

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



MONASH IS A GLOBAL UNIVERSITY WITH A PRESENCE ON THREE CONTINENTS AND AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

As a young university, our outlook is progressive and optimistic.

We are focused on empowering our people to make positive and lasting impact.

- Established 1958
- 347 students commenced in 1961
- Now Australia's largest university

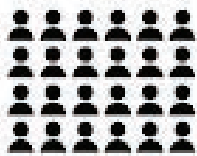
OUR PEOPLE

87,000+

STUDENTS FROM MORE THAN

160

COUNTRIES



16,000+
STAFF

4
MAJOR AUSTRALIAN CAMPUSES



52% DOMESTIC STUDENTS

35% INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

13% OFFSHORE STUDENTS



450,000+

IN OUR GLOBAL ALUMNI COMMUNITY

OUR RANKINGS

TOP 100 UNIVERSITIES

6

29

40

57

57

75

Times Higher Education Golden Age University Rankings 2020

World's Most International Universities Times Higher Education 2020

Best Global University US News & World Report 2022

Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022

QS World University Rankings 2023

Academic Ranking of World Universities 2022

#54
EMPLOYABILITY



GLOBAL UNIVERSITY GRADUATE EMPLOYABILITY RANKING
(QS World University Rankings 2022)

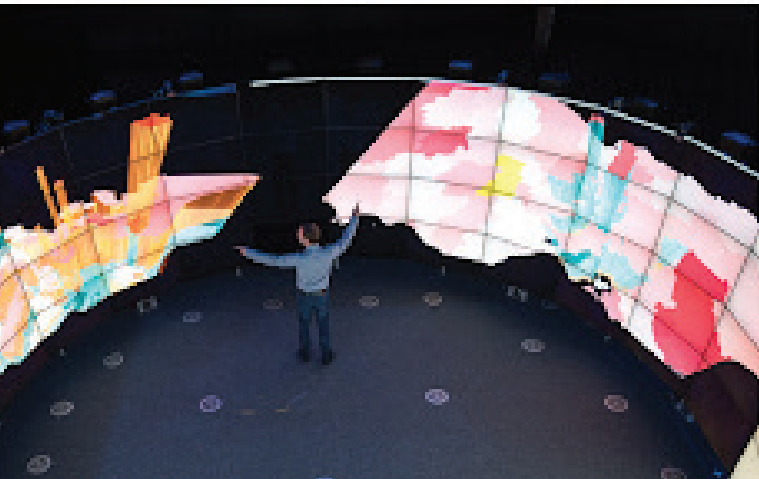


THE GOOD UNIVERSITIES GUIDE 2021 AWARDED MONASH FIVE STARS FOR:

- Staff qualification
- Student demand

OUR RESEARCH VALUE

MONASH HAS AMONG THE **HIGHEST RESEARCH REVENUES** OF ANY AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY, TOTTALLING NEARLY



\$462.1 MILLION

TOTAL RESEARCH INCOME

AND WE SPENT

\$1 BILLION

ON RESEARCH

The information was correct at time of publication (August 2020)

OUR ECONOMIC IMPACT

MONASH DIRECTLY ACCOUNTS FOR **\$5.2 BILLION** WORTH OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ANNUALLY FOR AUSTRALIA

MONASH GENERATES **\$6.60** FOR EVERY \$1 OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING

WE CONTRIBUTE **25% OR \$2.3 BILLION** TO VICTORIA'S INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EXPORT MARKET

IN 2017 WE COMITTED **\$135 MILLION** TO OUR NET ZERO INITIATIVE

MONASH IS EQUAL **42 GLOBALLY** FOR OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS*



*Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2022. Figures correct as of March 2020.



Department of General Practice

Established in 1975, the Monash University Department of General Practice is a globally recognised medicine, teaching and research department and one of the largest in Australia. The Department continues to strive for excellence in research and teaching in order to improve outcomes for patients through the advancement of general practice.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Our 2022 Annual report shares stories and achievements from the DGP, and reflects on future growth and development.



Positive Impact of General Practice

Wilderness photos--This GP rotation has made me appreciate the importance of caring for ourselves and practicing what we preach to our patients we care for. The pandemic has taken a major part of our mental and physical wellbeing and I've found it valuable to reconnect with things I enjoyed prior to the pandemic that I've neglected to do since starting medical school

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WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

I am delighted to present the Department of General Practice Annual Report for 2022. Despite the continuing demands and burden of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff and students of the Department have achieved an outstanding array of results both in education and research. These are highlighted in the pages of this report.


Our long-awaited move to St Kilda Road to integrate with the School of Public Health is taking place in December 2022. Colocation will bring enormous opportunities for growth in research capability and collaboration and provide us with state of the art educational facilities for our students.

There has been much to celebrate in the Department in 2022. Our honours students have excelled with two of our previous students winning Abhir Nainani and Rhea Singh major conference awards. We are also very proud of Dr Karen Frielich who while undertaking her GP academic registrar term with us was named the RACGP Victorian Registrar of the Year 2022 I would also like to congratulate Dr Chris Barton for receiving the Dean's Award for Excellence in Industry Education Programs from the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University. This award is in recognition of the wonderful work undertaken by Chris over many years leading research capacity building programs for academic registrars and the RACGP nationally. The Department also celebrated the successful completion of several PhD theses, among them Dr Sajal Saha, Dr Pallavi Prathivadi and Dr Natasha Lakaev.

General practitioners have played a major role in the pandemic diagnosing and managing patients and rolling out vaccinations. We have been in awe of the work undertaken by Dr Karen Price, the current RACGP president during this time, supporting and advocating for the discipline and communicating important health messages to the public. We were delighted to award Karen Adjunct Clinical Professor status with our Department.

With Associate Professor Claire Harrison departing at the beginning of the year, Dr Jennifer Neil has taken on the role of Curriculum and Assessment Lead with great enthusiasm and commitment, guiding students and staff carefully through the many hurdles they faced during the pandemic. which was not an easy task during the many hurdles COVID-19 brought upon us.

I would like to conclude by congratulating all staff and students for their wonderful contributions and wish everyone a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year filled with peace and joy.



Professor Danielle Mazza

Head of Department of General Practice
School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine
Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
Monash University

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



Professor Danielle Mazza
Professor of General Practice
and Head of Department



Professor Grant Russell
Professor of Primary
Care Research



Dr Jennifer Neil
Curriculum and
Assessment Lead



Dr Chris Barton
Senior Lecturer, Research
Training Coordinator



Dr Atish Manek
Senior Lecturer



Dr Nadida Kachkouche
Senior Lecturer



Dr Cathy Grech
Senior Lecturer



Mrs Claudette Gerreyn
Senior Administrative Officer
Undergraduate Program

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2016-2022

PRIORITIES	STRATEGIES
<p>Research and Education:</p> <p>Innovative and excellent research and education focused initiatives that grow the national and international reputation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build on existing research strategies• Increase use of digital technologies and educational innovations• Align teaching content to research findings• Respond to market demand• Drive market demand
<p>Partnerships:</p> <p>Strategic partnerships that focus on University and healthcare priorities and provide growth in research opportunities and education innovation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leverage Department research translation capability• Connect and strengthen key regional, national and international networks• Support Faculty to have a focus on primary care• Foster interdisciplinary links with relevant partners within the University
<p>Profile:</p> <p>Marketing and communication that positions the Department as a global leader in education and research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise the internal and external profile of the Department• Integrate communication and marketing into all Departmental work
<p>Workforce:</p> <p>Workforce development that addresses sustainability and promotes excellence within the Department in the areas of research, education, systems and processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build the Department's expertise through high-impact star recruitment• Recognise excellence and innovation• Increase exposure to and involvement in global best practice• Provide an aligned, effective and efficient service• Increase staff research and teaching capability

EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIPS, COMMITTEES, INVITED/GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Professor Danielle Mazza

Memberships/Committees

- Member, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Senior Management Committee
- Member, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Research Committee
- Grant Reviewer, Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC)
- Member, NHMRC CRE assessment panel
- Member, NHMRC Research Translation Centre Panel
- Member, Endometriosis Advisory Group (EAG), Department of Health
- Member, RANZCOG Abortion Guideline Development Group (Abortion GDG) June 2022 – December 2023
- Chair of the RACGP Redbook Preventive Care Guidelines for GPs in Australia) working group – developing the next edition due for release in 2022/2023
- Member, Editorial Board for the Journal of Antibiotics
- Editorial Advisory Board member, British Medical Journal Sexual & Reproductive Health
- Chair, RACGP Red Book 10th edition (Preventive Care Guidelines) Review and Update Editorial Committee
- Member, RACGP Research Expert Committee
- Board Member, South East Melbourne Primary Health Network
- Member, Therapeutic Goods Administration Women's Health Product Advisory Committee

Invited/Guest presentations

- International Federation of Abortion and Contraception Professionals (FIAPAC) Conference, Latvia, Sept 2022.
- Australasian Gynaecological Endoscopy Surgical Society NZ Focus Meeting "Transforming the delivery of women's health care in Australia - The SPHERE Approach" August 2022.
- Abortion Providers Group Aoteroa, New Zealand (APGANZ). August 2022. 'Increasing access to high quality contraception and abortion service delivery - the SPHERE approach'.

