined as “the framework by which institutions support, monitor and attest to the safety, ethical acceptability and quality of the research they undertake.”¹

“The purpose of research governance is to ensure research integrity through accountability, transparency and responsibility. Good governance also seeks to ensure that research is carried out with the highest scientific and ethical standards, appropriate use of finances, and robust monitoring, review and evaluation processes.”²

Currently, Mrs Marina Skiba is the Acting Research Governance Coordinator. The Coordinator and the Research Governance Committee provide researchers with resources, advice and assistance to ensure that the School continues to meet high research conduct standards.

References

1. Anderson W. P., Cordner C. D., Breen K. J (2006). Strengthening Australia's framework for research oversight. *Med. J. Aust.* 184 (6): 261-263.
2. Poustie S. J., Taylor D., Forbes A. B., Skiba M. A., Nelson M.R., McNeil J.J (2006). Implementing a research governance framework for clinical and public health research. *Med. J. Aust.* 185 (11-12): 623-626.

Specific activities undertaken in 2011 included developing an online training package to be rolled out in 2012, upgrading the self audit to an online tool, exploring better electronic data transfer options and updating the content of the departmental Guide to Good Research Practice.

At the SPHPM, Research Governance is comprised of four elements. These are:

- A Research Governance Coordinator and Committee;
- Audits of research projects by the Research Governance Officer (RGO) and self audits by researchers;
- Induction of all new students; and
- Education through Good Research Practice short courses.

Acting Research Governance Coordinator



Ms Marina Skiba

Members of the Committee

Professor John McNeil

Associate Professor Damien Jolley

Dr Jayamini Illesinghe

Dr Elizabeth Douglas

Ms Joanne McKenzie

Dr Leah Brennan

Professor Olaf Drummer

Professor Joan Ozanne-Smith

Professor Helen Keleher

Professor Jane Fisher

Professor Susan Davis

Associate Professor Robin Bell

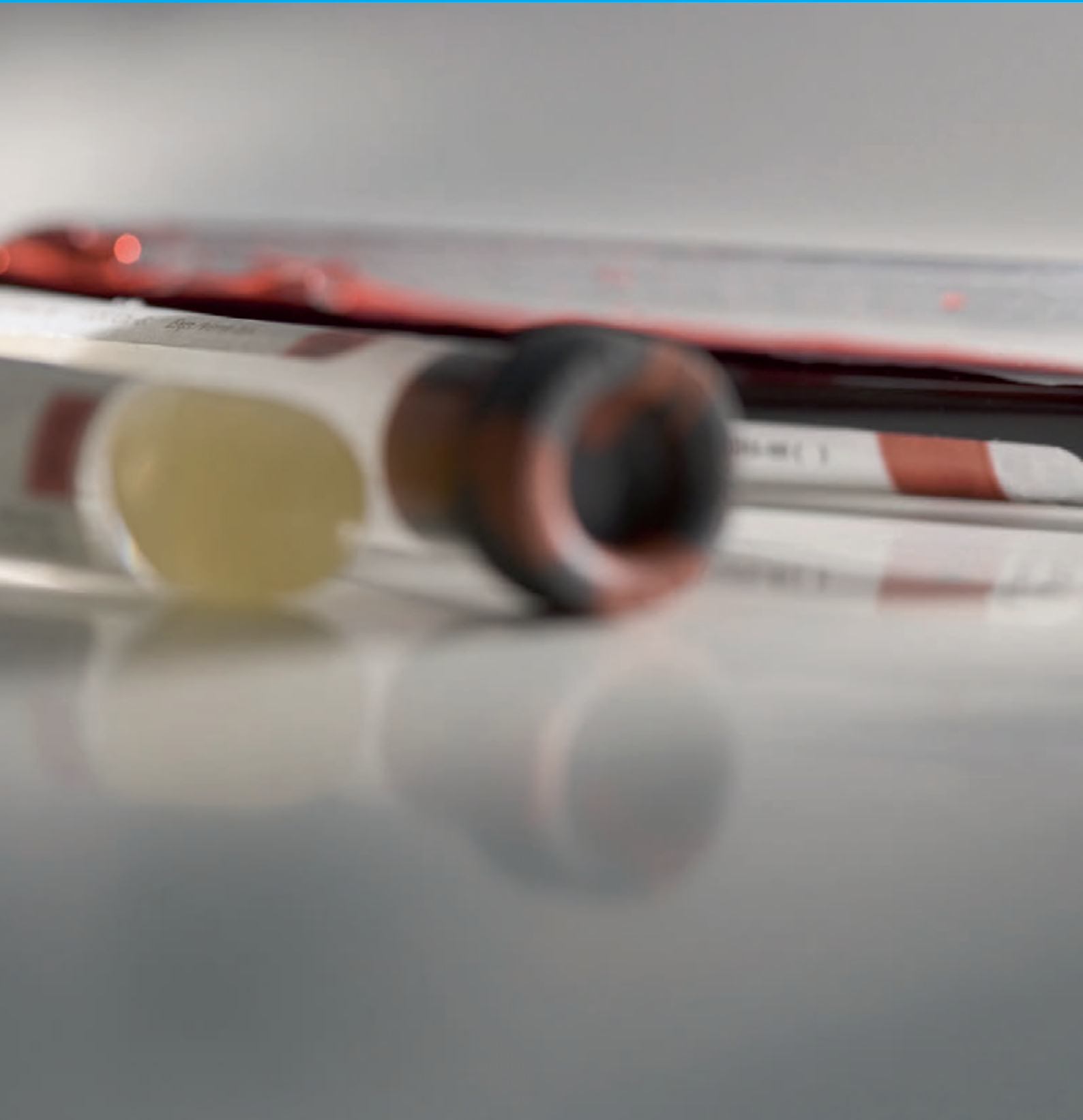
Associate Professor Allen Cheng

Professor Andrew Forbes

Mr Danny Hills

Ms Marina Skiba
(Chair, Acting Research
Governance Officer)

Transfusion Research Unit



The Transfusion Research Unit (TRU) was formed as a result of a reorganisation of the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, undertaken at the beginning of 2010. The Unit is responsible for a number of transfusion-related projects and has a particularly active relationship with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. TRU is the home of the Transfusion Outcomes Research Collaborative (TORC), which is a partnership between the Blood Service and Monash University's Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (DEPM). This collaboration has been pivotal to the design and process of relevant and pioneering research in the area of transfusion.

A large program of work being undertaken by TORC is the Transfusion Research: Improving Outcomes (TRIO) program. This work is funded through a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Grant in conjunction with the Blood Service and the Victorian Government Department of Health. A variety of sources and methodologies are used in this program to examine data related to transfusion. These include data linkage projects (in collaboration with clinicians at hospitals) and custodians of major clinical quality registries (eg the Victorian State Trauma Registry Outcomes Monitoring Group (VSTORM), The Australian Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons (ASCTS) and the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Adult Patient Database (ANZICS-APD). Modelling

and monitoring projects using this data and human factors research into various aspects of decision making around transfusion are also being examined.

Under the auspices of TORC, TRU has established a number of new registries to collect information about rare blood disorders. These are the Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (TTP) Registry, the Neonatal Alloimmune Thrombocytopenia (NAIT) Registry, the Aplastic Anaemia (AA) Registry and a bi-national Massive Transfusion Registry.

In collaboration with the DEPM and the Epidemiological Modelling and Infectious Diseases Units, TORC is developing a model of the clinical demand for blood products. This will enable the study of the impact of a major blood shortage during events such as disasters or pandemics.

A cohort study of patients with Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) has also been established.

Major randomised controlled trials studying the impact of the age of red cells are planned in conjunction with the ANZIC-Research Centre. These include the TRANSFUSE-RCT (Standard issue transfusion versus fresher red blood cell use in intensive care – a randomised control trial) that is funded through an NHMRC grant (2012-2015) and the McMaster Transfusion Research Program (INFORM-RCT, application submitted to Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)).

Head



Dr Louise Phillips

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Grants

NHMRC Partnership grant (in partnership with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and the Victorian Department of Health). McNeil, J. 'Transfusion Research: Improving Outcomes (TRIO)', (2010–2012).

NHMRC Peter Doherty Postdoctoral Training Fellowship, Dr Amanda Zatta (2010–2013)

NHMRC Medical and Dental Postgraduate Research Scholarship, Dr Zoe McQuilten (2011–2013)

Other Grants

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service, New Zealand Blood Service and CSL Biotherapies Pty Ltd. 'Massive Transfusion Registry'. (2011–2012)

The Australian Centre for Blood Diseases. 'Venous thromboembolism cohort study' (2010–2012)

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service. 'Australia's blood supply in a major disaster or pandemic: how will we meet clinical demand?' (2010–2012)

Alexion Pharmaceuticals and Genzyme Australasia Pty Ltd. 'Aplastic Anaemia Registry'. (2011–2012)

Alexion Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd. 'TTP
Registry (2011-2012)

Awards and Achievements

Dr Zoe McQuilten
NHMRC Medical and Dental
Postgraduate Research Scholarship.

Staff

Senior Research Fellows

Dr Shelly Jeffcott
Dr Louise Phillips

Clinical Research Fellow/PhD Student

Dr Zoe McQuilten

Research Fellows

Dr Liam Chadwick
Dr Rangi Kandane-Rathnayake
Dr Amanda Zatta

Research Assistants

Ms Naomi Aoki
Ms Joanne Enticott
Dr Rosemary McGinnes
Mr James Sloane

Ethics Officer

Ms Stephanie Levy

Administrative Staff

Ms Rosalie Clementson
Ms Romy Granek



5

10

15

1

2

3

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5

6

Water Quality Unit



Members of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit working within the Water Quality Unit are involved in research on water quality and public health. They also study the impact of environmental conditions on infectious diseases. There is a particular focus on assessing and managing the health impacts of microbial

pathogens in conventional water supplies and alternative water sources such as rainwater, greywater, and recycled water. The staff at the Unit are also involved in updating the national water guidelines and in the research program of the national research organisation (Water Quality Research Australia).

Head



Associate Professor
Karin Leder

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Project Grants

'Establishing Australian health based targets for microbial water quality', (2010–2011).

Other grants

Smart Water Fund (Victoria). Project Grant. 'Greywater use in the backyard: what are the health risks?', (2010–2011).

Water Quality Research Australia. 'Treatment requirements for Australian source waters to meet health-based targets', (2011).

Water Quality Research Australia. 'Rainwater through Hot Water Services - Microbial Risk Assessment', (2011).

Water Quality Research Australia. Project Grant. 'Exposure assessment using cyanuric acid – Stage 1', (2010).

Water Quality Research Australia. 'Health Stream Newsletter', (ongoing, commencing 2009).

Awards and Achievements

Associate Professor Karin Leder
NHMRC Career Development Award, (2011–2014).

Dr Joanne O' Toole
National Water Commission Fellowship, (2010–2011).

Australian Academy of Science Grant, (2010–2011). Scientific visits to Europe program.

NHMRC Training Fellowship, (2011–2014).

Senior Research Fellows

Dr Martha Sinclair

Dr Robert Hall

Dr Katherine Gibney

Research Fellow

Dr Joanne O'Toole

Research Assistants

Ms Katie Dale

Ms Pam Hayes

Visiting Academic

Dr Manori Malawaraarachchi, (2010–2011).

Womens Health Research – Alfred



The Women's Health Research Program undertakes research that leads directly to disease prevention, improved clinical care and better health outcomes for women in the community. Our focus is on the most common health issues that affect women throughout adult life and that impact most on health and wellbeing.

The Program provides continually updated health education for the community and health.

Professionals through the website and monthly bulletins. It provides training for health care professionals in women's health and opportunities for young researchers to undertake Honours, Masters and PhD studies are also available in the Program.

In 2011 we reported on the incidence and remission rate of different forms of urinary

incontinence in Australian women as well as the prevalence faecal incontinence and the relationship of this condition with urinary incontinence. From the Bupa Health Foundation Health and Wellbeing after Breast Cancer Study we reported on patterns of cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption after breast cancer diagnosis and have identified a high rate of sexual problems in women after breast cancer (papers published in 2011). Our pilot research published this year, suggesting that testosterone therapy may have positive effects on cognitive performance in postmenopausal women, has led to the conduct of a larger clinical trial of the effects of testosterone on cognitive function in postmenopausal women. This study will conclude in 2012.

Director



Professor Susan Davis

Grants

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Project Grant. 'Transdermal testosterone therapy: a potential treatment for SSRI – associated sexual dysfunction', (2011–2012).

Bupa Health Foundation. 'Health and Wellbeing after Breast Cancer Study', (2010–2013).

Bupa Health Foundation. 'Metformin for the management of insulin resistance in overweight women in midlife', (2010–2011).

Oxford Clinical Trials Group. 'The ATLAS study: Adjuvant Tamoxifen – longer against shorter', (2011).

BioSante. 'The effect of transdermal testosterone gel 300mcg daily on cognitive performance in older postmenopausal women: A randomised placebo controlled trial', (2010–2011).

Awards

Professor Susan Davis
NHMRC Research Fellowship, 2008–2012.

Dr Sonia Davison
Monash University Senior Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2011.

Associate Professor Robin Bell
Australasian Menopause Society Scientific Award (2011) for the most meritorious contribution to the field of menopause based on a published or accepted paper in the previous 12 months.

Ms Tessa O'Halloran
(BMedSci student, 2011)
The Jean Hailes Memorial Prize for the best presentation by a young investigator. Australasian Menopause Society Annual Conference (2011).

The Bachelor of Medical Science student poster award

Professor Susan Davis
The Henry Burger Prize of the International Menopause Society (2011) for the most significant published contribution to the field of menopause in the preceding three years.

Deputy Director

Associate Professor Robin Bell

Research Fellows

Dr Sonia Davison

Dr Mary Panjari

Dr Fiona Jane

Research Staff

Ms Jenny Adams

Ms Corallee Morrow

Ms Jo Bradbury

Ms Penny Robinson

PhD Students

Dr Roslin Botlero

Ms Ensieh Fooladi

BMedSci Student

Ms Tessa O'Halloran

Administrative Staff

Ms Sharon Gurry

Ms Maria La China

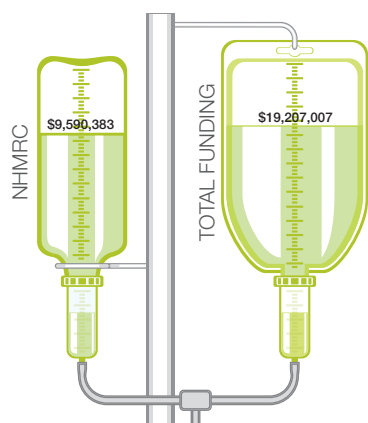
Affiliate

Dr Pamela Fradkin

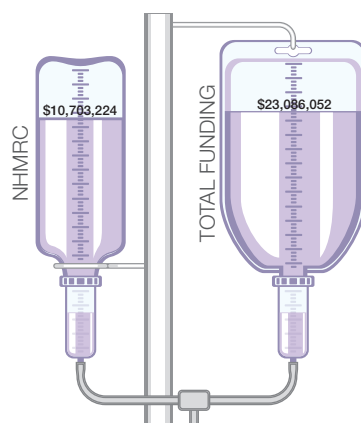




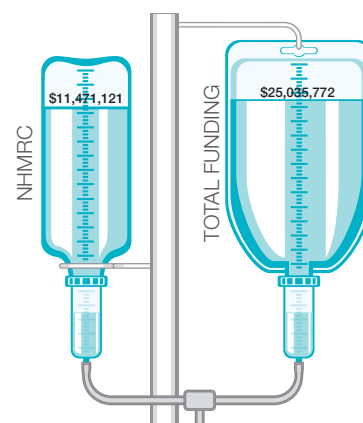
Funding sources



2009 Funding	
NHMRC	\$9,590,383
Total	\$19,207,007



2010 Funding	
NHMRC	\$10,703,224
Total	\$23,086,052



2011 Funding	
NHMRC	\$11,471,121
Total	\$25,035,772

Source	Investigators and project title	Duration (years)	Period	2011 Funds (\$)	Total Funds (\$)
Australian Research Council Discovery Project	J. Fisher. Maternal mental health and anaemia as determinants of infant health and development in resource constrained settings	1	2011	61,131	61,131
Arthritis Australia Fellowship	Y. Wang. Identification of novel risk factors for hip osteoarthritis using different approaches: magnetic resonance imaging-assessed hip structural changes and risk of total hip replacement	2	2011–2012	50,000	50,000
Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council Ltd Contract Research	D. Glass, J. Blackman and M. Sim. Determinants and risk of seizures/epilepsy in adults after Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): A systematic review and (possible) meta-analysis	3	2011–2013	750,000	1,213,300
beyondblue: The National Depression Initiative National Priority Driven Research Program	J. Fisher and H. Rowe. New parents' views about the prevention of postnatal depression and anxiety with a new internet source: www.whatwerewethinking.org.au	2	2011–2012	5,000	5,000
BG Medicine Inc Contract Research	H. Krum. Galectin-3 and prognosis in HFPEF: I – PRESERVE substudy	1	2011	3,260	9,784
Bushfire CRC Scholarship	A. Haikerwal. Bushfire CRC PhD Scholarship	3	2011–2014	28,000	84,000

Source	Investigators and project title	Duration (years)	Period	2011 Funds (\$)	Total Funds (\$)
Cancer Australia Contract	C. Stevenson. Request of the small numbers index tool	2	2011–2012	13,200	13,200
	J. McNeil, A. Curtis and L. Demos. Colonoscopy surveillance project	1	2011	65,891	65,891
Cancer Australia Priority Driven	S. Evans, D. Bolton, A. Costello, I. Davis, A. Frauman, M. Frydenberg, G. Giles, D. Jolley, J. McNeil and J. Millar. Determining the causes of observed variation in survival after diagnosis of prostate cancer (Measuring and explaining variation in outcome following diagnosis of prostate cancer)	3	2011–2013	181,910	570,552
City of Greater Dandenong Contract Research	C. Livingstone and R. Clein. Development of an online training tool for health and welfare professionals – Problem gambling Issues, how to identify and work with clients with gambling issues	1	2011	7,500	7,500
Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Contract Research	M. Sim. Determinants and risk of seizures/epilepsy in adults after Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): A systematic review and (possible) meta-analysis	1	2011	15,000	15,000
Cochrane Collaboration	S. McDonald. Research, development and implementing of a project series for Cochrane Training	3	2011–2013	31,800	159,000
Collier Charitable Fund Equipment Grant	H. Teede and Ms Melanie Gibson-Helm. Refrigerated Centrifuge	1	2011	2,452	2,452
Connie and Craig Kimberley Research Donation	S. Davis, R. Bell and M. Panjari. The BUPA Health Foundation Health and Wellbeing after Breast Cancer study	2	2011–2012	70,000	140,000
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Contract	J. Fisher and H. Rowe. Investigate the acceptability, feasibility and resource implication for maternal and child health (MCH) services of 'What Were We Thinking! (WWWT!)' program	2	2011–2012	75,000	200,000
Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)	J. Fisher and H. Rowe. Communities for Children (CFC) Direct Service	3	2011–2013	178,370	535,111
Defence Health Foundation Grant	H. Kelsall, J. Blackman, A. Forbes, D. McKenzie and M. Sim. Musculoskeletal conditions – psychological comorbidities, quality of life and risk factors in Australian Gulf War veterans	2	2011–2012	54,000	59,860

Source	Investigators and project title	Duration (years)	Period	2011 Funds (\$)	Total Funds (\$)
Defence Science and Technology Organisation Contract Research	A. Cheng. Development of a system to detect disease outbreaks in semi-isolated communities using automated monitoring of electronic data	1	2011	28,673.00	28,673
Department of Health (Victoria) Grant	S. Evans and J. Millar. Expansion of the Prostate Cancer Registry across Victoria	1	2011	130,130	130,130
Department of Health Victoria Grant	J. McNeil, C. Reid and A. Tonkin. Operationalise a cardiac procedures registry in Victoria	1	2011–2012	66,667	200,000
Diabetes Australia (Queensland) Contract Research	B. Oldenburg, D. Bird. Best buys for prevention, detection and management	1	2011	20,000	20,000
Diabetes Australia (Queensland), Diabetes Australia (Victoria) Contract Research	B. Oldenburg and D. Bird. AUS TLC Mark II	0.50	2011	60,000	60,000
Genzyme Australasia Contract Research	L. Phillips. Aplastic Anaemia Registry	1	2011	35,000	35,000
Heart Foundation CDA	S. Zoungas. Improving the health outcomes of people with diabetes: developing and evaluating strategies to prevent and manage cardiovascular disease	3	2011–2013	127,769	421,676
Intensive Care Foundation Research Grant	R. Bellomo, J. Cooper, E. Moore and N. Alistair. Acute kidney injury: Investigating treatments and finding new markers for its early detection in patients with Traumatic Brain Injury	2	2011–2012	6,776	13,552
Medibank Grant	J. McNeil, C. Reid and A. Tonkin. Operationalise a cardiac procedures registry in Victoria	1	2011–2012	333,333	1,000,000
MonashLink Community Health Services Ltd Contract Research	H. Keleher. Community profile	1	2011	20,000	20,000
National Breast Cancer Foundation Grant	H. Teede. Survivorship: risk awareness and lifestyle intervention to reduce modifiable risk factors for recurrence and impact of breast cancer treatment on health (Phase 1 Think Tank)	1	2011	15,000	15,000

Source	Investigators and project title	Duration (years)	Period	2011 Funds (\$)	Total Funds (\$)
NHMRC Career Development Award Level 1 – Clinical	K. Leder. Improving knowledge regarding the burden of infection associated with water exposure and with international travel – addressing data gaps to improve policy and practice	4	2011–2014	96,040	384,160
	A. Cheng. Improving the prevention and clinical management of infectious diseases	4	2011–2014	72,055	288,220
	D. Urquhart. Optimising prevention and therapeutic strategies for low back pain and disability	4	2011–2014	96,040	384,160
NHMRC Equipment Grant	H. Krum, L. Bach, F. Cicuttini, C. Ding, J. McNeil, M. Plebanski, C. Reid, B. Wang, R. Woods and S. Xiang. Luminex (200) – a compact laboratory analysis system integrating lasers, optics, fluidics, a controller and advanced signal processing software unit	2	2011–2012	67,000	67,000
NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship Award	Z. McQuilten	2	2011–2012	35,750	72,000
NHMRC Project	M. Pirotta and H. Teede. Randomised sham-controlled trial of acupuncture for post-menopausal hot flushes	3	2011–2013	11,880	39,900
NHMRC Project Grant	K. Leslie, D. Story, M. Paech, C. Chow and P. Myles. POISE-2: A large, international, placebo – controlled, factorial trial to assess the impact of clonidine and aspirin in patients undergoing noncardiac surgery who are at risk of a perioperative cardiovascular event	5	2011–2015	226,262	1,136,310
	M. Abramson. Third Euro-Australian respiratory health survey	3	2011–2013	97,508	343,029
	C. Ding, F. Cicuttini, G. Jones, S. Quinn, T. Winzenberg and A. Wluka. Does Vitamin D supplementation prevent progression of knee osteoarthritis? A randomised controlled trial	2	2011–2012	71,250	376,650
	F. Cicuttini. Young people with old knees: Knee ligament reconstruction and early joint changes	3	2011–2013	19,875	64,000
	A. Barker, C. Brand, D. Jolley, K. Hill, T. Haines, S. Brauer and M. Botti. Falls prevention in the acute hospital setting: a multi-centre cluster randomised controlled trial of efficacy, cost effectiveness and sustainability of the 6-PACK program	4	2011–2014	398,001	1,179,850