Professor Grant Russell

Memberships/Committees

- Member School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Data Governance Committee
- Monash University Mentor Program
- Chair of PhD panels (varied)
- Board member enliven Victoria
- Steering Committee Member. Future Hospital - Future Health Steering Group. Monash University Office of the Vice Chancellor
- Member Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Committee (Monash Health)
- Advisor and keynote presenter for Monash University University Health Service Future Finding Project
- Member WONCA 2023 Conference Scientific Committee (CSC)
- Vice Chair Program Committee. North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) and 50th Anniversary Committee, North American Primary Care Research Group
- Consultant. International Advisory Group "Measuring Comprehensive primary care" College of Family Physicians of Canada
- Member, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Hospital-Acquired Complications Curation Clinical Advisory Group (HACs CCAG)
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Projects Peer Review Working Committee 2022-2023.
- Chair of Editorial Committee, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners(RACGP) Australian Journal of General Practice:
- Invited member: RACGP Research Roundtable Thursday 10 February 2022,
- Invited Member Royal Australian College of General Practitioners GP Crisis Summit October 2022
- Member Academic Policy and Advocacy Committee Australasian Association of Academic Primary Care
- Mentor, AMA Mentor program
- Chair Primary Care Platform, Monash Partners
- Member, Monash Partners Executive
- Member, Monash Partners Board (primary care member, non voting)
- Board member, enliven (South-east Melbourne Primary Care Partnership)

Dr Chris Barton

Memberships/Committees

- Deputy Convener, Primary Care Special Interest Group. Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ).
- Member, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine ECR/MCR committee
- Member, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Future Ways of Working Group
- Associate Editor, BMC Family Practice
- Education Activity Representative (EAR) - Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)
- Chair of PhD panels (varied)

Invited/Guest Presentations

- Invited webinar - 'Primary Care Research Ethics: Where to start and why.' RACGP research webinar series 2022
- Invited webinar - 'Informal academic networks, developmental networks, and social capital: The essentials for early career researchers in academic primary care' Invited speaker at AAAPC early career research networking webinar series 2022
- Invited presentation - RACGP 2023 Academic Post program - live pre-application webinar

Dr Jennifer Neil

Memberships/Committees

- School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine Education Committee
- School of Medicine Education and Curriculum Committee
- Year 4C Assessment Working Group
- Steering Committee INTEL trial
- Advisory Committee "Improving Detection and Treatment of Depression in people with MS"
- RACGP specific interests group: Abuse and Violence
- Healthpathways Melbourne, advisory committee on family violence
- Co-author of two chapters in RACGP White Book 5th edition: Guideline on Abuse and Violence and author of a Victorian MARAM supplement.

Invited/Guest Presentations

- Invited speaker at webinar: RACGP "Risk Assessment in a Pandemic" end 2021
- Invited speaker: RACGP specific interest group on abuse and violence, "Risk assessment" 2022
- Invited panel member: RANZCOG Diplomats Day, family violence 2022
- Invited speaker at webinar: WestVic PHN, Information Sharing Schemes 2022
- Invited speaker at webinar: WestVic PHN, ECHO presentation, Information Sharing Schemes and case study panel member 2022

Dr Jessica Botfield

- ECR and Capacity Development Chair, AAAPC

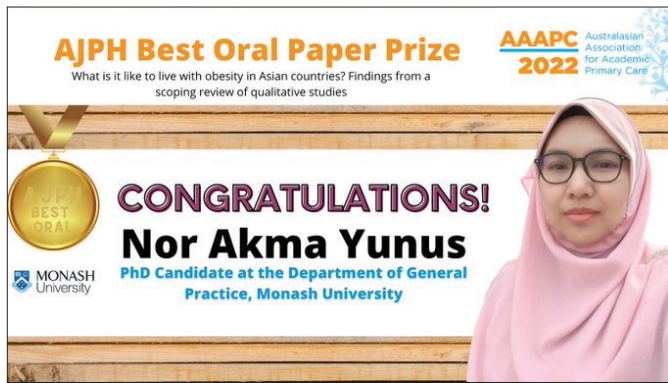
Dr Sharon James

- Australian Primary Health Care Nurses Association (APNA): Board Director

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

Abhir Nainani

Inclusion in the NAPCRG 2021 'Pearls' list presented by Annals of Family Medicine in recognition given to the highest impact research studies presented at the NAPCRG Annual Meeting



Dr Nor Akma Yunus

1. 2021 Rosediani Muhamad, **Nor Akma Yunus**, Elizabeth Sturgiss, Grant Russell, Mohamad Ariff Fahmi. Exploring the experience of obesity, influences and obesity healthcare from the perspectives of patients, the public and providers. Fundamental Research Grant Scheme (FRGS) 2021-1, Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia – research grant
2. Best Oral Presenter (Obesity & Aesthetic session) at the 6th World Islamic Health Union World Congress & 4th Nusantara Conference on Medical Issues 2021
3. Australian Journal of Primary Health Best Oral Presentation Award 2022 AAAPC Annual Research Conference.

Dr Chris Barton

Deans Award for Excellence in Industry Education Programs (2021). Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University.

Professor Danielle Mazza

- NAPCRG award for her paper presented at the 2022 AAAPC Annual Research Conference
- CAPR Must-Read 2021 Collection; Co-Author on article selected by the American Association for Cancer Research as part of a must-read 2021 collection of articles, "Breast cancer chemoprevention: Use and views of Australian women and their clinicians"
- RANZCOG Excellence in Women's Health Award, 2022



Professor Danielle Mazza receives the RANZCOG 2022 Excellence in Women's Health Award



Dr Karen Freilich

RACGP Victorian Registrar of the Year 2022



Rhea Singh

Most Distinguished Paper prize at the 2022 AAAPC Annual Research Conference



PARTICIPATION IN THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY CARE RESEARCH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Author: Dr Sam Chakraborty

Earlier this year I took part in the Oxford International Primary Care Leadership programme, held within the picturesque and historic Harris-Manchester College, Oxford University. The College has been at Oxford University since the late 19th Century and is a vibrant and inclusive place to visit, stay and work. These lovely surroundings lent perfectly to the generous, stimulating and inclusive 14th Oxford International Primary Care Leadership Programme.

A cohort of 10 primary care researchers, from around the world, including three from Australia, arrived on Sunday evening to a welcome by our hosts Kamal Mahtani and Sean Heneghan. Most of our cohort had not met each other previously but spent the next week of learning, self-discovery and building connections as a group. The itinerary for the week included a range of social, reflective and education activities, thus giving

attendees the time and space to consider these learnings in our present and future goals. In addition, our hosts incorporated numerous occasions for our cohort to learn from leaders in primary care research, clinical and policy influence and management. At the end of the week, we left feeling energised and eager to pursue our goals in improving primary care internationally.

Applications to the Oxford International Primary Care Leadership Programme are open to post-doctoral researchers who aspire to develop as leaders; keen to explore different aspects of leadership in primary care research and to develop a higher level of strategic operational skills. I would unhesitatingly recommend it to future primary care research leaders.

<https://www.phc.ox.ac.uk/study/primary-care-research-leadership-programme>



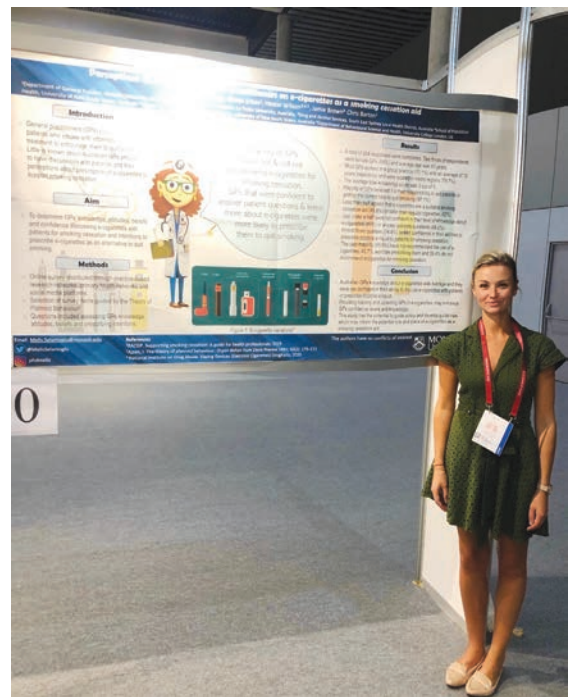
PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSDISCIPLINARY UNDERSTANDING AND TRAINING ON RESEARCH - PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (TUTOR-PHC) PROGRAM - UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO, CANADA

Author: Dr Sharon James



Tutor-PHC is a one-year interdisciplinary research training program involving mentors and trainees from many disciplines such as nursing, family medicine, psychology, epidemiology, and many others. Each year the Department of General Practice provides funding for a member of staff or a student who has shown potential for research excellence in primary care to attend the program.

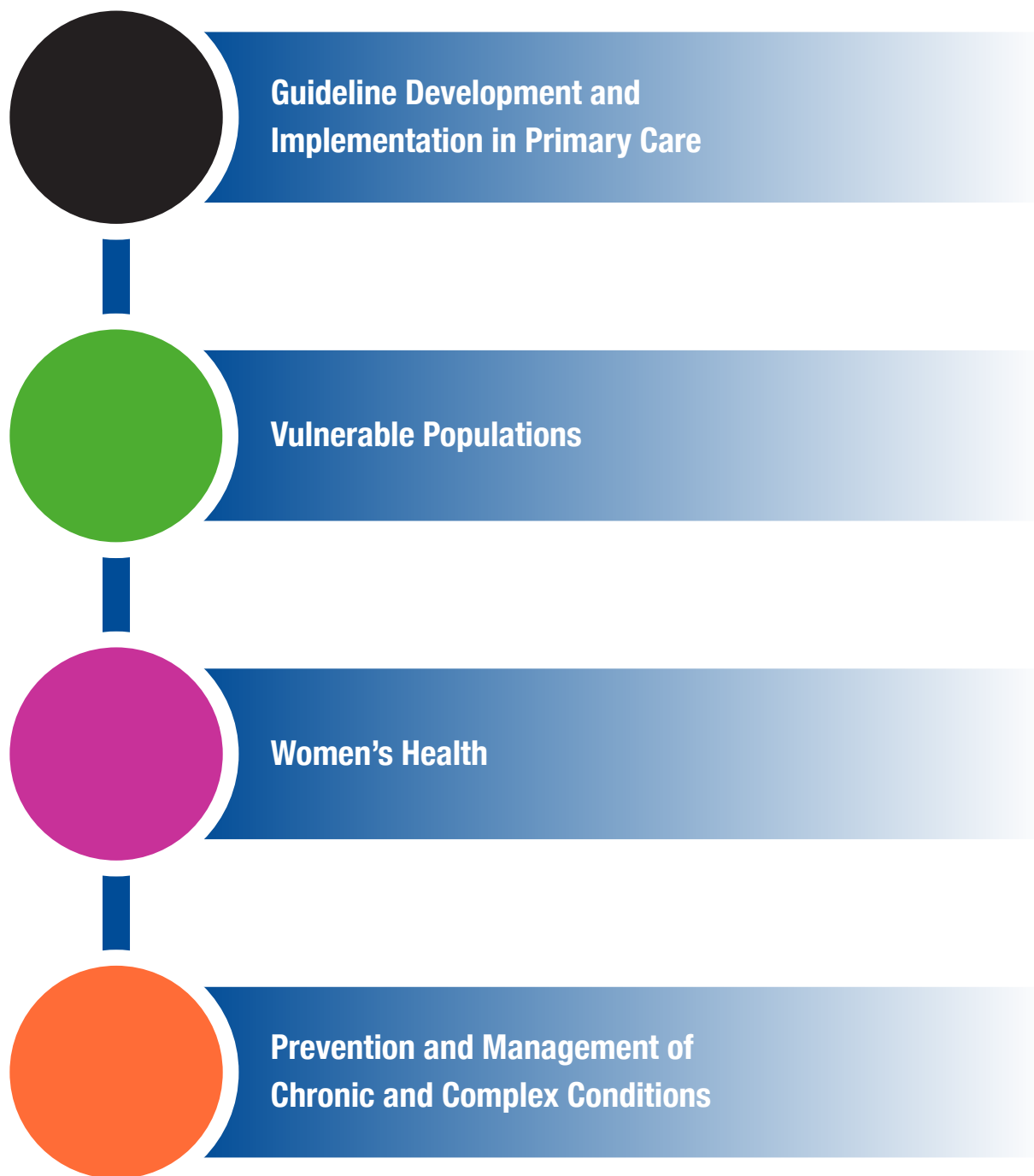
This year's program has been undertaken online with Early Career researcher trainees from Canada, UK, Belgium, and Australia. The program started in April with a symposium, involving a week of night-shift for me, where we discussed the definition of primary health care, characteristics of interdisciplinary teams, key elements of grant applications, knowledge translation, and consumer engagement. In June workshops were held about leadership in interdisciplinary teams. However, the main section of the program is through online forums where we each provide a grant concept for the team to critique. Further workshops are planned for November and early 2023 to conclude the program.