Source	Investigators and project title	Duration (years)	Period	2011 Funds (\$)	Total Funds (\$)
NHMRC Project Grant	B. Oldenburg, E. Fisher, R. Tapp, P. Zimmet, D. Jolley, B. Hollingsworth and K. Thankappan. Kerala Diabetes Prevention Program (K-DPP): A cluster RCT of its effectiveness and cost-effectiveness	5	2011–2015	250,398	1,046,991
	H. Teede and M. Pirotta. Randomised sham-controlled trial of acupuncture for post – menopausal hot flushes	3	2011–2013	11,850	39,900
	J. Fisher, C. Apicella, M. Hickey, L. Keogh, M. Kirkman and I. Winship. What matters to women diagnosed with breast cancer during their reproductive years? A qualitative investigation of fertility, reproductive health, heritability, and related psychosocial needs	2	2011–2012	159,604	314,208
	S. Davis, J. Kulkarni and R. Bell. Transdermal testosterone therapy: a potential treatment for selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI)-associated sexual dysfunction in women	2	2011–2012	130,148	235,296
	A. Forbes, L. Gurrin, A. Hodge and J. Simpson. Mediterranean diet and mortality: Analysis of longitudinal dietary patterns using newly developed statistical methods	3	2011–2013	158,358	330,058
NHMRC Project Grant 2011	S. Bernard, P. Cameron, I. Jacobs, K. Smith and J. Finn. The RINSE trial: the rapid infusion of cold normal saline by paramedics during CPR	4	2011–2014	169,472	677,888
	S. Green, H. Jeffery, S. McDonald, M. Lahra, M. Laopaiboon, J. McKenzie and P. Lumbigonon. SEA-URCHIN: South East Asia – Using research for change in hospital – acquired infection in neonates	5	2011–2015	459,182	2,179,916
NHMRC Project Grant MIA	S. Redman, S. Green, C. D'este and J. Louviere. Centre for Informing Policy in Health with Evidence from Research (CIPHER)	5	2011–2015	494,325	494,325
NHMRC Research Training Fellowship	J. Boyle. Improving health in indigenous adolescents	4	2011–2014	80,008	320,032
Parent Research Centre Contract Research	J. Fisher, H. Rowe, M. Kirkman and K. Hammaberg. Social and emotional support in facilitated peer-groups: a multiple method investigation of peer support	0.5	2011	200,000	200,000
Southern Health Grant	C. Shilagy and S. McDonald. Support for the Cochrane Consumers and Communication Review Group's Trials Register	1	2011	38,180	38,180
Spinal Cord Injury Network Contract Research	P. Cameron, B. Gabbe and J. McNeil. Scoping study to enhance a spinal cord injury data connectivity within Australia and internationally	1	2011	68,152	68,152

Source	Investigators and project title	Duration (years)	Period	2011 Funds (\$)	Total Funds (\$)
Swiss Charitable Foundation Grant	B. Loff, L. Pisay and C. Overs. Proposal to establish legal services for entertainment and sex workers in Cambodia	1	2011	105,400	105,400
Transport Accident Commision (TAC) Institute for Safety Compensation and Recovery Research Contract Research	P. Cameron. Victorian Orthopaedic Trauma Outcomes Registry (VOTOR)	2	2011–2012	250,558	520,375
Transport Accident Commission (TAC), Victoria Work Cover Authority Contract Research	B. Gabbe, N. Christie, C. Gosling, M. Hart, J. Sleneym, A. Sutherland and D. Watterson. Exploring patient perceptions of barriers and facilitators of recovery following trauma	1	2011	26,295	26,295
Transport Accident Commission (TAC): Contract Research	B. Gabbe, A. Bucknill, P. Cameron, M. Esser, M. Russ and R. de Steiger. Classification, management and outcomes of severe pelvic ring fractures	1	2011	24,468	24,468
Vic Roads Grant	R. McClure and C.Reid. Evaluation services for novice driver program trial contract No 7713	5	2011–2015	118,579	592,867
VicHealth Grant	C. Livingstone. Public health approach to problem gambling: Applying the lessons from tobacco control	1	2011-2012	8000	8000
VicHealth Contract Research	C. Livingstone and R.Wolley. Gambling and sport	1	2011	18,000	18,000
Victorian Cancer Agency	R. Bell. Research Fellowship	2	2011–2012	164,118	362,986
Victorian Managed Insurance Authority Contract Research	C. Brand, R. McGuinness. Causes and contributing factors driving preventable adverse events in priority areas	1	2011	24,999	249,999
Victorian WorkCover Authority (WorkSafe Victoria) Postgraduate Scholarship	A. Natora and M. Sim. Trends and risk factors for work-related disorders in Victoria	3	2011–2013	22,500	67,500
Windermere Child and Family Services Special Grant	D. Ayton. The impact of the COACH mentoring program on child and youth health and wellbeing	1	2011	14,953	14,953
Worksafe Victoria via Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research (ISCRR), Transport Accident Commission (TAC) via ISCRR Contract Research	T. Keegel. Comparison of wet work exposure, diagnosed occupational contact dermatitis and workers' compensation claims: Developing a public health policy response to wet work exposure	1	2011	38,983	38,893
World Bank Contract Research	A. Mahal. Malaysia Public Expenditure Review 2011. Health Sector: Policy, expenditure, and management	1	2011	53,906	53,906

Undergraduate Training

Undergraduate

In 2011 Staff of the SPHPM taught in four undergraduate programmes:

- Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS);
- Bachelor of Biomedical Science (BBiomedSc);
- Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc); and
- Bachelor of Law (LB).

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

A number of SPHPM staff teach in the MBBS programme. These include Dr Robert Hall (course coordinator), Professor Just Stoelwinder, Dr Dragan Ilic, Dr David Goddard, Dr Rosalie Aroni and Professor Michael Abramson. The School mainly teaches the Theme 2, *Population, Society, Health and Illness* of the MBBS programme. This theme includes units in:

- health and society in the first year;
- community based practice in second year;
- occupational and environmental medicine in third year (year 2 at Clayton/year B at Churchill); and
- evidence-based clinical practice in third and fourth years;
- health services management in fourth year (year 4 at Clayton/year C at Churchill).

Dr Rosalie Aroni coordinates the unit, Health and Society, Dr Robert Hall and Dr Craig Hassed (from the Department of General Practice) coordinate the unit Community-based Practice, Dr Dragan Ilic coordinates Evidence-based Clinical Practice, and Prof Just Stoelwinder coordinates the unit Health Services Management and Practice

Community-based Practice

Second year students undertake a unit in the community-based practice program on health promotion. Dr Robert Hall and Dr Craig Hassed (from the Department of General Practice) coordinate this unit and teach it at Clayton. This unit introduces students to community-based organisations and it is their first contact with patients and clients where they learn about their professional role. A key component in this unit is learning about the place of health promotion in modern health care. Students undertake a research project in groups of three to five and the aim is to develop an understanding of the pivotal role of research in developing an evidence base for practice. The project is undertaken with the community-based organisation and students present their results at a poster presentation day at the end of the unit. The Chris Silagy Award is awarded each year for the best research presentation and report.

Occupational and Environmental Medicine

The programs in occupational medicine and environmental medicine for Year 3 (undergraduate) and Year B (graduate entry) students are held in the second semester. During each of the last seven years, there has been a gradual increase in the number of students.

Evidence Based Clinical Practice

(EBCP) unit is coordinated by Dr Dragan Ilic and delivered at Clayton and Churchill. The unit aims to equip students with the skills to identify, appraise and integrate the best available evidence to their clinical training and practice.

In 2011, the EBCP unit was delivered to over 300 3rd year MBBS students across six metropolitan and two rural clinical sites in Victoria. Collaboration between Dr Dragan Ilic and Associate Professor Elmer Villanueva saw the development, implementation and evaluation of a novel EBCP program administered to the GMS students.

The EBCP program was also exclusively delivered as online teaching to over 400 4th year MBBS students across all metropolitan Melbourne and Rural sites in Australia, Malaysia and the Gippsland region.

Health services management and policy

The Health Services Management and Research Unit of the School teaches 'Health services management and policy' to over 450 students in the 4th year of the MBBS course in Clayton and in Sunway Malaysia and in Year C of the Gippsland course. This program is part of Theme II 'Knowledge and Society' and represents 10% of the curriculum for Semester 1. The overall aim of the program is to provide background knowledge and understanding about health management and policy issues that effect the medical practitioner's clinical practice. A broad range of issues are covered including the coordination of clinical care through mechanisms such as guidelines and pathways, team work and case management; patient safety; risk management; clinical governance; accountability; and strategies to change clinical practice. Teaching materials are presented online in 13 modules and students across all Monash's campuses are mixed in weekly Discussion Groups, moderated by senior medical administrators and practitioners

Undergraduate and Graduate Entry Medical Law Programs

Medical Law Tutorial Program

This tutorial style teaching program was again conducted in 2011 with the generous support of two medical indemnity insurers AVANT and MIPS.

Clayton Undergraduate MBBS Program

During 2011, tutorial sessions in years 1, 3 and 4 of the Clayton MBBS program were successfully delivered, at both metropolitan and rural teaching sites. In addition to the Clayton campus, metropolitan tutorials were also delivered at Monash Medical Centre, the Alfred, Cabrini, Box Hill and Peninsular hospitals. Rural tutorial delivery sites included Mildura, Bendigo, Traralgon and Sale and Bairnsdale hospitals. As in the past, the program was delivered by highly qualified legal and clinical experts including the Victorian Health Services Commissioner, a former President of the Mental Health Review Tribunal and several Tribunal members, a former Public Advocate and OPA staff members as well as lawyers from a number of leading Melbourne law firms. Class materials and tutors' notes for each year level of the program have been substantially revised and updated for 2012.

A summary outline of approximately ten pages has been developed for each of the ten tutorial topics and will be distributed to students in addition to the more comprehensive class materials with the expectation that a summary format will enable students to navigate the detailed topic content more easily.

The medical law program has now been successfully delivered over a ten year period. An evaluation survey of medical graduates' views of the program's educational effectiveness was conducted earlier this year. Survey results indicated that the content of the medical law program is of relevance to clinical decision-making. This is an extremely, important and satisfying educational outcome which provides outstanding testimony to both the content and delivery of the program. In response to survey findings concerning student preferences in relation to the scheduling of medical law topics throughout the curriculum, two topics formerly taught in year 1, will be re-scheduled for delivery in year 2 commencing in 2013. In addition, medical law teaching will be incorporated in year 5 as part of the Patient Safety elective.