VISITING SCHOLAR AT KINGS COLLEGE LONDON - MELIS SELAMOĞLU

PhD student Melis Selaoglu received funding to spend several months collecting data in Istanbul Turkey and London UK for her research on GP's information needs, attitudes and prescribing intentions in the use of e-cigarettes for smoking cessation. Melis will spend time as a visiting scholar at the Department of Addiction Sciences at Kings College London as part of her study-away program. During her time in the UK and Europe she has presented findings to the SAPC UK annual scientific meeting and the European Respiratory Society conference. Melis will return to Australia in January to complete the analysis of data and write up of her PhD thesis.

AREAS OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



● GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Author: Vera Costa and Sam Chakraborty

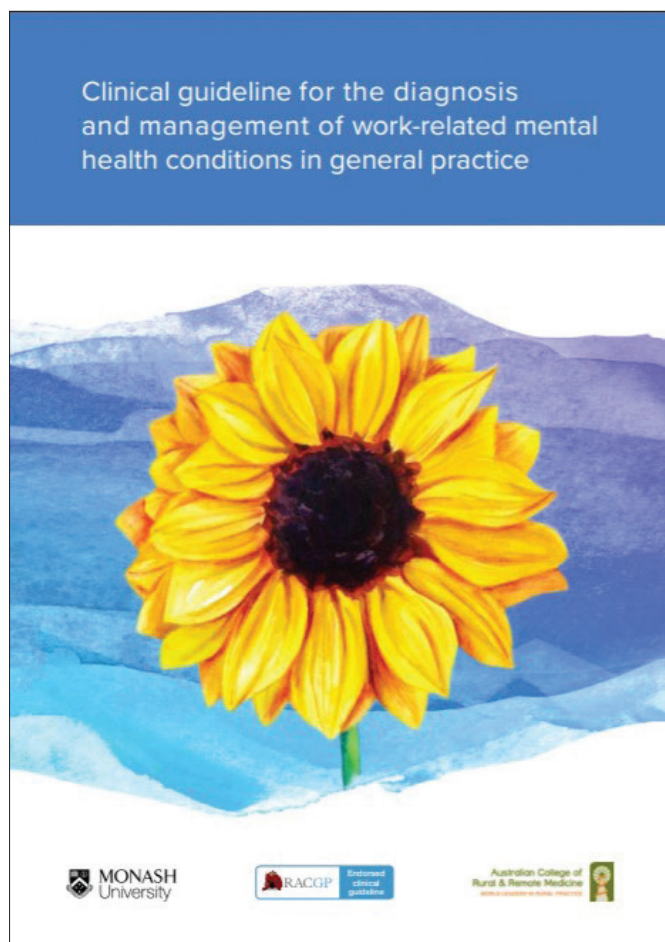
Investigators: Professor Danielle Mazza, Professor Alex Collie, Professor Justin Kenardy, A/Prof Bianca Brijnath, A/Prof Duncan Mortimer, Dr Joanne Enticott, Professor Michael Kidd, Professor Lyndal Trevena, and Dr Sharon Read

In 2019 we published the NHMRC-approved Clinical Guideline for the Diagnosis and Management of Work-related Mental Health Conditions in General Practice (the Guideline). Later that year, we established the IMPROvE (Implementing work-related Mental health guidelines in general PRactice) trial to assess the effectiveness of an implementation strategy to increase GP's adherence to the Guideline. IMPROvE is a pragmatic parallel cluster randomised controlled trial across Australia. GPs in the intervention arm of the IMPROvE trial receive academic detailing, resource provision and support through an online community of practice (CoP), whilst those in the control arm do not receive the intervention.

We measured GPs' adherence to the Guidelines measured at baseline and 9 months after the intervention, using virtual simulated patient scenarios. Over the trial period, patients who presented to participating GPs with mental health symptoms (directly or indirectly related to work stressors) were invited to complete surveys on their mental health status, and work participation every 3 months for 9 months.

This national trial commenced in 2019, with participating GPs receiving the intervention at the end of 2020. We recruited a total of 127 GPs from 96 GP clinics across Australia.

The intervention period is due to finish in late 2022. Our focus for the next phase of the trial is to analyse outcomes from the trial including GP adherence to guidelines, changes in patient health and work outcomes and an economic analysis and process evaluation. These findings will indicate how successful the proposed IMPROvE intervention is likely to be in the Australian setting for increasing GP adherence to work-related mental health guidelines.



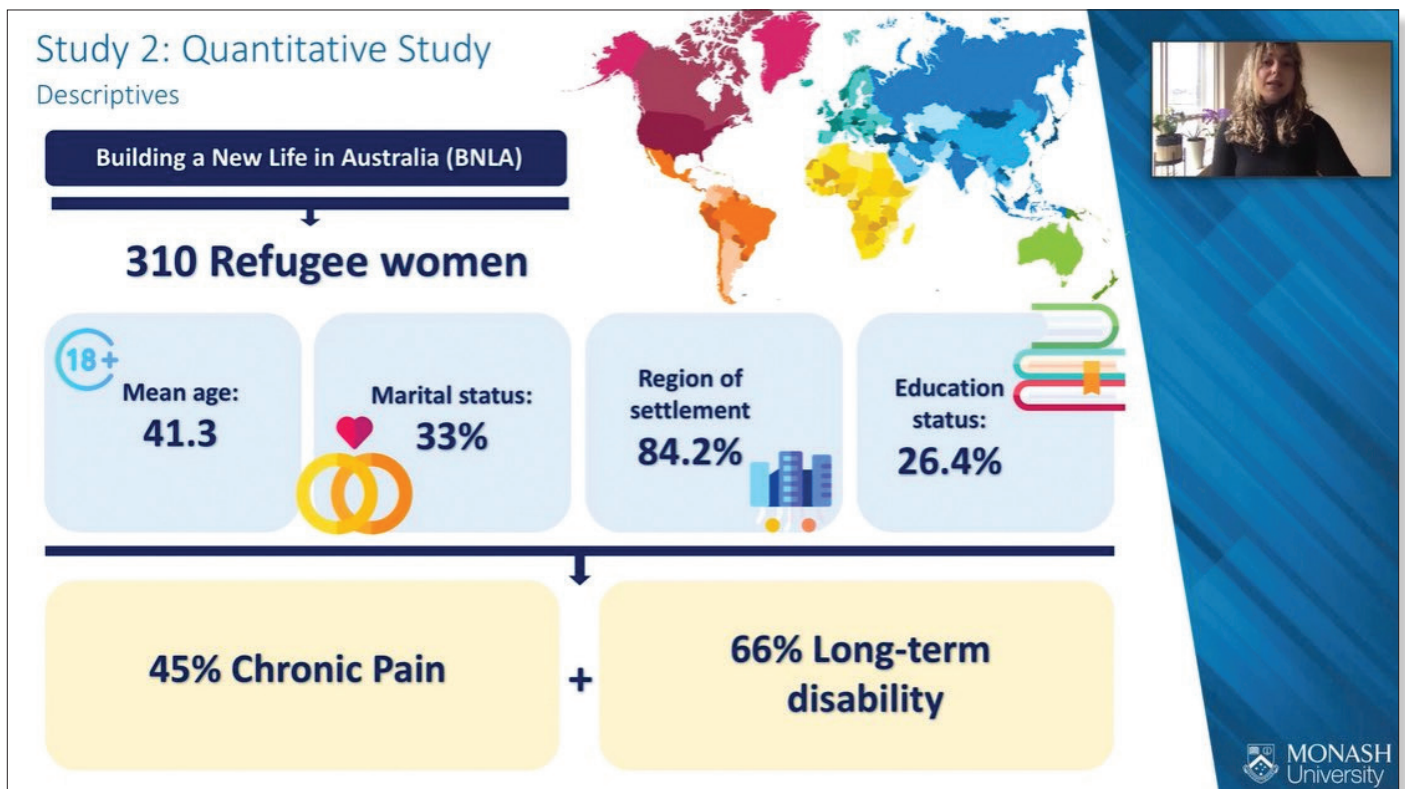
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Author: Grant Russell

IMPROVING PRIMARY CARE FOR AUSTRALIAN REFUGEES

The NHMRC-funded OPTIMISE Partnership Project brought together Monash and Latrobe Universities and University of NSW, in collaboration with 12 leading Victorian, NSW and National organisations to develop a model of integrated primary health care for patients with refugee-like backgrounds, which will be generalisable to other jurisdictions. Reported its main outcomes in the Medical Journal of Australia late in 2021 and a further paper that found that our whole of practice facilitation intervention resulted in improvements in procedures for and engagement of interpreters in general practice.

Areni Altun has continued her PhD investigating issues relating to the high prevalence of chronic pain in refugee women across the initial years of resettlement in Australia, while Praghya Godavarthy has, during her BMS Honours degree, investigated the dimension of ability to seek care for women in refugee populations in south-east Melbourne



PhD student Areni Altun presenting her research at the Australian Public Health Conference (2021)

● WOMENS SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Authors: Maria De Leon Santiago and Sam Chakraborty

SPHERE's focus in the last 12 months has been the implementation of three large clinical trials in the primary care setting - from nurse-led models of care for the delivery of women's sexual and reproductive health care services to workforce support to encourage primary care practitioners to deliver these services in areas of high need. In addition to this, the SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Coalition continues to advocate for policy and practice issues to ensure that women in Australia can access high quality sexual and reproductive health services that are based on the current evidence.



SPHERE was also very fortunate to be able to host a meeting at the Monash University Prato Centre that was focused on *“Working towards better health outcomes in women's sexual and reproductive health through primary care”*. This meeting was attended by SPHERE investigators along with international experts in women's sexual and reproductive health. After limited travel during the last two years, it was wonderful to finally meet face-to-face with our international collaborators and exchange ideas on current innovations in the delivery of women's sexual and reproductive health care. Further developing these collaborative relationships will be vital to planning our approach for the next phase of SPHERE.





SPHERE meeting at the Monash University Prato Centre 2022

THE AUSCAPPS NETWORK

In mid-2021 SPHERE established the Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support (AusCAPPS) network – a community of practice that will empower the primary care workforce to deliver best practice, evidence-based care to women trying to prevent or manage an unintended pregnancy (<https://www.spherecre.org/the-auscapps-project>).

Since its establishment one year ago, membership to this community has exceeded 1000 members! This multidisciplinary online community of practice has become a trusted avenue to connect with peers and clinical experts, find local providers, and access resources and training in long acting reversible contraception and medical abortion across Australia

The AusCAPPS Network welcomes GPs, nurses and pharmacists to join the community here: [AusCAPPS | Medcast](#)



THE ORIENT TRIAL



The ORIENT Study

ImprOving Rural and regional accEss to long acting reversible contraceptioN and medical abortion through nurse-led models of care, Tasksharing and telehealth.

The ORIENT Study (ImprOving Rural and regional accEss to long-acting reversible contraceptioN and medical abortion through nurse-led models of care, Tasksharing and telehealth) will evaluate a co-designed nurse-led model of care for the delivery of long-acting reversible contraception and medical abortion in general practice in rural and regional settings. GPs and nurses involved in ORIENT will be supported by clinical upskilling, educational outreach by clinical opinion leaders, and workforce support via the AusCAPPS network. The ORIENT study is currently recruiting general practice teams who are located in rural and remote Australia.

THE ALLIANCE TRIAL



The ALLIANCE (QuAlity family pLanning services and referrAls in commuNity pharmaCy: Expanding pharmacists' scope of practice) Trial is focused on the safe and effective use of contraceptive medicines amongst those who are at high risk of unintended pregnancy (e.g. women seeking the emergency contraceptive pill or early medical abortion in settings such as rural and regional communities). It involves training pharmacists to deliver structured, patient-centred, effectiveness-based contraceptive counselling and refer to a contraception provider where appropriate. The ALLIANCE trial components are currently being co-designed by women, community pharmacists and health services. We will commence recruitment of community pharmacists across the NT, NSW and Victoria in late 2022.

EXTEND PREFER: AN ONLINE CONTRACEPTIVE EDUCATION VIDEO FOR YOUNG AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

The EXTEND PREFER project is a pre-post study designed to explore the benefits of an online educational video on increasing contraceptive literacy and uptake of contraceptive methods, including LARCs, among women from priority populations. In particular, the EXTEND PREFER project is focused on women from rural and remote areas, socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Implementation of the study is underway and we anticipate sharing our outcomes in 2023.



PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC AND COMPLEX CONDITIONS

OUR PROJECTS

This year we completed projects on a range of topics associated with the prevention and management of chronic and complex conditions. These include:

Primary Aldosteronism – the hidden cause of hypertension

Our team has been working closely with investigators at the Endocrine Hypertension Unit at the Hudson Institute on a series of projects designed to increase screening for Primary Aldosteronism in Australian primary care. During 2022 Abhir Nainini completed his innovative BMedSci work examining factors that influence a general practitioner's experience of screening for primary aldosteronism in hypertensive patients. His work *General Practitioner Perspectives and Experiences When Screening for Primary Aldosteronism*, was awarded the AAAPC Distinguished Paper for best Australian paper submitted to The North American Primary Care Research Group's Annual Conference 2021 conference, the world's largest primary care research conference. *In addition the work* was selected as a 2021 NAPCRG Pearl – a research study presented at NAPCRG judged as having top greatest impact on clinical practice. Abhir has continued to work with fellow medical student Kirsten Tsan on a scoping review of Primary Aldosteronism in the primary care setting. Supported by an NHMRC Ideas Grant, the team has published work showing the prevalence of Primary Aldosteronism to be 14% among treatment naive GP patients with hypertension, and among others, published an article on the condition in the "Easily Missed" section of the British Medical Journal. A number of major grant submissions remain under review.

Team Members: Department of General Practice: Prof Grant Russell Abhir Nainini, Kirsten Tsan; Hudson Institute: A/Prof Jun Yang, Prof Peter Fuller, Dr Renate Libianto.

How do general practices respond to a pandemic? A prospective case study of six community general practices

The Pandemic in Practice study used a participatory, prospective case study method to determine how the 2020 coronavirus pandemic influenced clinical and organisational routines in six primary care practices in Melbourne. It was designed and implemented by a team of researchers, GP educators and international experts. The practices' experiences highlighted some of the unique challenges that the pandemic generated in general practice. We published the study's protocol, [1] published early results at the North American Primary Care Research Group annual meeting and have our main outcome paper under review. Two additional papers have been prepared that investigate a) how leadership was enacted in the practices in the first year of the pandemic and b) the degree to which the burden of the pandemic on staff could be understood through the lens of Karasek's widely recognised model of work strain.

MONASH UNIVERSITY

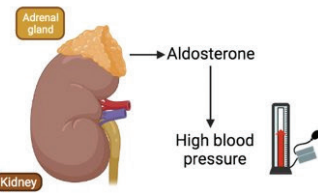
General practitioners' perceptions of screening for primary aldosteronism: a qualitative study

Abhir Nainani^A, Jun Yang^{B,C}, Sanne Peters^A, Grant Russell^A

^AMonash University, Department of General Practice
^BDepartment of Medicine, Monash Health
^CCentre of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Hudson Institute

Background

- 4-16% of hypertensive patients in general practice have primary aldosteronism (PA or Conn's Syndrome)¹



- Screening with a blood test readily identifies PA and allows for targeted treatment (surgery or medication)²
- Screening rates in general practice are **extremely low**³
- Even with greater awareness about PA - screening rates are highly variable in general practice⁴


Only **1** in every **100** patients with primary aldosteronism are diagnosed³

Aim

To understand the factors that influence a GPs decision to screen for primary aldosteronism in patients with hypertension

Methods

- Qualitative study with phenomenology
- GPs were provided with an educational session on PA from an endocrinologist
- Semi-structured interviews
 - 30-45 minutes
 - Transcribed verbatim
- Transcripts were coded using NVivo and analyzed for emerging themes




Participant characteristics

- 16 GPs had maximum variation in terms of:
 - Experience (1-35 years)
 - Practice location (urban, rural)
 - Number of patients screened for PA (1- 44 patients)


Preliminary results

- GPs recognized that detecting PA was important for patient wellbeing



"It's potentially curable and we're talking about not having multiple medications so you'd be crazy not to screen for it"

- Most were reluctant to screen patients already on antihypertensives



"I try to exclude it before starting medication because once they are on antihypertensives it's more difficult to screen"

- Perception of risk was a major influencing factor on screening
 - GPs prioritized screening patients they believed had a high risk of having PA and developing complications

Implications

- GPs are ideally placed to screen for primary aldosteronism
- Findings will guide the development of GP training interventions

Abhir Nainani
 BMedSc(Hons) Medical Student
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School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine

References

- Käyser et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab (2016). [Link](#)
- Muth et al Lancet (2015). [Link](#)
- Lim YY et al AJGP (2018). [Link](#)
- Yang J et al MJA (2020). [Link](#)

BMedSc Hons student Abhir Nainani presents research on screening for primary aldosteronism at the AAAPC conference, 2022.

Current team members: Prof Grant Russell, Dr Tim Staunton Smith, Dr Jennifer Neil, Dr Simon Hattle, Dr Jenny Advocat, Dr Riki Lane, Prof Ben Crabtree, Prof William Miller, Dr Liz Sturgiss, Jessica Hihn and Kathleen Wisbey.

Coronavirus in Victorian Healthcare and Aged care workers (COVIC-HA) Cohort Study

COVIC-HA is a large study involving a number of investigators within the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

It aims to comprehensively examine the long-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on workers and workplaces. The study has recruited four separate cohorts including hospital staff, paramedics, aged care workers and those in general practice. The SAPCRU team within the Department of General Practice assisted with the GP component and had a particular focus on workplace preparedness responses to the pandemic and the relationships between workplace responses and outcomes.

Outcomes will help inform improvements in organisational responses to the current pandemic and to future pandemics. Partner sites involved in this project include Alfred Health, Monash Health, Peninsula Health, Cabrini Health, Ambulance Victoria, Bapcare, and 26 general practices identified through the MonReN database. The study's mental health outcomes have been published: clinically significant depression, anxiety, and post traumatic stress were reported by 22.5%, 14.0%, and 20.4% of the sample (respectively). Two thirds reported symptoms consistent with burnout, but nearly all felt well-informed on workplace changes and 78.3% reported that support services were available.

Department of General Practice team members: Prof Grant Russell, Dr Riki Lane, Sharon Clifford (project manager). School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine investigators: Prof Karin Leder, Dr Sarah McGuinness, Prof Allen Cheng, Prof Andrew Udy, Prof Carol Hodgson, Prof Danny Liew, Prof Peter Cameron, Prof Peter Hunter, Prof Sophia Zoungas, Prof Helena Teede, Prof Rhonda Stuart, Prof Helen Skouteris, Josphin Johnson (project manager)

Vic-COL: A quality improvement intervention to optimise evidence-based surveillance colonoscopy in Victorian public hospitals: an interrupted time series study

The Victorian Department of Health and Human Services has identified 27 low-value elective surgery procedures that should be avoided except where evidence-based indications exist. One of those procedures "Low-value colonoscopy" represents one of the highest volume and most costly of these procedures.