Churchill Graduate Entry MBBS Program

Years A and B of the Gippsland graduate-entry medical law program, each comprising half day seminar sessions, were successfully delivered at the Monash Churchill campus during 2011. The sessions incorporated a multi-disciplinary panel discussion by legal, ethics and clinical experts. Break-out sessions enabling students to discuss key issues in greater depth within a small group setting followed expert panel discussions. In year C, medical law tutorials were substituted for seminar sessions following a decision of the year C Management committee.

Elements of Forensic Medicine

For 22 years, the Department of Forensic Medicine and the Faculty of Law have jointly offered teaching to undergraduate law students in the Elements of Forensic Medicine unit, a unique option in the Law curriculum.

Each year Emeritus Professor Louis Waller and Professor Stephen Cordner provide current and relevant information to students using a variety of sources. The unit continues to be popular, with 47 students enrolled in 2011.

Some of the highlights for the students were the site visit to the Victoria Police Forensic Services Department at Macleod and presentations by senior staff members from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM), the Forensic Services Centre and Forensicare. The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine Prize for Elements of Forensic Medicine (\$500), which is sponsored by the Department of Forensic Medicine, is awarded to the student who achieves the highest mark. This was awarded to Ms Alison Ross for being the best student in 2011.

Bachelor of Biomedical Science

The School teaches three units of the BBiomedSc program. There is one core unit, Biomedical Sciences and Society and two elective units, Introduction to the Health System, and Contemporary Health Challenges. The Contemporary Health Challenges unit, which is part of the BHSc program, was again offered to BBiomedSci students. There are plans to further increase the number of electives in coming years. When they graduate, BBiomedSci students can choose from a variety of careers, so we aim to stimulate their interest in population health. The students learn foundation concepts in epidemiology and public health, including how health is maintained and how illness is controlled at local, regional and national levels.

Bachelor of Health Science

Bachelor of Health Science/Bachelor of Social Work

Bachelor of Health Science/Bachelor of Business

Honours in Bachelor of Health Science

The Bachelor of Health Science (BHSc) was redeveloped in 2010 to introduce a greater focus on global health challenges and public health research methods and in 2011 progressed to its second year of implementation in this modified form. During the year the core units that were offered for the first time were HSC2141 Analysing Patterns of Health and Disease, HSC2101 Health Promotion: Global and Local and HSC2022 Culture, Society and Health. HSC2111 Treatments and Technologies and HSC2102 Introduction to Clinical Research were offered in the Clinical and Public Health Sciences major sequence. A Monash Depth Unit, Mon2002 Improving Health Futures in a Global World, was offered through the International Public Health Unit to students studying Health Sciences and other courses from across the University.

In 2011, there were a total of 148 students enrolled in the BHSc. Ninety-five students were enrolled in the four-year Bachelor of Health Science/Bachelor of Social Work double degree in 2011. The Bachelor of Health Science/Bachelor of Business double degree was offered for the first time, but because it received late approval it was not included in the VTAC guide and had a modest first year intake of seven students. There was strong interest in this new double degree at the Monash Open Days, so the number of enrolled students is anticipated to dramatically increase.

Several Health Science students have undertaken semesters of Study Abroad at Simon Fraser University and the University of Sheffield, and this opportunity continues to attract interest. The network of health agencies that have made third-year health program practicum placements available is also growing and this will provide students with an opportunity to be better equipped for transition into the workforce.

2011 saw the second intake of the Honours degree of the BHSc (refer honours section).

Honours program

The Bachelor of Medical Science (BMedSc), BBiomedSc (Hons) and BHealthSc (Hons) are diverse programs. The BMedSc is a research year within the undergraduate medical course. The BBiomedSc (Hons) year is open to BBiomedSc graduates with sufficient grades from the undergraduate BBiomedSc course. The BHealthSc (Hons) year is open to BHealthSc graduates. BBiomedSc (Hons) and BMedSc students in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) participate in epidemiology and biostatistics classes, the cornerstones of medical research. BHealthSc (Hons) also participate in skill-building research methods courses. All students complete research supervised by researchers within the Department and become proficient in presenting their results at departmental seminars.

Honours students can participate in projects within the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, the Centre for Obesity Research and Education, the Victorian Institute for Forensic Medicine, the Department of Health and Social Sciences, the Centre for Women's Health, the Burnet Institute, and the BakerIDI Heart and Diabetes Institute.

We welcome enquiries from students considering Honours. In 2012, Associate Professor Allen Cheng together with Dr Jay Illesinghe will be coordinating the Honours Program. They can be contacted on allen.cheng@monash.edu or jayamini.illesinghe@monash.edu

Two BBiomed students were enrolled in honours in 2011:

- Kumar Pasupathi (mid-year entry). 'The relationship between obesity in middle age and incidence of disability'.
- Emma Gearon (mid-year entry). 'The relationship between SEP and obesity and the role of physical activity and diet'.

Two BSc students were enrolled in honours in 2011:

- Alyce Vella. 'STI positivity rates and sexual risk practices in male sex workers (MSW) and men who have sex with men (MSM)'.
- Asvini Subasinghe. 'Nutritional Status of Malnourished Populations in India'

Six BMedSci students enrolled in honours in 2011:

- Andrei Diacon. 'The COFFEE study: control of fever evaluation – a pilot study comparing intensive versus permissive temperature management in febrile intensive care patients.'
- Robert Feiler. 'Supporting the transplanted heart – An audit of acute outcomes in patients managed with mechanical circulatory support following heart transplantation at The Alfred Hospital'.
- Tessa O'Halloran. 'Urinary incontinence in young Nulligravid women'.
- Matthew Hare. 'The relationship between HbA1C and diabetes in different ethnicities'.
- Rohit Varghese Samuel. 'Evaluation of circulating levels of adult stem cells in the peripheral blood of patients with acute decompensated heart failure and following stabilization'.
- Tamshta Hensman. 'The effect of weight loss on the progression of prediabetes'.



Seven International BMedSci students enrolled in honours in 2011 (mid-year): Siti (seated left of picture), Yudy (standing), Kevin, Jackson and Jesslyn.

Seven International BMedSci students enrolled in honours in 2011 (mid-year):

- Amanda Nandi Wardani. 'The role of socio-demographic factors in participation in the telephone delivered intervention for comorbid depression in post MI patients (MoodCare): implications for development and implementation for resource-constrained countries'.
- Ayudya Ananda Putri. 'Relationship between lifestyle factors and femoral head cartilage volume in a healthy, community-based population: a cross-sectional study'.
- Jackson Kamaruddin. 'Factors affecting paraspinal and abdominal muscles in those with and without back pain: a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) approach'.
- Siti Rayhani Fadhila. 'Relation of age, gender, and lifestyle factors to hip bone geometry in healthy elderly'.
- Irma Savitri Madjid. 'To what extent does socio-economic position affect the relationship between obesity and type 2 diabetes?'.
- Kevin Triangto. 'The relationship between low back pain and the structure of lumbar spine'.
- Alberta Jesslyn Gunardi. 'The effect of lifestyle factors on patella cartilage in healthy, asymptomatic adult females'.

Six students enrolled in honours in Bachelor of Health Science in 2011:

- Rebecca Bishop. 'Social support and the negative effects of relationships in older people: An exploratory study'.
- Ruth Klein. 'Health promotion and Victorian Women's prisons: a policy perspective'.
- Rebecca Robinson. 'Family perceptions and experiences of cleft lip and/or palate in children'.
- Alana Russo. 'An exploration of Afghan women's experiences of mothering'.
- Rosemary Sasse (BMedSc Global). 'Confidential health care for adolescents: What do parents think?'.
- Cassandra Wright. 'Development, health and community sustainability on Rote Island, Nusa Tenggara Timur, Indonesia'.

Summer Vacation Program



This year the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) offered 17 scholarships over the University summer vacation period to students studying for a Bachelor of Health Science, Biomedical Science and Medicine.

The primary objective of the scholarship is to support the education of promising tertiary students by providing them with a means to engage and gain experience in research during the University summer vacation period. The scholarship aims to provide students with practical experiences in applied clinical and public health research. We hope to give them an insight into future opportunities in that area of research and an incentive to pursue higher studies and a career in research or academia.

This year the students undertook projects in the areas of:

- Clinical epidemiology;
- Patient safety;
- Rheumatology;
- Intensive care;
- Transfusion research;
- Obesity research;
- Women's Health; and
- Prevention Science.

Furthermore, these students had the opportunity to visit the William Buckland Radiotherapy Centre, The Intensive Care Unit and the Emergency Department of the Alfred hospital.

The Summer Vacation Scholarship Coordinators for 2011 were Dr Jay Illesinghe (jayamini.illesinghe@monash.edu) and Ms Basia Diug (Basia.Diug@monash.edu).



Doctoral Teaching

The School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) Doctoral program

Our doctoral program has trained many health professionals for senior careers in public health. The program has continued to grow and attracts students from around Australia and the world.

In 2011, we had 21 new PhD students enrolled with us and 122 continued in the program. Fourteen submitted and passed. The students are from many backgrounds, including, medicine, science, physiotherapy, public health, psychology and nursing. The progress of students is facilitated by a very strong research environment, with an extensive program of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funded research and access to wide-ranging infrastructure. Support includes assistance in biostatistics, data management, computing and from experienced staff and a large student body. We also have a Coordinator of Good Research Governance, who advises doctoral students on the development of protocols and the following of strict research guidelines.

The Doctoral program coordinator in 2011 was Dr Elizabeth Douglas (elizabeth.douglas@monash.edu) who also offers student support. Ms Ally Yooyaem was the doctoral program administrator.

Doctor of Public Health and the Victorian Public Health Training Scheme

The Doctor of Public Health (DPH) is a professional doctorate offered through the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (DEPM) in SPHPM. The DPH has research, coursework and professional practice components comprising 70 per cent, 20 per cent and 10 per cent of the program respectively. Currently there are eight students enrolled in the DPH program.

The Victorian Public Health Training Scheme (VPHTS) is administered and funded by the Victorian Government and offered in partnership with the School. It aims to build the capacity and skills of the public health workforce through advanced academic training and supervised work. The Department of Health offers a scholarship to Fellows of the Scheme who enrol as candidates in the DPH program. The DPH has been tailored to meet the needs of the Scheme and Fellows on the VPHTS undertake several research projects while in field placements in a series of leading public health centres. The work done in these placements is presented as a portfolio thesis and successful completion results in the award of the DPH degree from Monash University.

Currently, seven students are studying for the DPH as part of the VPHTS. These students have studied in a variety of public



The 2011 PhD group.

health centres including the Department of Health, the Coroner's Court, the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine, VicHealth, the Burnet Institute, the Nossal Institute for Global Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO), among others.

Scholarships

In the 2011 rounds of PhD Scholarships, 17 students were awarded competitive scholarships from a number of organisations.

NHMRC: Joseph Doyle, Victoria Mar.

MIPRS/APA: Khurshid Alam, Monira Hussein.

MIPRS/MGS: Tilahun Nigatu, Antoine Schneider.

APA: Marian Abouzeid, Rosanne Freak-Poli, Angela Rintoul.

MGS: Lal Rawal, Breanna Wright.

MDS: Anjali Haikerwal (Bushfire CRC PhD scholarship, Beth Kilgour (ISCRR – Institute for Safety, Compensation and Recovery Research), Renata Morello (CREPS), Aleksandra Natora (ISCRR), Cameron Palmer (MonCOEH), Pauline Zardo (ISCRR).