Vic-COL is adapting a co-design process to measure and provide regular feedback to healthcare services on their rates of low-value colonoscopy; investigate the costs and consequences of reducing low-value colonoscopy; evaluate the impact and costs of this approach to reducing low-value care.

The three phase project involves: a) stakeholder engagement to measure the extent of low-value colonoscopies and provide regular feedback to healthcare services regarding the scope and scale of the problem; b) Co-design and implement strategies to reduce low-value colonoscopy; and c) and evaluation of impact and plan for sustainability.

The team has developed partnerships with six participating hospitals (across 4 health services) in both metropolitan and regional locations across the state. The team has developed understanding of the processes and systems involved in conducting and monitoring high-value surveillance colonoscopy; raised clinician awareness of, and provided education on the current surveillance colonoscopy clinical practice guidelines and trained local workforce to implement and monitor colonoscopy utilisation.

A pre-intervention audit found that all participating hospitals had a guideline concordance of $\leq 30\%$ with the most common reason for non-concordance being the recommendation of a return interval that was shorter than guidelines. Early post intervention data suggests that there has been 22% improvement in guideline concordance primarily driven by a reduction in recommendations for early colonoscopy

Team members: Denise O'Connor, Harriet Hiscock, Jonathan Foo, Corey Joseph, Ralph Audehm, Martin Hensher, Alison Hutchinson, Danny Liew, Andrew O'Loughlin, Karin Thursky, Grant Russell, Alexandra Gorelik, Gregor Brown, Jon Emery, Paul McMurrick, ,

Diagnosing 'Doctor Google' - GP perspectives on information behaviour and cognitive bias in older adults accessing online vaccine information

Investigators: Dr Chavy Arora, Dr Chris Barton, Professor Grant Russell

This study received funding from the RACGP Foundation Family Medical Care Education and Research Grant scheme in 2022. It expands upon Dr Arora's academic post research and will explore clinician perspectives needed to translate the findings from her registrar research into clinical practice. This study will explore the influence of misinformation on clinician-patient dyads and how online vaccine misinformation has been discussed in clinical encounters with patients. Patients often seek information online prior to, or sometimes instead of, seeing their primary care clinician for advice which has come to be known colloquially as asking "Doctor Google". To protect patient autonomy and empower people to make evidence based decisions, as well as reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable illnesses such as COVID-19, influenza and pneumococcus, it is paramount to understand how misinformation influences the patient, the clinician, and the patient-clinician relationship.

RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT

VICTORIAN COLLABORATION FOR TRANSLATING RESEARCH OUTCOMES INTO THE PRIMARY HEALTH INTERFACE (TROPHI)

After a delayed start due to the COVID pandemic, the department is excited to see activities associated with the TROPHI program begin in 2022. TROPHI's overall objective is to drive high quality implementation and translational research that provides contemporary practice based evidence to improve primary care and patient outcomes in the outer Eastern Melbourne region of Victoria. The first phase of the program has involved establishing a community of practice of decision-makers, health services, community members, implementation experts and clinicians from a range of organisations in Melbourne's East.

The next phase of the program will involve activities to support capacity building, empirical research and the translation of evidence for healthcare improvement. Capacity building will include: a mentorship program; seed funding for individuals working in primary care for piloting practice based research to address their own research questions; practitioner exchange fellowships; and bursaries for undergraduate, vocational and PhD students.

Lead investigators are Professor Grant Russell (Monash) Professor Lena Sanci (University of Melbourne) and Ms Clare Finucane (Royal Australian College of General Practitioners). Other members of the Monash team include Dr Sam Chakraborty, Professor Danielle Mazza, Dr Chris Barton

DATA-CAP PROJECT: EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL FOR DATA LED PRIMARY CARE IMPROVEMENT WITHIN THE SOUTH EAST AND EASTERN REGION OF MELBOURNE

Primary care is a rich source of data for clinical and health service improvement. However, reflecting broad concerns about Australia's ability to use data to inform policy and practice, Australian primary care data is fragmented. It exists in a complex and uncoordinated organisational system loosely controlled by varied Commonwealth, State and Territory governments and private entities.

Following a request from Monash Partners, a Monash University Department of General Practice team interviewed 24 key informants about the key challenges faced and approaches required to embed data-led primary healthcare improvement in South East Melbourne and Eastern Melbourne.

Findings suggested that a region wide strategy was required to help South East and Eastern Melbourne achieve success in sustainable primary care data-led improvement. This strategy needs to centre on the needs of the diverse communities within the region, and the needs and priorities of primary care clinicians and their teams.

Our report advocated for clear systems of governance to address complex individual and organisational relationships;

Formalised partnerships with a) at least one primary care data custodian and b) the region's Primary Health Networks. We saw the region having the potential to develop an accessible high quality data asset linking general practice clinical data with key hospital, state and federal health databases.

Any data asset needs to build upon existing resources, including Outcome Health's POLAR primary care data-base, Monash University's extensive data resources and regional examples of successful data integration. We advised that individual and organisational capacity building is required to lead and champion the strategy and increase the ability of primary care practices and those working within them to learn from and respond to the data insights that they receive.

Team members: Grant Russell, Sanne Peters, Sharon Clifford and Riki Lane, and Maryanne Lee (student)

SEMPHN GP ENGAGEMENT AND HEALTHPATHWAYS PROJECTS

The Department of General Practice has been contracted by the South East Melbourne Primary Health Network (SEMPHN) on two interrelated projects. The first involves an evaluation and cost analysis of HealthPathways and will provide guidance to SEMPHN as to whether the organisation should provide HealthPathways for GPs in the region or continue to develop and offer its alternative platform to address clinical and referral pathway requirements for GPs. The second project involves development of a GP engagement strategy that will provide guidance for SEMPHN in the development of a strategy to guide SEMPHN's activities in GP engagement. The projects are being conducted in parallel and involve literature reviews, document analysis, and interviews with key stakeholders. Reports for both projects will be delivered in December 2022.

MONREN - MONASH PARTNERS PROJECT

Author: Dr Jenny Neil

MonReN is the Monash University Department of General Practice's Practice Based Research Network (PBRN). The network aims to form a collaboration with primary care clinicians and practices in order to come together to identify and answer research questions that can improve primary care practice.

Thanks to the work begun as part of the concurrent Monash Partners-MonReN PBRN project, enthusiasm for MonReN has been growing for both internal and external stakeholders. This was largely due to two stakeholder forums we conducted in 2022, held with multiple stakeholders including practice managers, practice nurses, GPs, data providers and Primary Health Networks all in attendance.

The MonReN steering committee has focused on developing strong governance processes for MonReN so that in 2023 MonReN will be able to build on these foundations and facilitate new exciting collaborations with primary care in our region.

PBRN PROJECT: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK ACROSS THE HEALTHCARE CONTINUUM

This project aims to build a sustainable Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) across the healthcare continuum, including GP practices and Monash Partners, an Academic Health Science Centre. Funding for this project was awarded by the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) via the Monash Partners Academic Health Research Translation Centre in December 2019. While the start of the project has been affected by the COVID pandemic, in the last 12 months we have published a protocol paper, conducted a series of interviews with stakeholders to explore their needs for this research network and are near to finalising our international literature to identify best practices regarding PBRNs. We are currently finalising the data-analysis of this scoping review. Importantly,

in the last 2 months we have held two community oriented stakeholder forums conducted with practice managers, practice nurses, GPs, data providers and Primary Health Networks. The forums have determined critical issues for consideration for the development of an active research and teaching network. The forums were key in identifying research projects that we will be conducting in partnership with participating practices.

Team members: Grant Russell (lead PI) Sharon Clifford (project manager) Samantha Chakraborty, Chris Barton, Danielle Mazza, Maria De Leon-Santiago, and Sanne Peters (now at the University of Melbourne)



Attendees of the MonReN-Monash Partners Stakeholder Forum 2 - 15 September 2022

RACGP ACADEMIC POST PROGRAM

Author: Chris Barton and Sharon Clifford

The Department of General Practice was again selected by the RACGP to continue to deliver its Activity Program to support the Academic Post program in 2022. The program has been facilitated by the Department of General Practice since 2017 and was awarded the Dean's award for excellence in Industry Engagement for education in 2021. The program comprises a mixture of workshops, webinars, and online learning and mentoring support to academic registrars around Australia. Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, the first introductory workshop in November 2021 was held online. Much to the delight of academic registrars and staff, we were able to hold the second workshop face to face in July 2022 in Melbourne. The Academic Post program has been very successful and received positive feedback from participants every year. We are excited to continue to provide high quality learning and support to participants in the Academic Post program again in 2023.

Academic Post program contributors and partners

Monash University staff: Dr Chris Barton, Prof Danielle Mazza, A/Prof Claire Harrison, Prof Grant Russell, Dr Jennifer Neil, Dr Pallavi Prathivadi, Dr Jessica Botfield, Dr Cathy Grech, Dr Karyn Alexander, Ms Sharon Clifford.

Partners: Prof Paul Glasziou (Bond University), Prof Nick Zwar (Bond University), Prof Mark Morgan (Bond University), Associate Professor Katharine Wallis (University of Queensland), Assoc Prof Rowena Ivers (University of Wollongong), Dr Michael Tam (University of NSW), A/Prof Dr Lauren Ball (Griffith University), Prof Kamal Mahtani (Oxford University), Assoc Prof Kylie Vuong (Griffith University), Dr Renee Fiolet (University of Melbourne), Dr Ching Kay Li (past academic registrar), Dr Darren Foo (past academic registrar).



Professor Grant Russell delivering a talk to RACGP Academic Post registrars, Workshop 2, July 2022.



RACGP Academic Post registrars, Melbourne, July 2022 (Image credit: Georgia Franklin, RACGP)

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

YEARS 1 AND 2

Authors: Dr Cathy Grech and Dr Nadida Kachkouche

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of General Practice is responsible for the coordination and teaching of the Year 1 and 2 Clinical Skills program for Monash medical schools Clayton based cohorts. This comprises of 25% of the curriculum in these, their pre-clinical, year levels. In Year 1 students the students start by learning the fundamentals of the medical interview and communications skills, before moving on to a systems-based approach to history, examination, investigations, and clinical reasoning later in the year. They also learn and complete competency-based assessments in hand hygiene, vital signs and injecting. In Year 2, they continue the systems-based approach, further developing their skills to gain readiness to enter their clinical years in Year 3B and beyond.

Once again, the Year 1 and 2 Clinical Skills coordinators Dr Nadida Kachkouche and Dr Cathy Grech, alongside our administrator Ms Marion Daniels and our team of fabulous tutors, faced the challenges of teaching in the COVID19 pandemic environment in 2022. Thankfully, reduced travel restrictions and high vaccination rates meant we were able to return to face-to-face teaching from the start of semester 1. In the first half of the year, ongoing international border restrictions meaning some students did not arrive by the start date, high levels of community infection and isolation requirements meant in order meet the learning needs of all our students, we continued with online classes for those unable to attend our face-to-face ones: these sessions were able to be dropped in semester 2. Though we have had ongoing challenges with managing teaching in the COVID19 environment, with the safety of students and staff being at the forefront, our program has continued to evolve with the development of some novel projects and teaching methodologies. Some of these are highlighted below.

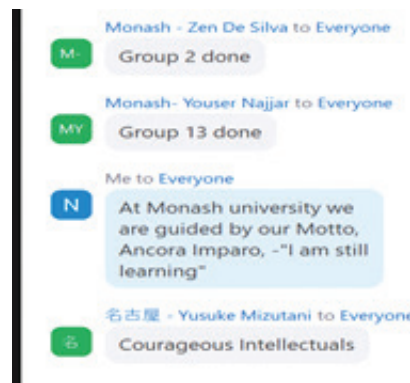
Year 1: Introducing a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Program in 2022, Monash University, Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences, Clayton Campus, Department of General Practice

There is a considerable body of literature discussing and supporting the significance and value of incorporating cross-cultural communication education in the training of undergraduate health professionals.

Therefore, in 2022, the Year 1 clinical skills coordinator, Dr Nadida Kachkouche, collaborated with Dr Itzel Bustos from Nagoya University Japan and incorporated a COIL program to the undergraduate medical course at Monash University Australia and Nagoya University Japan. The aim of the program was to promote cross-cultural clinical skills among medical students and raise their awareness regarding the importance of cross-cultural communication.

By interacting virtually with students from a different cultural background students from both campuses had an opportunity to experience cross-cultural communication. During the Zoom online COIL sessions, the Year 1 medical students from Monash University and the Year 3 medical students from Nagoya University in Japan, had an opportunity to practice history taking skills with each other and also discuss the challenges of cross-cultural verbal and non-verbal communication as well as the potential impact on the doctor-patient relationship. In addition, students also reflected on their progress in developing cross-cultural communication skills using this learning experience.

The sessions were organised and supervised by the Year 1 clinical skills coordinator Dr Nadida Kachkouche, Dr Itzel Bustos, Vikram Amara, a 5th year medical student from Monash University and supported by the clinical skills administrator Ms Marion Daniels.





A research project is conducted by Dr Nadida Kachkouche, Vikram Amara, Dr Chris Barton, Dr Amy Bohren and Dr Itzel Bustos on the COIL experience. The purpose of the research is to find out if introducing a COIL program can enhance medical students' awareness regarding the relevance of cross-cultural communication skills in healthcare.

Year 2 Podcast Development: "Taking the Leap: The Classroom to the Clinic"

Our Year 2 students have also often expressed anxiety about entering the clinical world in Year 3B, and this has been amplified by the teaching changes that have been necessitated by the COVID19 pandemic. Furthermore, traditionally we have taught clinical skills mainly through small group tutorials with skilled clinical tutors and large lectures, mainly given by specialist in the topic area we are covering. Evolving pedagogical theory and the diminishing practicality of teaching in large lecture halls has required a rethink of how we deliver some of our material. So, to meet these challenges and move away from lectures, Cathy has been working with the MED Educational team to create a Podcast for our Year 2 students. In this podcast, titled "Taking the Leap: The Classroom to the Clinic", she interviews specialists in the areas the students are covering, asking them about what drew them to their field, what working as a specialists and student on rotation in that area is like, as well as practical tips around history taking, examination, investigations. Cathy would like to thank Dr Ben Sayer for his production of the podcasts and all the interviewees – she is really enjoying the process and is learning a lot herself!

Assessment

The return to face-to-face teaching has meant we have been able to return to our usual assessment methodologies: the competency-based assessments (CBAs) and the progressively assessed observed clinical (simulated) assessments (OCes) in Year 1 and the observed structured clinical examination (OSCE) in Year 2. Our team from Clayton has once again been working hard with our colleagues in Malaysia and Gippsland to develop authentic and reliable assessment processes across the campuses.

Wrap-Up

Once again, this year the COVID19 pandemic has thrown us challenges, but we remain so grateful to our wonderful administrator Marion Daniels and our hardworking and dedicated team of tutors. We would also like to thank our wonderful simulated and real patients and – of course- our Year 1 and 2 students, who have now faced three years of education in unprecedented conditions,

YEAR 4C

Author: Dr Jennifer Neil, Curriculum and Assessment Lead, Department of General Practice

At the end of 2021 there was a sense of excitement about finally returning to face to face teaching in 2022. However, over the summer break it became increasingly obvious that we were in the midst of a COVID-19 peak. We had much discussion with the Monash University Chief Health Officer as new University regulations came into place. All students were to wear fit tested N95 masks and eye protection on placement. Then came the hurry to try and actually find appropriate masks for the students with practices mostly voluntarily supplying them despite not being funded for this. We are so thankful to all of our GP practices who take our students for rising to the challenge and assisting our students in getting important clinical placement time despite the rising number of COVID-19 cases.

After seven weeks of online teaching, we were delighted to finally be able to go back to face to face teaching for the final two weeks of rotation 1 allowing them to catch up on important clinical skills. Despite the outbreak of COVID-19, students and staff alike were very enthusiastic to be able to get back to face to face departmental teaching after two years of disrupted teaching. COVID-19 remained a major challenge with large numbers of staff going into isolation at various times throughout the year. We have been especially grateful to our academic registrars and other staff members for filling in for tutorials, often at the last minute. Dr David Oberklaid ran online catch up sessions for students who had missed tutorials for COVID-19 or other reason. This was important as students did not feel pressure to come into the department unwell. The COVID-19 measures were very successful, however, with no known COVID-19 outbreaks due to face to face teaching.

We taught 289 students in year 4 this year and also welcomed a number of new teaching staff into the department as well as four academic registrars. In curriculum updates, two new lectures were added this year on eating disorders and LGBTQIA+ health to enthusiastic responses from students. The curriculum was also updated to improve diversity in tutorial cases to improve representation.

In semester assessments continued from 2021, however both staff and students had the challenge of learning to use pebblepad for uploading assessments and marking. GP supervisors took over the marking of the referral letter assignment as well as continuing to assess the observed clinical encounter – clinical reasoning. Dr Kimberley Yew has overseen the end of year assessment program for the department. This year sees a return of MONSCEs (online OSCEs) as well as a single OSCE station (face to face) as well as the usual 50 question multiple choice paper. Thankyou also to Dr Atish Manek who so often filled in as a tutor and oversaw the general practice 5th year activities.

This year we see several longstanding staff members retiring. Ms Claudette Gerreyn has worked tirelessly as the administrator for the year 4 program for many years. Without her the program would not have functioned. Claudette has always competently given her all to her job. She will be very much missed but we wish her all the best for her well deserved retirement. Dr Andy Morgan and Dr Ann Drillich are retiring at the end of 2022. We are so grateful for their long service. Dr Emily Chen and Dr Shish Malgwa have also finished their time with us and we thank them for all their contributions.

Looking to the future, we will be moving with the Department to the Alfred precinct in 2023 and planning for the new year is currently underway. We are looking forward to a smooth transition to our new teaching space.

YEAR 5D

MED5101 SCHOLARLY INTENSIVE PLACEMENTS

Author: Dr Atish Manek

SIPs with the DGP provide an opportunity for students to engage in scholarly work either supervised by a world-leading DGP-Research Team (Research SIP) or a Community General Practitioner (Professional SIP). The DGP was excited to continue its involvement with the SIP program and proposed varied and enticing placements for students to undertake in 2022. Some examples of 2022 DGP Professional SIPs included; “COVID management audit with comparison to clinical guidelines”, “Diabetes HbA1c post COVID-19 follow-up” & “Audit of antidepressant prescribing”. While students benefited through scholarly and clinical work, practices and their patients benefited by having data analysed and presented for service improvement and or delivery of patient education material. A special thank you is extended to participating General Practice Supervisors. The 2022 DGP Research SIPs were of equally high quality and variety. Examples included; “a literature review on the diagnostic strategies of primary aldosteronism for patients in primary care settings”, & “Qualitative evidence synthesis about Understanding women’s views of and preferences for accessing postpartum contraception”. Similar to 2021, the high quality of 2022 DGP Research SIPs will enable a number of students to be named as authors on subsequent publications. We look forward to reporting on the continuing success of DGP Scholarly Intensive Placements in 2023.

COMMUNITY AGED CARE PILOT

Author: Dr Atish Manek

We are excited to announce a new pilot programme for 2022, specifically addressing the breadth of aged care delivery in our region. This pilot has been championed by multiple members of the Monash University and Eastern Health leadership team. The aim is to increase the exposure of our students to both in and out of hospital aged care. From R2 - R5 half the students were allocated to traditional 6 weeks rotations in the hospital setting i.e. ‘business as usual’. The other half were allocated to 3 weeks Hospital and 3 weeks Community placement. The 3 weeks community consisted of GP and Aged Care facility placement days. We aim to formally evaluate this pilot project, to understand if it has enhanced their learning. We hope the students (and their supervisors) will benefit from patient contact across different settings, and appreciate the challenges this brings.

SAFE PRACTICE ASSESSMENT - PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (SPA-PE)

Author: Dr Atish Manek

In the COVID related course and assessment adaptations the missing piece has been formal physical examination observation and assessment, particularly in years 2A,3B,4C in 2020 and to some extent 2021. From 2022 all final years will be required to demonstrate adequate physical examination skills in workplace based OCE (observed clinical examinations) and an additional more formal sign off of skills with an additional test called the SPA-PE (Safe Practice Assessment - Physical Examination) in a standardised simulated environment. The SPA-PE consists of three 10-minute observed assessments by one trained assessor. The DGP has been involved in developing the SPA-PE and providing multiple examiners for the assessment itself. We will evaluate this assessment format in time for our Assessment workshop at the end of the year.