Awards and Prizes

Paul Burton

SPHPM Thesis Excellence Award.

Joseph Doyle

Australasian Society of Infectious Diseases Council International Travel Scholarship, Australasian Faculty of Public Health Graham Rouch Award 2011 (for public health research).

Basia Duig

DEPM Conference Grant.

Australasian Epidemiological Association (AEA) student award.

Rosanne Freak-Poli

Australia and New Zealand Obesity Society Student Travel Grant.

ECR Retreat Oral PhD Presentation.

Australasian Epidemiological Association Annual Scientific Meeting student oral presentation award.

DEPM Conference Grant.

Marsha Ivey

MRGS Travel Grant.

National Emphysema Foundation ATS Travel Award, honouring Claude Lenfant, MD.

Matthew Page

Australasian Epidemiological Association Student Prize for Monash University.

Alisa Pedrana

First prize in SPHPM's 3-minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

Finalist in the 3MT competition of the Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Science.

Brendan Quinn

Second prize in SPHPM's 3-minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

Shelly Rodrigo

SPHPM Award for Outstanding Support of Peers.

Rachel Sacks-Davis

European Association for the Study of the Liver Young Investigator Award.

Croft publication award.

The Robert Blain Memorial Travel Fellowship.

Tari Turner

SPHPM Thesis Excellence Award.

Helen Wall

SPHPM Thesis Excellence Award.

Evelyn Wong

ANZOS student travel grant.

Pauline Zardo

PHAA Travel Grant, DEPM Conference Grant.

Ingrid Hopper

The Clinical Prize for the poster 'Can Medications be safely withdrawn in heart failure? Systematic review and meta-analysis of available data'.

Recipient of a travel award by Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists (ASCEPT).

Continuing students enrolled during 2011

Marian Abouzeid (DPH)

Prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder and co-morbid hypertension amongst Australian veterans of the Gulf War.

Helen Ackland

Assessment of the correlation of clinical and radiographic findings in acute cervical discoligamentous injury with long-term outcomes in road trauma patients.

Katherine Lucy Andres

Individual and household risk factors for dengue and acute viral respiratory infections in Vietnamese infants.

Nadine Andrew

Epidemiology and outcomes of serious sport and leisure injuries.

Rafidah Atan

Cytokine removal using extracorporeal techniques.

Darshini Ayton

Local churches as settings for health promotion in Victoria.

Dimitri Batras

What are determinants of organisational change to increase health equity through sports and recreation settings?

Luke Bonato

Outcomes after tibial plafond fractures: does the treatment approach matter?

Roslin Botlero

Prevalence, incidence and associated risk factors of urinary incontinence, its socio-economic consequences and impact on quality of life in women in Australia.

Sue Brennan

Developing a research framework to improve our ability to understand and measure the effect of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) in primary care.

Frank Buchanan

The influence of gender on recovery from general anaesthesia.

Jessica Chellappah

Surveillance and modification of cardiovascular risk factors in children and young adults.

Georgiana Chin

Transitions of care – Obstetric Clinical Handover. The study, observation and improvements in Obstetric Clinical Handover to improve the efficacy and patient safety in this practice.

Barbary Clarke

What is best practice healthcare for lesbian and heterosexual women with life-threatening illness?

Ben Clissold

Analysis of ambulance factors in identification of stroke and accessibility to hospitals with acute stroke therapies.

Bradley Crammond

Factors relevant to the success of a rights-based health program.

Conor Deasy

Cardiac arrest – addressing the gaps in our scientific knowledge.

Basia Diug

How do social risk factors affect Warfarin therapy? What are the social responsibilities and strategies in place to deal with these risk factors?

Glenn Doolan

Occupational exposure using self-reports and a job exposure matrix in relation to prostate cancer from an Australian case-control study.

Lisa Doyle

The impact of weight loss on the metabolic syndrome.

Greg Duncan

A clinical and economics evaluation of the use of pentoxifylline as adjunct therapy in chronic wound healing and prevention of wound recurrence: a randomised placebo-controlled trial.

Kristine Egberts

The role of lifestyle factors in surgically induced weight loss.

Soula Fillipas

Exercise and HIV/AIDS.

Katherine Gibson (DPH)

Developing WHO guidance on viral hepatitis B and C for people who use drugs.

Cameron Gosling

Incidence, risk factors and outcomes of injuries in tri-athletes.

Nathan Grills (DPH)

Epidemiological prevalence survey of dermatological conditions in mountainous North India.

Sabrina Gupta

Ethnicity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes: a comparison between South Asians and Anglo Australians in Melbourne.

Anthony Gust

Surveillance of in-hospital central line associated bacterial infection: using data linkage to assess the utility of routinely collected hospital data.

Elizabeth Headley (DPH)

Health system performance assessment activities and the PATH project.

Susan Heywood

Evidence and policy approaches to address health and social inequities.

Lisa Higgins

The cost-effectiveness of early resuscitation of sepsis in Australia – an economic evaluation alongside the ARISE-RCT.

Danny Hills

What makes GPs and specialists entering rural practice stay? Impact of personal characteristics, community connectedness and sense of place.

Victor Hoe

The CUPID study: risk factors for musculoskeletal and somatic symptoms and associated disability in workers.

Sara Ivory

Epidemiological risk prediction tools: methods and applications.

Paul Jennings

Analgesia in the Victorian prehospital setting.

Nerida Joss

Drivers of collaborative practice in health promotion.

Chebi Kipsaina

Public health in low-income settings: does context matter?

Louisa Lam

The diagnosis and treatment of patients with acute decompensated heart failure.

Geraldine Lee

The utility of the ECG in detecting and managing cardiovascular disease in South Africa: the heart of Soweto study.

Suree Lekawanvijit

Cardiorenal syndrome: pathophysiology and role of protein-bound uremic toxins and biomarkers.

Judy Lowthian

Increasing demand for emergency patient services in the Australian community: underlying drivers, implications and potential solutions.

Biswadev Mitra

Transfusion practice in trauma resuscitation.

Mohammadreza Mohebbi

Multilevel (hierarchical) regression models and their application to spatial statistics and reliability studies.

Elizabeth Moore

Renal function and renal biomarkers in traumatic brain injury treated by erythropoietin and controlled hypothermia.

Karen Moore (DPH)

Strathfieldsay and districts health and wellbeing needs assessment.

Michele McGrady

Epidemiological assessment of aboriginal and non-aboriginal Australians at high risk of developing heart failure.

Joanne McKenzie

An internet-based clinical trials service: feasibility in technical terms.

Zoe Kathleen McQuilten

Improving patient outcomes through understanding and changing transfusion practice.

Shyamala Nataraj

Bioethics and HIV interventions.

Peter New

A study of patient flow through inpatient rehabilitation and potential for improvements.

Adrienne O'Neil

Using communications technology to improve the health and wellbeing of patients following myocardial infarctions (MI).

Gerard O'Reilly

International trauma epidemiology: paths and challenges to the establishment of trauma registries in developing (and developed) countries.

Alisa Pedrana

On the scene: the epidemiology of HIV among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Victoria.

Rosanne Freak-Poli

Global corporate challenge evaluation: the evaluation of a low-cost, low-impact physical activity workplace intervention.

Bridget Pratt

Developing a just policy framework for the conduct on international health research.

Lal Rawal

Why do women in rural Nepal choose to deliver at home and not in a health facility?

Jennifer Catherine Roberts

Gambling as a public health issue.

Angela Rintoul (DPH)

Coronial deaths involving oxycodone, Victoria, 2000–2009.

Masoumeh Sanagou

Preoperative hierarchical risk prediction modelling for 30-day mortality following cardiac surgery in Australia.

Durga Shrestha

Aspects of work/life satisfaction of doctors in Australia.

Geoffrey Strange

Seeing the invisible: the impediments of timely diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension.

Stephanie Tanamas

The effect of angles on knee structure.

Andrew Teichtal

The determinants of articular cartilage health.

Ogilvie Thom

Preventative aspects of non-invasive haemodynamic monitoring in severely ill patients in the emergency department.

Claire Tobin (DPH)

Victorian community attitudes survey on healthy sporting environment.

Tess Tsindos

The Manningham study: loneliness and self-rated health status of Chinese and Anglo-Australian seniors.

Marlien Varnfield

Clinical outcomes of an ECT-based home care model in primary and secondary prevention with lifestyle modifications for chronic diseases and mental health.

Nicholas Walsh

Acute hepatitis B treatment strategies.

Jason Wasiak

The physical and psychosocial outcomes following burn injury: a 12-month follow up study.

Carolina Weller

Chronic wounds: outcomes for people attending specialist wound clinics.

Ruwan Wijemunige

Improving the prevention and early detection and secondary brain injury in traumatic brain injury patients within the ICU setting.

Bryan Ping-Yen Yan

Drug-eluting stent utilisation and impact in contemporary Australian interventional cardiology practice: insight from the Melbourne Interventional Group Registry.

Nor'azim Mohd Yunos

Biochemical and clinical outcome effects of restricting chloride-rich fluids in critically ill patients.

Hendrik Zimmet

Novel experimental strategies combining mesenchymal stem cells (MSC) with angioblasts and cost-efficacy of such strategies in the treatment of congestive heart failure.

Ella Zomer

Epidemiological modelling of cardiovascular disease and prevention strategies in patients with metabolic syndrome.

Thathya Venu Ariyaratne

Comparison of long-term outcomes and cost effectiveness of Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery (CABG) and Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (PCI).

Jocasta Ball

Optimising the management of patients with atrial fibrillation.

Rinaldo Bellomo

The effect of intensity of continuous renal replacement therapy in critically ill patients.

Sarah Birks

Impact of treatment of obesity on cancer incidence and survival.

Molly Bond

Why diet and exercise alone won't solve the obesity epidemic.

Catherine Chamberlain

Assessing the efficacy of screening for gestational diabetes amongst Aboriginal women.

Enayet Karim Chowdhury

Epidemiological modelling of chronic disease – particularly cardiovascular disease and its economic implications.

Jennifer Margaret Davis

Evaluation of clinical indicators for safety and quality in colorectal cancer surgery.

Rachel Sacks-Davis

Genetics don't lie: predicting sources of HCV infections from social connections amongst injecting drug users (IDU).

Ensieh Fooladi

The effect of transdermal testosterone on sexual function among SSRI(s) drug users.

Marsha Ivey

Gender – a case for change in the management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in Australia.

Anju Joham

Obesity, insulin resistance and Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome.

Daryl Jones

The Medical Emergency Team: patient characteristics and resource utilisation.

Surendra Karki

Providing tools and evidence to support hospital-based infection prevention interventions.

Devaang Kevat

The effect of time of day and consecutive night shift on human error in the ICU environment.

Natasha Farid Rajabali Khamisa

A study exploring the relationship between work-related stress and public health service delivery: managing stress in South Africa Health Service Organisations while improving public health service delivery.

Lara Kimmel

Predicting the discharge disposition of orthopaedic trauma patients and analysing the outcomes.

Shan Liu

Contribution of uremic toxins to cardiorenal syndrome in patients with co-morbid heart failure and kidney disease.

Neil Orford

The effect of critical illness on bone metabolism and bone mineral density.

Eldho Paul

Development and validation of a mortality risk prediction model for modern intensive care practice in Australia and New Zealand.

Eva Saar

Toxicology of antipsychotic drugs.

Rebecca Winters

Examining drug-related morbidity and mortality among prisoners and ex-prisoners.