GENERAL PRACTICE STUDENTS NETWORK (GPSN)

Author: Donna Lei (GPSN Monash Chair, 2022)

The General Practice Students Network (GPSN) Monash is a student-run club that aims to promote general practice as a career to Monash medical students from all year levels. We also run numerous events throughout the year, such as information evenings and revision lectures, and create regular resources to support students in their studies of general practice-related topics. In 2022, we were kindly supported by the Department of General Practice (DGP), our platinum sponsor Murray City Country Coast (MCCC) GP Training and silver sponsor Eastern Victoria GP Training (EVGPT). Our sponsors allowed us to deliver great prizes and catering to event attendees throughout this year and helped us to promote the general practice career to large audiences of medical students.

In 2022, we ran our first Year 4C Social & Clinical Skills Night in conjunction with the Department of General Practice, particularly with the assistance of Dr Jenny Neil and Mrs Claudette Gerreyn. This was an in-person event run in Notting Hill, in which year 4C medical students rotated around different stations in small groups facilitated by final year students. Stations included breast examination, DRE, otoscopy, fundoscopy and suturing. Students also had the opportunity to socialise with other students with free dinner provided through Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) funding from the faculty. We would like to thank DGP for providing the venue and equipment for the night, and for assisting with the planning, logistics and facilitation of the event.

In July, GPSN Monash held our inaugural BMedSc(Hons) Information Night in collaboration with PsySOM, the psychiatry interest group at Monash University. This online event provided students with the opportunity to hear from research supervisors and past students in both the general practice and psychiatry fields. From DGP, we would like to thank Dr Chris Barton (Research Training Coordinator) and Abhir Nainani (BMedSc(Hons) student 2021) for their wonderful presentations during this event. We also ran our annual GP Careers Night in early August, with speakers including metropolitan and rural GPs and representatives from various GP training pathways. Dr Jenny Neil and Emeritus Professor John Murtagh presented engaging and informative talks as part of this event, and students provided overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding the breadth of speakers that presented on the night.



Another notable event in 2022 was our annual GPSN State Event, which was run in collaboration with other local GPSN clubs from University of Melbourne, Deakin University and University of Tasmania. This year, our state event was called 'Introduction to Ultrasound' and provided students with exposure to and hands-on experience with ultrasound machine use in common clinical settings, including ultrasound-guided cannulation and arthrocentesis. This event was run at the Melbourne Medical School and was kindly facilitated by experienced emergency physicians and sonographers who volunteered their time to assist. Dr Belinda Jennings from MCCC spoke at the beginning of the event regarding the benefits of the GP career and the various GP training pathways available.

Throughout 2022, our committee members also continued to create high-quality resources for Monash medical students from all year levels. These resources included weekly MCQs that were posted to our Instagram page, along with practice OSCE stations as part of our annual OSCE Series. We also produced regular summary sheets which covered topics including cancer prevention screening, chronic disease management, palliative care medicine, and differential diagnoses of common presentations. We would like to thank everyone who has supported our work this year, including our committee members and sponsors, MCCC and EVGPT. We would also like to thank DGP for their continued support of GPSN Monash and we look forward to continuing this partnership in future years, to continue fostering interest in general practice amongst Monash medical students.



ACADEMIC POST GP REGISTRARS 2022

In 2022 the RACGP awarded funding to four GP registrars to join the Department of General Practice for a 12 month Academic Post. Beginning in February, the registrars have worked part time at Monash University engaged in teaching within the 4th year of the medical program and conducting an independent research project. They also continue their clinical training while working part time in community general practice.



Dr Chavy Arora

Supervisors: Professor Grant Russell and Dr Chris Barton

Chavy has interests in public health ethics and vaccine hesitancy among vulnerable populations. She has a Masters in Practical Ethics from Oxford University, where her dissertation focused on moral responsibility for vaccine misinformation propagated online. Her research this year continues this interest exploring the interaction between information behaviour and cognitive bias in older adults accessing online vaccine information. She was recently awarded the RACGP Foundation Family Medical Care Education & Research grant to support her research in how online vaccine information (and misinformation) influences cognitive biases and vaccination decisions in older populations.

Dr Karen Frelich

Supervisor: Professor Danielle Mazza

Karen is a passionate provider of early medical abortion and sexual health. She has recently completed a Masters of Reproductive and Sexual Health Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). She hosts one of Australia's top medical education podcasts, "Humerus Hacks" and also provides medical education advice on ABC Breakfast radio and sexual health education through Elephant Ed. Karen was awarded EVGP's Registrar of the Year in 2021 and RACGP Victorian Registrar of the Year in 2022. She is also enrolled concurrently in a PhD with the department to conduct research on a nurse-led model of care for long-acting reversible contraception and early medical abortion provision in rural general practice in Australia.

Dr Nazha Nazeem

Supervisor: Professor Grant Russell and Dr Jennifer Neil

Nazha has interests in organisational routines in general practice and a systems approach to safe care. She is conducting ethnographic research of 'exemplary clinics' that will provide new insight into patient safety in the real world of primary care. Existing qualitative studies on safety have been restricted to interview studies of clinicians and patients, however, ethnographic case studies of exemplary clinics provide opportunity to gain deeper understanding of the ways in which primary care practices can deliver care to meet the needs of patients.



Dr Laxmi Iyengar

Supervisor: Dr Elenor Mitchell (Rural Health)

Laxmi is affiliated with the Department of General Practice and Monash Rural Health. Her research is investigating the barriers and enablers of older person health assessments. Laxmi is also the 2022 Editorial Fellow for the Australian Journal of General Practice and works with the journal 1 day a week as part of the editorial team.

TEACHING STAFF

YEAR 1 & 2

Program Coordinators

- Dr Cathy Grech
- Dr Nadida Kachkouche

Administrator

- Ms Marion Daniels

Tutors

- Dr Fiona Collins
- Dr Julian Dart
- Dr Kate Douglas
- Dr Danielle Dowman
- Dr Tony Lucarelli
- Dr Buddy Reid
- Dr Robyn Ridgway
- Dr Ella Rose
- Dr Katherine Salter
- Dr Ron Schweitzer
- Dr Chathuri Siriwardene
- Dr Harishan Tharmarajah
- Dr Laxman Tharmarajah
- Ms Jacquie Wise
- Dr Simon Wong
- Dr Kathy Wallace
- Dr Caitlin Harrison
- Dr Anu Achar
- Dr Chuck Kong

YEAR 4C STAFF

Curriculum and Assessment Lead

- Dr Jennifer Neil

Administrators

- Mrs Claudette Gerreyn
- Mrs Clare Beeby

Professors

- Prof Danielle Mazza
- Prof Leon Piterman
- Prof Grant Russell

Associate Professors

- Adjunct A/Professor
Claire Harrison
- A/Prof Sanjiva Wijensinha

Senior Lecturers

- Dr Andy Morgan
- Dr Ann Drillich
- Dr David Oberklaid
- Dr Ron Schweitzer
- Dr Cathy Grech
- Dr Atish Manek

Lecturers/Tutors

- Dr Paki Rizakis
- Dr Emily Chen
- Dr Claire Denness
- Dr Pradeep Vijayanand
- Dr Anu Achar
- Dr Chathuri Siriwardene
- Dr Phil Feren
- Dr Harishan Tharmarajah
- Dr Kimberley Yew
- Dr Les Segal
- Dr Phil Perlstein
- Dr Kay Li

Guest Lecturers

- Dr Thomas Dickson
- A/Prof Greg Goodman
- Dr Abi Tenen
- Dr Alyssa Vass
- Dr Umber Rind
- Ms Kay Morey
- Ms Kate Gledhill
- Dr Paul Nguyen
- Ms Heather Miller
- Dr Shenae Calleja
- Prof Geoff Sussman
- Dr Libby Jamieson

GP Registrars

- Dr Karen Freilich
- Dr Chavy Arora
- Dr Nazha Nazeem
- Dr Laxmi Lyengar

SUMMER AND WINTER VACATION SCHOLARS

Through the Summer and Winter Scholarship program at the Department of General Practice, undergraduate and postgraduate students have the opportunity to gain experience conducting research over their semester break. Projects were offered to students at both summer and winter vacation periods in 2022 and as in past years there was an overwhelming amount of interest and applications for these roles.

The program is designed to provide experience and opportunities for students who may wish to proceed to research studies and/or careers in the future and several students have gone on to enrol in honours or higher research degrees with the department. The opportunities for students within this program are vast and varied. Students are able to develop their research skills while working on a small project in a supportive and collaborative environment. We were lucky enough to have students spent time on site with us at Notting Hill as well as participate in a range of hybrid (in person and online) meetings and scholarly activities.

This year the department welcomed 12 summer vacation scholars and a further 7 winter vacation scholars who spent between 4 and 8 weeks working on a research projects across the department. While our summer scholars spent much of

the period working from home through the last of the COVID lockdowns, the winter scholars were able to spend the full program working in the department and gained valuable insights to working within an academic department.

The department values the contributions made by the vacation scholars and hopes they gained valuable insights to research and research careers in general practice.

Summer Vacation Scholars (2021-22)

- Brooke Callahan
- Wai (Kit) Lee
- Rushath De Silva
- Jessica Hinh
- Kathleen Wisbey
- Rishov Doloj
- Yifan Gao
- Suarabhi Shashishekara
- Vikram Amara
- Maryanne Li
- Kiakai Yao
- Maanya Ivar

Winter Vacation Scholars

- Anthony Quach
- Jia Lim
- Sanjay Varatharaj
- Emily Whalen
- Vivienne Luu
- Jade Edwards
- Yannee Liu



Lunch with some of the winter scholars at the Notting Hill Hotel.



Summer scholars participated in a weekly Zoom huddle meeting to talk about their work.

HONOURS STUDENTS



Grace Goatcher (BMedSc Honours)

Project Title: *Comparing Clinicians' Perspectives of the WPATH and Informed Consent Models for Provision of Gender Affirming Treatment*

Supervisors: Dr Riki Lane, Dr Chris Barton

Grace is a medical student completing their Bachelor of Medical Science Honours degree with the Department of General Practice. They have a keen interest in general practice and LGBTQ+ healthcare, with a particular interest in improving access and quality of care for minority groups. Grace's research is focused on clinicians' perspectives of models of care for gender-affirming treatment and will also guide the development and implementation of a prospective randomised trial among Monash Health Gender Clinic patients, planned for 2023, which aims to compare outcomes of patients allocated to either Informed Consent or WPATH models of care.