Evelyn Wong

Modelling risk of comorbidities of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic kidney disease using Markov chain.

Pauline Zardo

Application of research evidence in Australian health policy: how to build support and capacity for evidence-based decision making.

Janet Davey

Imaging of Graeco-Roman child mummies.

Samantha Cassar

The role of the mitochondria and exercise.

Genia Burchall

Haemostatic Abnormalities in PCOS

Completed and passed students during 2011

Asnawi Abdullah

The duration of obesity and its impact on estimating risk, burden of chronic diseases, costing and health policy.

Zanfina Ademi

Efficacy and benefits of treatment in the Second National Australian Blood Pressure Study (ANBP2).

Alison Beauchamp

Socioeconomic status as a determinant of cardiovascular disease in the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort study.

Charmian Bennett

Impacts of bushfire-generated particulate matter on chronic respiratory disease.

Patricia Berry

The role of lifestyle factors on hip cartilage volume and rate of cartilage loss in a normal community-based population: a longitudinal study.

Megan Bohensky

Linking clinical and administrative data to evaluate intensive care outcomes.

Sharon Brennan

How does bone metabolism affect knee cartilage in healthy women?

Lei Chen

Development and validation of appropriate methods for the prediction of risk of future cardiovascular events in the contemporary Australian population.

Judith Gold

The medium and the message: an investigation of how youth access, interpret and implement sexual health information.

Thomas Jeavons

Fungal exposure and asthma.

William Kemp

The impact of norfloxacin on portal pressure and endotoxaemia in clinically significant portal hypertension, and the role of urotensin II.

Lavinia Tran

Therapeutic targeting of signalling pathways in cardiovascular disease.

Cheryce Harrison

Lifestyle interventions in insulin resistant reproductive-aged women.

Samantha Hutchison

The role of exercise in treatment of women with PCOS: mechanisms of action.

Padaphet Sayakhot

Menopause and breast cancer.

Jennifer Pilgrim

Serotonin active drugs and serotonin toxicity.

Richard Basset

Use of computed tomography to determine improved age determination.

New students enrolled during 2011**Khurshid Alam**

Burden of chronic disease and the socioeconomic determinants: evidence from Matlab, Bangladesh.

Zahra Aziz

Process evaluation of the Peer Support Program.

Katherine Cantwell

Ambulance demand: random events or predictable patterns?

Anjali Haikerwal

Health effects of bushfire smoke.

Tilahun Nigatu Haregu

Epidemiological modelling of trends of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in Ethiopia (1990–2010).

Ingrid Hopper

Polypharmacy in the heart failure patient: are all the drug classes required?

Danielle Horyniak

Improving health and reducing harm among people who inject drugs.

Monira Hussain

Socioeconomic status and coronary heart disease risk factor trends in Bangladesh.

Elizabeth Kilgour

Worksafe

Victoria Mar

Clinical and molecular analyses of nodular melanoma.

Renata Morello

Exploring the limitations and challenges in health services research.

Aleksandra Natora

Trends and risk factors for work-related disorders in Victoria.

Matthew Page

Outcome reporting bias in systematic reviews of clinical trials.

Kathryn Phillips

Measuring patterns of care in neurotrauma.

Gavin Smith

Paramedic Valsalva manoeuvre.

Antoine Schneider

Renal perfusion quantification with contrast-enhanced ultrasonography.

Luke Rodda

Congener analysis for volatile substances in a forensic context.

Teaching – Postgraduate

Under the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM), two postgraduate coursework programs were offered by the Department of Forensic Medicine (DFM):

- Master of Forensic Medicine; and
- Graduate Certificate of Nursing (Forensic).

The following 18 were offered by the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (DEPM) in the following specialisations:

- Public Health;
- Biostatistics;
- Clinical Research Methods;
- Health Services Management;
- International Health; and
- Occupational and Environmental Health.

DEPM's postgraduate courses attracted students from a wide range of medical and allied health backgrounds, including medical, nursing, physiotherapy, pharmacy and health management. The majority of specialisations offered courses as Graduate Certificate, graduate diploma or a Masters program. The Department taught over 80 units, mainly in an off-campus mode ie online plus block days.

During 2011, 488 students were enrolled in DEPM's postgraduate coursework programs, with 270 studying the Master of Public Health.

2011 DEPM Postgraduate Course Enrolments

Master of Public Health (MPH)

Course Coordinator: Professor Flavia Cicuttini

The MPH provides students with a full range of quantitative, analytical and communication skills necessary to work in public health. In 2011, the Consortium for Public Health Teaching,

2011 DEPM Postgraduate Course Enrolments		
Course Name	Specialisation	Student Course Enrolments
Master of Public Health	Public Health	281
Doctor of Public Health		
Graduate Certificate in Biostatistics	Biostatistics	20
Graduate Diploma in Biostatistics		
Master of Biostatistics		
Graduate Certificate in Clinical Research Methods	Clinical Research Methods	28
Graduate Diploma in Clinical Research Methods		
Master of Clinical Research Methods		
Graduate Certificate in Health Services Management	Health Services Management	93
Graduate Diploma in Health Services Management		
Master of Health Services Management		
Graduate Diploma in International Health	International Health	35
Master of International Health		
Graduate Certificate in Occupational Health	Occupational and Environmental Health	31
Graduate Diploma in Occupational and Environmental Health		
Master of Occupational and Environmental Health		
Total		488

as at 05.11.11 (Monash Statistical Services)

(a collaboration of four universities in Melbourne that were involved in MPH teaching) was dissolved. We now offer a complete program of specialised streams for students enrolled in this course.

The streams are:

- Clinical epidemiology;
- Environmental Health;
- Health Economics;
- Health Services Management;
- International Health; and
- Occupational Health and Environmental Health.

To gain an MPH, students must complete three core units in epidemiology, introductory statistics and either research methods or field methods for international health planning and evaluation. In 2011, we taught 64 different units to a total of 270 students.

Biostatistics

Course coordinator: Professor Andrew Forbes

The Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in Biostatistics and the Master of Biostatics are offered on a part-time, off-campus basis in conjunction with the partner universities in the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia.

The courses provide a broad range of biostatistical theory and practice relevant to the medical/health sphere and are suitable for both health professionals and mathematics/statistics graduates. Health professionals initially study the necessary mathematical statistical background, whereas the mathematics/statistics graduates study additional practical-based units.

The Master of Biostatistics is differentiated by its emphasis on advanced coursework and completion of a supervised practical project. This prepares the student for commencement of a professional career as a biostatistician.

Clinical Research Methods

Course coordinator: Associate Professor Allen Cheng

The Graduate Certificate in Clinical Research Methods is an off-campus course with some on-site block requirements. This certificate guides students through the many stages required for undertaking research and includes introductory subjects in biostatistics, epidemiology and study design.

The Graduate Diploma in Clinical Research Methods assists clinicians or public health professionals to become familiar with clinical research methodology. It assists health professionals to make rational evidence-based decisions in clinical practice and to undertake clinical audits and small clinical research projects. It can lead to the Master of Clinical Epidemiology or Master of Public Health.

The Master of Clinical Epidemiology is offered as an off-campus or on-campus course, and may be undertaken either part-time or full-time. This may include elective subjects in infectious diseases, injury prevention and epidemiology, health promotion and advanced statistical methods. It provides a solid basis in clinical research for health professionals who participate in investigator-initiated or industry-supported studies, including doctors, research nurses and allied health professionals.

Health Services Management

Course coordinator: Professor Just Stoelwinder

The following degrees were all offered in off-campus mode on a part-time or full-time basis.

The Graduate Certificate in Health Services Management assists health care professionals to expand their knowledge and skills in the management of health services. The degree provides core competencies in health services management, including leadership, human resource management and financial management of health services.

The Graduate Diploma in Health Services Management provides the skills necessary to manage clinical health care systems and processes. This degree provides a broad framework from which to manage clinical care and focuses on human resources, financial information, medico-legal, political, cultural, economic, ethical, industrial, technological and psychosocial issues.

The Masters degree caters for medical or general hospital administrators, clinicians, quality assurance managers, team leaders, senior nursing administrators, unit managers and case managers within the health care system.

International Health

Course coordinator: Associate Professor Bebe Loff

The Graduate Diploma in International Health and Master of International Health are offered in collaboration with the Michael Kirby Centre for Public Health and Human Rights and the Centre for International Health at the Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health. Course content is largely based on staff field experiences gained in a wide range of health development projects that were carried out in more than 20 countries (in Asia, the Pacific and Africa).

These programs provide students with the skills to design, implement and evaluate relevant programs that address the major public health priorities of communities in developing countries.

Occupational and Environmental Health

Course coordinator: Professor Malcolm Sim

The Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in Occupational Health, and the Master of Occupational and Environmental Health are off-campus, part- or full-time courses offered by the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH) at DEPM.

The Graduate Certificate provides the basic knowledge in legal Occupational Health and Safety requirements and competence in assessing and controlling workplace hazards.

The Graduate Diploma provides the skills and knowledge necessary to provide preventive health services and to reduce the health impact of disease and injury resulting from the workplace and community factors.

The Masters program assists occupational health professionals to prevent and manage occupational health problems. It provides the skills necessary to evaluate health problems in communities associated with industrial activities.

Master of Forensic Medicine

Course Coordinator:

Adjunct Associate Professor David Wells

The Master of Forensic Medicine, which caters for medical practitioners working (or proposing to work) in the field of forensic medicine, is the only course of its kind in the English-speaking world. The course fills a unique niche in the educational domain of clinical forensic medicine. This course involves important collaborations between the Faculties of Law and Medicine and enables forensic medical practitioners to practise within the framework of ethical, medical and legal principles, standards and rules. The course is delivered as a distance education modality with a short placement in the Department at the end of each semester.

Activities in the last year have included:

- Enrolments from all Australian states and territories and New Zealand;
- Commencement of an Australian Federal Police funded scholarship program for African forensic medical practitioners. Students from Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya and Malawi commenced the program in 2011;

- Approval to enrol dental graduates in the program. Four new units in forensic odontology will be developed to complement the existing units; and
- External review of the program. Overseen by Monash, this review provided considerable plaudits for the program.

Graduate Certificate of Nursing (Forensic)

Course Coordinator:

Adjunct Senior Lecturer Angela Williams

The course provided four units of study for postgraduate nurses who wish to work in the field of sexual assault nursing. Completion of the scholarship programs offered to nurses from Queensland and Victoria has meant that course numbers have been considerably reduced. This course will be disestablished from December 2011.



Short Courses

Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (DEPM)

In 2011, Professor Andrew Forbes took on the role of the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) Short Course Review panel member. The overall aim of the short course review is to develop a framework and policies to guide short course development and delivery across the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

In 2011, DEPM ran nine short courses (some courses were repeated) with a total of 224 enrolments. The staff involved were:

- Dr David Newman. 'Australian Certificate of Civil Aviation Medicine (ACCAM)';
- Dr Baki Billah. 'Biostatistics for Clinical and Public Health Researchers';
- Dr David Fish. 'Clinical Occupational Medicine';
- Ms Miranda Cumpston. 'Introduction into Systematic Reviews of Interventions';
- Associate Professor Rory Wolfe. 'Introduction to Stata';
- Dr Joel Symons and Dr Rishi Mehra. 'Perioperative Medicine'; and
- Associate Professor Rory Wolfe. 'Survival Analysis with Stata'.

Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety (CRE-PS)

CRE-PS ran three short courses this year with a total of 67 participants.

- 'Emergency Department Management Course' (5 days), 7–11 March 2011;
- 'Emergency Medicine Research Short Course', semester 1, over 6 months, 28 February 2011; and
- 'Emergency Medicine Research Short Course', semester 2, over 6 months, 25 July 2011.

Department of Health Social Sciences (DHSS)

The Department of Health Social Sciences ran a number of short courses with a total of 74 participants. The staff involved and the courses were:

- Associate Professor Ben Smith. 'Evaluation Skills Development Workshop', Hume Region, Department of Health, 15 September, 9 November and 16 November 2011;
- Associate Professor Ben Smith. 'Needs Assessment and Evaluation Skills Development Workshop', Southeast Healthy Communities Partnership, 30 August, 25 October 2011;
- Associate Professor Ben Smith. 'Evaluation in Health Promotion Short Course', 10–11 November 2011; and
- Dr Emma Bruce, Dr Sarah Carmody, Associate Professor Ben Smith and Dr Nerida Joss. '5 day Health Promotion Short Course', 14–18 November 2011.



The 2011 Australian Certificate of Civil Aviation Medicine Short course visit the Ansett Flight Simulator Centre, Tullamarine.

Australasian Cochrane Centre

In 2011, nine short courses were run with 280 participants.

- 'Introduction to writing a Cochrane review', Melbourne, 4–5 April;
- 'Review completion workshop', Melbourne, 2–6 May;
- 'Introduction to writing a Cochrane review', Gold Coast, 6–7 June;
- 'Introduction to writing a Cochrane review', Sydney, 7–8 July;
- 'Introduction to writing a Cochrane review', Adelaide, 11–12 August;
- 'Introduction to writing systematic reviews of health interventions', Melbourne, 22–23 August;
- 'Developing a systematic review (Guidelines International Network pre-conference workshop)', Seoul, Korea, 26–27 August;
- 'Review completion workshop', Melbourne, 14–18 November; and
- 'Introduction to writing a Cochrane review', Sydney, 1–2 December.

International Public Health Unit

Visiting Professor Guy Parcel (School of Public Health, University of Texas, USA) 'Intervention Mapping: How to design and implement sustainable interventions to improve health and well-being' (35 Participants).

SPHPM Seminars

A number of seminar series were held at the different School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (SPHPM) campuses. These series featured local, national and internationally-based researchers.

The SPHPM Seminar Series (2011)

8 June: 'Provision of health services to 300,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in Sri Lanka'. Dr. Eeshara Vithana, Coordinator of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Unit of the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.

15 June: 'MABEL spills the beans on doctors' working lives: Findings from the MABEL longitudinal study of Australian doctors'. Dr. Catherine Joyce, Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine.

22 June: 'Integrating research with teaching – the academic yin and yang'. Dr. Dragon Illic, Senior Lecturer in evidence-based clinical practice within the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine.

29 June: 'Propensity scoring'. Dr. Elizabeth Williamson, Biostatistician, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine.

14 July: 'Idiographic research: Understanding individual behaviour change over time'. Professor Wayne Velicer, Co-Director of the Cancer Prevention Research Center at the University of Rhode Island.

10 August: 'Road traffic injury: From epidemiology to global translation'. Dr Mark Stevenson, Monash Injury Research Institute.

17 August: 'Mental health and making pregnancy safer: building evidence through partnerships in Vietnam'. Professor Jane Fisher, Deputy Director of Research, Jean Hailes Foundation and Monash School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

24 August: 'DECRA Study'. Professor Jamie Cooper, Director of the ANZIC-RC and Deputy Director of Intensive Care, Associate Professor Rory Wolfe, Biostatistician, DEPM, Associate Professor Bebe Loff, Director of the Michael Kirby Centre.

26 October: 'Ned Kelly'. Professor Steven Cordner, Director, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.

10 November: 'Has evidence-based medicine corrupted our understanding of causation?'. Dr James Isbister, Haematologist at Royal North Shore Hospital.

11 November: 'The ASCEND Program – Its achievements and future plans'. Professor K Thankappan, Sree Chitra Institute, Kerala, India (ASCEND Program Director), Professor Brian Oldenburg, Monash University (ASCEND Program Director) and Dr Sathish Thirunavukkarasu, Sree Chitra Institute, Kerala, India (ASCEND Network).

16 November: 'Vertebroplasty'. Dr Margaret Staples, Biostatistician in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology at Cabrini Hospital.

30 November: 'Socioeconomic gradients in health status: wealth, consumption or income or something else?'. Professor Ajay Mahal, Alan and Elizabeth Finkel Chair in Global Health at Monash University.



7 December: 'Measuring the burden of injury – challenging the global burden of disease methods'. Associate Professor Belinda Gabbe, NHMRC Public Health Research Fellow in the Department's Pre-hospital and Emergency Trauma Group.

14 December: 'The new statistics: why, how, and where next?'. Professor Geoff Cumming, Chairman of Sienna Cancer Diagnostics.

Monash Ageing Research Centre (MONARC) Seminar Series – Kingston Centre (2011)

3 February: 'The ASPREE (Aspirin in reducing events in the elderly) project'. Professor John McNeil, Head of School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine/Head of Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University.

3 March: 'Impact on residents of frequent death in aged care facilities'. Dr Heather Tan and Dr Teresa Howard, Research Fellows, Palliative Care Research Team, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Peninsula Campus, Monash University.

7 April: Presentation by the Clinical Research Centre for Movement Disorders and Gait team, Kingston Centre.

5 May: 'Learning interprofessionally to improve interprofessional practice'. Ms Debra Kiegaldie, Clinical Education and Professional Development Unit, School of Primary Health Care, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University.

2 June: 'Implementing evidence-based guidelines for the management of dementia: the IRIS study'. Dr Denise O'Connor, NHMRC Public Health Fellow, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine/Australasian Cochrane Centre, Monash University.

7 July: 'The effects of ageing on traumatic brain injury'. Professor John Olver, Director of Rehabilitation, Epworth Rehabilitation/Victor Smorgon Chair of Rehabilitation Medicine, Monash University.

4 August: 'What do older Victorians think about falls and participating in falls prevention exercise programs?'. Early results from an NHMRC partnership project being conducted in collaboration with the Victorian Department of Health. Associate Professor Terry Haines, Allied Health Clinical Research Unit, Monash University/Southern Health.

1 September: Presentation by Ms Micheline Uhe, Clinical Governance Officer, Research Directorate, Southern Health.

6 October: Presentation by Ms Annette Davis (PhD candidate, Clinical Research Centre for Movement Disorders and Gait, Kingston Centre), Professor Barbara Workman (Director, MONARC/Medical Director, RACS, Southern Health) and Ms Jennifer O'Connor (Research Assistant, Clinical Research Centre for Movement Disorders and Gait, Kingston Centre).

3 November: 'A non-pharmacological intervention to reduce agitation associated with dementia'. Dr Eva van der Ploeg, Psychologist/Research Fellow, Aged Mental Health Research Unit, MONARC.

1 December: Presentations by Lions John Cockayne Memorial Fellowship Trust Fund research grant recipients and presentations on conferences attended by Kingston Centre staff during 2011.

Epidemiological modelling SIG Seminar Series (2011)

24 February:

'Uses of latent Markov models in public health', Dr Haider Mannan, SPHPM.

'The growing crisis concerning the P-value paradigm for statistical data analysis – Should medical researchers consider using likelihood methods?' Dr Geoff Robinson, Deakin University.

25 May:

'Multiple imputation: the genie out of the bottle?'. Professor John Carlin, School of Population Health, Melbourne University.

'Be protected: How to protect yourself against missing data and model misspecification'. Dr Elizabeth Williamson, SPHPM.

'Trauma system benchmarking: A case study comparing methods of dealing with missing data'. Associate Professor Rory Wolfe, SPHPM.

23 June:

'The changing relationship between obesity and life expectancy with and free of disability'. Dr Anna Peeters, SPHPM.

28 July:

'Circumstances of recent heroin overdose and links to knowledge of overdose risk factors: a case-crossover study'. Associate Professor Damien Jolley, SPHPM.

'Self-controlled case-series method: An alternative research method in epidemiology'. Dr Stella MayGwini, SPHPM.

29 September:

'Modelling international measles incidence and coverage'. Dr Robert Hall, SPHPM.

27 October:

'Long term prediction of all-cause mortality using cardiovascular risk factors'. Dr Haider Mannan, SPHPM.

15 December:

'Constructing dynamic treatment regimes: Evidence from the clinical antipsychotic trials of intervention effectiveness'. Dr Susan Shortreed, Biostatistics Unit, Group Health Research Institute, Seattle, USA.

Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (DFM) Seminar Series

Fortnightly DFM lecture series and research and training sessions were held at DFM during 2011. These forums assisted in the development of staff to undertake research and to increase our awareness of research outputs across the Institute.

DFM had the pleasure of hosting guest speakers. These included Professor Paul Waring (Head of Pathology, University of Melbourne) who presented the 'Future of pathology in an era of personalised medicine' and Associate Professor Mark Fitzgerald (Director of Trauma, The Alfred Hospital) who presented 'The development of synthetic blood for trauma'.

Other highlights included our international guest Dr Luis Fondebrider discussing the activities of the 'Argentine Forensic Anthropology team' and their training and investigations in Africa.

Researchers from DFM were able to showcase their latest findings. There were several presentations from current PhD students (Eva Saar). Dr Richard Bassed, who completed his PhD, also presented his work. Both forums were advertised across DFM and the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) to encourage attendance and potential collaborations on current or future projects.



School Administration

Precinct Managers Report

In 2011, there were great changes in the organisation and in the delivery of school administrative services. Overall, management of support services was elevated to precinct level with the appointment of an AMREP Manager, Mr Gavin Horrigan. This new leadership role replaced the managers of the two schools (School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and the Central Clinical School) that were based at the Alfred. Although a number of services continued to be managed at school level, core functions (including finance, human resources and information technology) were centralised at University level from 1 February 2011. The corporatisation of services was undertaken to improve expertise and quality and to reduce costs. The first half of the year was extremely challenging due to the appointment of new staff and the introduction of new systems and procedures. Most of the operational issues resulting from these changes were quickly identified and resolved and the School is now well placed to support key research and teaching priorities in 2012.



School Administrative Staff

Precinct Manager – Mr Gavin Horrigan

Project Manager – Ms Jessica Oddy

Personal Assistant to Head of School – Ms Nicole Shears

Precinct Front Office Administrator – Mrs Sabina Davey

Marketing and Communications Coordinator – Ms Suzy Giuliano

Marketing and Communications Administrator –
Ms Effie Diamataris

Research Manager – Dr Jay Illesinghe

Research Administrator – Mr Jeremy Palmer

Doctoral Manager – Dr Elizabeth Douglas

Postgraduate Programs Manager – Ms Maida O'Keefe

Postgraduate Student Services Officer – Ms Elissa Farrell

Undergraduate Course Administrator – Ms Janet Christensen

Undergraduate/doctoral Student Services Officer
– Ms Ally Yooyaem

Adjuncts

Adjunct Professors

Kate Leslie MBBS, FRANZCA, MD, AICDC

James Isbister BSc (Med)(Hons), MBBS (Hons), MRACP, FRACP, FRCPA

Kerry J Breen MBBS, FRACP, MD (Hons), AM

Adjunct Associate Professors

Johnathan Shaw

MBChB, MRCP, MD, CCST, MR, FRACP, FRCP

Christopher John Clements

FAFPH, MFPH, MCCM, MSc, DCH, DObst, LRCP, MRCS, MBBS

Jeffrey Presneill MBBS, MBiostat, PGDipEcho, FRACP, FCICM, MD, PhD

Ville Yrjo Olavi Pettila MD, PhD

Warwick Butt MBBS

Stephen Bernard MBBS, FACEM, FJFICM

Margaret Hellard MBBS FRACP PhD, FAFPHM

Harry Mond MBBS MD FRACP FACC FCSANZ FHRS

John Myburgh MBChB, PhD, DA (SA), FANZCA, FJFICM

Julie Pasco BSc (Hons), PhD

Terri Allen BSc, PhD

Robyn Guymer MBBS, PhD, FRANZCO

David Wells MA (Melb), MBBS, GradCertHigherEd, DMJ (Clin), FACLM, FRACGP

Peter Hodsman MBChB, MD, MRCP (UK), FRCP, FRACP, MAICD

Roger Drew PhD, DABT

Anthony D La Montagne ScD MA Med

Andrew Davies MB BS, FRACP, FCICM,

Christopher Alexander Briggs DipEd, BSc, MSc, PhD

Sandra L Peake BMBS BSc (Hons) FCICM PhD

Sharon Willcox Bsc (Hons), Adm, PhD (Pub Health)

Alexander John Roberts Black

Adjunct Clinical Associate Professors

Steven Webb MBBS, PhD, FRACP, FJFIC

Andrew Way RGN, RMN, RSCN, BSc (Hons), MBA

David Ranson

Robert Salamonsen MBChB, MD, FJFICM, Cert Hyp Med

David Pilcher MBBS, MRCP (UK), FRACP, FJFICM

Elton Edwards PhD, FRACS, RACS

Adjunct Research Associates

Brandon Carp MBBS (Hons)

Shelley Cox BA, BAppSci (Hons), PhD

John Marshall O'Donnell

Adjunct Clinical Professors

Carlos Scheinkestel, MB BS, FRACP, Dip DHM, FCICM

Adjunct Principal Research Fellows

Jacqueline Erica Fritschi

Adjunct Research Fellows

Steven Joseph Haas PhD, B.PhSc (Hons), B.Ph

Christopher Neil Morrison MPH, B.Arts (Hons), B.Arts (SW)

Imo Okon Inyang PhD, PGDipEd, BSc (Hons), BEMS

Tony Trapani BPS, BEd, GNP

Mary Danoudis MPh, DAs, Dip Ph, Dip Bus

Carol George BSc, MBus (IT), GradDipEpiBiostat

Deepak Kotecha MBBS

Narges Khanjani MD, PhD

Peter Higgs BSW, MA, PhD

Mark Stooze BApp Aci (Hons), Grad Dip(ED), PhD

Allison van Lint

Evie Katz PhD

Bob Milstei BA LLB

Philippa Middleton, BSc (Hons), MPH

Lyndal Catherine Bugeja

Dianne Lynette Cameron

Janet Bray

Kelly Drennan

Meng Tuck Mok

Adjunct Senior Research Fellows

Ian Seppelt BSc (Med), Med V (Med and Surg),
Med IV (Paed, Obs, Gyn, Psy, Com Med)

Catriona Bradshaw PhD (Phil), FACSHP, RACP, BMed (Hons),
BSurg (Hons), CSRH, DipVen, ASSTD, AIUSTI

Gerard Michael O'Reilly MBBS, Dip Obs and Gyn, FACEM,
Grad Cert Clinical Trials, MPH (Int Health), MB, PhD

Sean McGuigan BSc (Hons), RSS, AHES, IHEA

James Cameron MBBS (Hons), FRACP, FCSANZ, FACC

Julie Yallop NZRN, PhD

Mark Polizzotto; B Med Sci, MBBS, RACP, RCPAE

Daryl Jones: MBBS, BSc (Hons), FRACP, FJFICM

Dadna Hartman BSc (Hons), PhD, Grad Cert Pub

Lynda Berends

Robert Oelrichs BMSc, MBBS, PhD, MPH, MD

Cecily Freemantle

Stephen Duffy MBBS (Hons), PhD, FRACP, MRCP, FCSANZ

Dimitri Gerostamoulos

Jochen Beyer

Bronwyn Fredericks DipT, BEduc, MEduc, MEducStudies,
PhD, JP

Ashley Fletcher, BSc Monash MEpi GDipEpiBio Melb

Louise Prentice MBBS, FRACP

Lynnette Murray BApSci, AIMS Fellow

Isabel Bergeri

Linton Harriss

Adjunct Senior Lecturers

Matthew Linden PhD Phil, BSc (Hons), Dip Man

Stephanie Ward M.PH, FRACP, GradDip Health Eco

Anthony Hill

Paul Talman; BSc, MBBS, FRACP, PhD

Morris Odell BE, MBBS

Anne-Marie Pellizzer MBBS, FRACP, PhD

Anne Reutens MBBS, AMus, FRACP, PhD

Kathryn Antioch BA (Hons), MSc, AFCHSE, CHE, PhD

Campbell Aitken PhD, BSc (Hons)

Alan Wolff MBBS DipRACOG FRACGP MBA AFCHSE
MRACMA, MD

Shelley Robertson MBBS, LLB, FRCPA, DMJ, FACLM, DAvMed

Terence Donald MB, BS, FRACP

Angela Williams

Noel Woodford

Soran Blau

Emilio Badoer BSc (Hons), PhD

Mathew Lynch

Leslie Cannold PhD, M.Bio, BSc (Psychology)

Anna Murphy BHLthSci (Hons), BAppSc i(HM), PhD

Guy Haller PhD

Ben Coghlan MBBS, MPH&TM, MAppEpid

Owen Williamson MBBS, GradDipClinEpi, FRACP, FAOrthA

Cheng-hon Yap MBBS, MS

Sarah Parsons

Peter Kruger MBBS, BSc (Hons), FANZCA, FJFICM

Vanita Parekh

Vicki Kotsirilos MBBS (MON), FACNEM

Stuart Kinner BA (Hons), PhD

Marisa Herson MD, PhD

Julian Elliott

Natalie Gray MBBS (Hons), BSc, LLB (Hons), FAFPHM

John Amarena MBBS, FRACP

Alvin Teo MB BS, Master of Medicine, FANZCA, EDIC,
PGDipEcho, FCICM

Andrew Ross MD BS, FANZCA, Dip. Health Med Law,
Dip Psych

Tim Leong MB BS (Hons), FCICM, PGDipEcho

Andrew Hilton MB BS, FCICM FANZCA

Owen Roodenburg MBBS (Hons) FRACP FCICM

Christopher James O'Donnell

Sanjeev Gaya

Linda Elizabeth Iles

Megan Robertson

Adjunct Lecturers

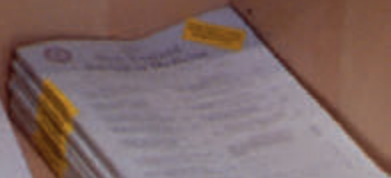
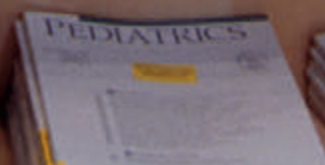
Lisen Emma Hockings FANZCA, FCICM, PostGrad Dip, UWA
Steve Philpot FJFICM, FRANZCA, EMST, OACRM, RRAPP, MBBS (Hons)
Malcolm Brown MBBS, DipOccHyg, FAFOM
Mary Wyatt MBBS (Hons) MPH, Grad Cert MSM, FAFOM
David Dunstan PhD
Noel Cranswick MBBS, B Med Sc, FRACP
Martyn Kirk BAppSc, MAppEpi
Priscilla Robinson RN, BNurs, MPH, PhD
Robyn Horsley MBBS FAMES FAFOM (RACP) MPH GDip MSM
Melanie Archer
Tai-Juan Aw MBBS, FRACP
Jacqueline Martin BAppSci (Med Lab Sci) (Hons), PhD
Bethia Wilson BA, LLB
Juliet Gale BA (Hons), MLib
Jodie Leditschke PhD
Clare Murphy BEd studies, MPH, MHSc Practicum, MPHAA
Melissa Baker
Malcolm Dodd MBBS, DipMLT AAIMLT, FACBS, FRCPA, MACLM
Mehrnaz Shoushtarian MBiomedEng, PhD
Andrew Westbrook MB, BAO, BCh, FCARSI, JFICM
Michael Keane
Anne- Marie Cassano MBBS
Olivia Gobbo MB BS FRACP
Beinda Flanc
Robin Elizabeth Smith
Deidre Ann Murphy
Helen McKelvie
Jason Rox McClure
Colman O'Loughlin
Helena Ng
Julie Ruth Lustig

Adjunct Senior Associates

Bruce Levy BEc, LLB
Michael Ackland MBBS (Melb), MPH (Monash), FAFPHM
Suzanne Garland MBBS, FRCPA, MASM
Kim Hill MBBS, MHP, FRACMA
Jan Hoving PhD
Mark Nelson MBBS (Honours), GradDip Fam Med, MFM, PhD, FRACPG, FAFPHM
Alex Currell BE, MEngSc, BA
Ian Millar MBBS, FAFOM, Cert DHM
Erol Katz MBBS, LLB, MPP (Public Policy)
Janice Davies MBA, GradDip(HRM), PhD, BSc (Hons)
Harley Stanton

Specific Health Concerns

Prevention/Wellness



Publications

Total for 2011

Book Chapters	5
Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles	491

Book Chapters

1. Cochi, S., Dowdle, W., Strebel, P., Ottesen, E., de Quadros, C., Guirguis, S., Hall, R., Muller, L., Narain, J., Wichmann, O., **2011**, Group report: assessing the feasibility of an eradication initiative, in *Disease Eradication in the 21st Century: Implications for Global Health*, eds Stephen L. Cochi, Walter R. Dowdle, MIT Press, USA, pp. 89–100.
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3. Fredericks, B., Adams, K., and Edwards, R. Aboriginal community control and decolonizing health policy: a yarn from Australia. In *Democratizing Health: Consumer groups in Policy Process*, H. Lofgren; E. de Leeuw; M and Leahy, (Eds) Edward Elgar Publishing Limited: Cheltenham, **2011**, pp 81–97.
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Peer-reviewed journal articles

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3. Ademi, Z., Liew, D., Hollingsworth, B.P., Steg, G.P., Bhatt, D.L., Reid, C.M., **2011**, Is it cost-effective to increase aspirin use in outpatient settings for primary or secondary prevention? Simulation data from the REACH registry Australian cohort, *Cardiovascular Therapeutics* [P], vol E, Wiley-Blackwell Publishing Ltd, UK, pp. 1–8.
4. Ademi, Z., Reid, C.M., Hollingsworth, B., Stoelwinder, J., Steg, P.G., Bhatt, D.L., Vale, M., Liew, D., and Reach Registry Investigators. Cost-effectiveness of optimizing use of statins in Australia: using outpatient data from the REACH Registry. *Clinical Therapeutics* **2011**, 33, 1445–1465.
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7. Al-Tamimi, M., Grigoriadis, G., Tran, H., Paul, E., Servadei, E.P., Berndt, M., Gardiner, E.E., Andrews, R.K., **2011**, Coagulation-induced shedding of platelet glycoprotein VI mediated by factor Xa, *Blood* [P], vol 117, issue 14, American Society of Hematology, United States, pp. 3912–3920.
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