Isini Appuhamy Mudiyansele (BBiomedSc Honours)

Project title: *What are Australian primary health care nurses' and nurse practitioners' perceptions of women's interconception care (ICC) needs?*

Supervisors: Dr Sharon James and Professor Danielle Mazza

Isini is a biomedical science student completing her honours year with the SPHERE team at the Department of General Practice. She has a strong interest in both primary health care and the field of women's health. Her research project is exploring Interconception care. This is the care provided to women between pregnancies aiming to improve maternal health outcomes by early intervention to reduce the maternal risk factors in subsequent pregnancies. Currently, ICC is not conceptualised or defined in the literature. Nurses and nurse practitioners are at the forefront of the Australian primary health care system with their close contact and access to women, making their perceptions valuable to understanding and future improvements of ICC delivery. This qualitative descriptive study aimed to provide insight into Australian primary health care nurses' and nurse practitioners' perceptions of women's ICC needs and their delivery of ICC in Australian primary health care settings. The findings will be important in improving current ICC delivery while informing future research into ICC provision guidelines and models.



Sarmitha Kodavaluru (BBiomedSc Hons)

Project Title: *What are Australian women's perceptions of interconception care?*

Supervisors: Dr Sharon James and Professor Danielle Mazza

Sarmitha is a biomedical science student who is completing her honours year with the SPHERE team at the Department of General Practice investigating interconception care in general practice. Interconception care is the care that is provided during the period between the end of one pregnancy and the beginning of another, with the aim to improve maternal health and reduce adverse perinatal outcomes in subsequent pregnancies. Interconception care is currently not well defined in literature and there has not been extensive research into what it entails. Women or people who have experienced pregnancy are the main consumers of interconception care, making their perceptions valuable to the understanding and future improvements of interconception care. This qualitative descriptive study aimed to provide a broad insight into Australian women's perceptions of interconception care, as well as their perceived care needs during the interconception period. These findings will be important in improving existing interconception care content and delivery, as well as inform future research into guidelines and models of interconception care provision.



Praghya Godavarthy (BBiomedSc Honours)

Project title: *Ability to seek primary care among women of refugee background in South-East Melbourne- a qualitative study*

Supervisors: Professor Grant Russell and Dr. Riki Lane

Praghya is a Biomedical science student completing her honours year with the Department of General Practice. She has a strong interest in both primary health care and learning more about the refugee community in South-East Melbourne. Her research is using Levesque's model of access to explore the dynamic interaction between the characteristics of the health care system and a community's abilities to perceive, seek, reach, afford and engage with appropriate care. The model's concept of "ability to seek" care involves personal autonomy, cultural beliefs, and knowledge about health care options. While these factors are particularly important in refugee communities, little is known about how these abilities influence individual's experiences of obtaining needed care. This qualitative study is aimed to provide insight about how women of a refugee background can experience the healthcare provided. Furthermore, data from the research will aid in should help inform interventions to improve primary health care to this vulnerable community and inform them about current medical services and inform health professionals about the ideologies and beliefs that individuals from a refugee background experience. It can also provide an approach for further exploration of key dimensions of the ACCESS model.

DOCTORS OF PHILOSOPHY

The Department of General Practice continues to attract outstanding candidates to our PhD program. Our students comprise both medically trained doctors working in general practice and students from a host of health disciplines with a passion for research in primary care and community settings.



Dr Nor Akma Binti Yunus

Supervisors: Dr Liz Sturgiss, Prof Grant Russell, Associate Professor Rosediani Muhamad

PhD title: *Obesity management in Peninsular Malaysia: are the services meeting community needs?*

Dr Nor Akma is a Family Medicine Specialist at Universiti Sains Malaysia and received a scholarship from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia to undertake her PhD at Monash University. Akma's PhD is exploring obesity management for adults in Peninsular Malaysia. Malaysia has the highest obesity prevalence in Southeast Asia. However, patients' perspectives on obesity and obesity management services in Peninsular Malaysia are not frequently studied. Akma's PhD project aims to understand patients' views of living with obesity and their experience in accessing healthcare for obesity. It also explores health providers' perceptions and experiences in managing obesity in Peninsular Malaysia. The findings from this project will give insight into improving obesity management in Malaysia tailored to the Malaysian context.



Dr Areni Altun

Supervisors: Professor Grant Russell, Dr Liz Sturgiss, Dr Helen Brown

Title: *Improving access to healthcare for refugee women living with chronic pain*

Areni is a clinical Osteopath undertaking her PhD full-time within the Department of General Practice at Monash University. Her mixed methods research explores the factors that influence access to quality health care for refugee women living with chronic pain in Australia. Her enquiry hopes to provide greater insight into the delivery of culturally sensitive care to facilitate positive health outcomes for vulnerable populations.



Claire Hutton

Supervisors: Dr Chris Barton and Dr Penny Round

PhD title : *Experiences and challenges of providing care to fellow doctors*

Claire has had a longstanding interest in doctors' health, having worked as the consultant psychologist for the AMA (Vic) Peer Support Service (an anonymous phone service) since its inception in 2008. Her PhD focuses on doctors who provide care for their peers, whether in a professional or voluntary capacity, looking at their experiences, and the challenges involved in helping fellow doctors. As well as part-time PhD study, she lectures in counselling programs at Victoria University, provides psychological support on humanitarian aid training programs and has a private practice as a counselling psychologist.



Dr Karen Freilich

Supervisor: Professor Danielle Mazza

Project Title: *A nurse-led model of care for long-acting reversible contraception and early medical abortion provision in rural general practice in Australia: Fidelity Checking of Educational Outreach of the ORIENT Trial*

Karen is a GP registrar who is passionate about sexual and reproductive health rights, access and equity. She is enrolled concurrently in a PhD while completing an Academic Post as part of her registrar training. Karen's PhD research focuses on women living in rural Australia, who are 1.4 times more likely to have an unintended pregnancy. Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) and early medical abortion (EMA) have been demonstrated to be effective interventions to improve reproductive choice and autonomy but despite this, it is estimated that only 10% General Practitioners (GPs) in Australia are certified to prescribe EMA. Task shifting through nurse-led models of care has been shown as a safe and acceptable way to improve sexual and reproductive healthcare access. The ORIENT Study through SPHERE is a five-year pragmatic cluster randomised controlled trial (RCT) involving 32 general practices to implement nurse-led models of LARC and EMA provision. Educational outreach sessions will be delivered to implement this model. In this first year of enrollment Karen's research will focus on "fidelity checking" to ensure the educational outreach sessions are delivered as intended.

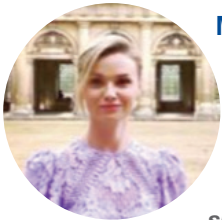


Jess Moulton

Supervisors: Prof Danielle Mazza and Dr Asvini Subasinghe

Title: *Co-designing nurse-led models of care to increase access to early medical abortion and long-acting reversible contraception in rural and regional general practice*

Jess joined the Department of General Practice and SPHERE NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women in Primary Care in 2020 as a PhD candidate, where her research is focused on co-designing nurse-led models of care to increase access to early medical abortion and long-acting reversible contraception in rural and regional general practice. Her research is part of the ORIENT Trial, an MRFF-funded stepped wedge cluster randomised trial aiming to implement and evaluate the model of care in 32 Australian general practices.



Melis Selamoglu

Supervisors: Dr Chris Barton, Prof Bircan Erbas (La Trobe)

Title: *Perceptions of general practitioners of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid*

General practitioners (GPs) have an important role in providing patients who smoke with health information, support and treatment to encourage them to quit smoking. Recently electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are increasingly being marketed to smokers as a smoking cessation aid and with the growing availability and popularity of e-cigarettes, new challenges are emerging in supporting patients to quit smoking. Due to the limited evidence available around the efficacy of e-cigarettes as an aid to smoking cessation, there is ongoing uncertainty around whether or not the use of e-cigarettes should be considered as a smoking cessation method. Melis' doctoral research will focus on the perceptions and prescribing intentions of GPs towards the use of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation alternative to provide useful information to guide policy on e-cigarettes and contribute to guideline development internationally and nationally on the potential role and place of e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid.



Nishadi Withanage

Supervisors: Professor Danielle Mazza, Dr. Jessica Botfield, Professor Kirsten Black

Nishadi Withanage is a PhD student with a strong interest to improve women's preconception health through Australian general practice

Project title: *Evaluating primary care-based preconception care interventions that reduce identifiable risks and improve pregnancy outcomes*

The PhD project aims to: (1) determine the effectiveness of preconception care interventions targeted at reproductive-aged women and men (2) understand the feasibility of identifying women who may most benefit from preconception care in general practice (3) explore women's preferences for provision of preconception care in general practice and (4) develop an innovative model of nurse-led preconception care in general practice.



Zaynah Zureen Ali

Supervisors: Professor Danielle Mazza, Associate Professor Safeera Hussainy, Dr. Samantha Chakraborty, Dr. Anisa Assifi.

Project title: *Evaluation of a community pharmacy intervention that promotes the safe and effective use of contraceptive medicines amongst women at high risk of unintended pregnancy*

Zaynah's PhD project focuses on the evaluation of community pharmacy as an intervention to improve access to safe and effective use of contraceptive medicines amongst women deemed high risk of unintended pregnancy. The PhD project forms part of the ALLIANCE Trial, which is a multi-university, multi-disciplinary and international collaboration funded by the Medical Research Future Fund. The ALLIANCE Trial will investigate whether increasing the community pharmacy scope of practice to deliver high-quality, structured, patient-centred, effectiveness-based contraceptive counselling and a referral to a contraceptive provider results in a subsequent influx in use of effectiveness-based contraception in these women, and therefore a reduction in unintended pregnancy.



Sanduni Madawala

Supervisors: Dr Chris Barton, A/Prof Narelle Warren, A/Prof Christian Osadnik

Title: *The experience of primary healthcare for patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease who continue to smoke*

Sanduni's project aims to investigate the healthcare experiences of patients diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) who continue to smoke. Experiences of stigma can act as a barrier to accessing and engaging with health services for these patients. The study will explore the health care experiences of this group who are at high risk of poorer health outcomes and disease progression.



Tesfaye Hambisa Mekonnen

Supervisors: Professor Grant Russell, Dr. Michael Di Donato, and Professor Alex Collie

Project title: *Understanding treatment characteristics and effects on compensated work-related musculoskeletal injury outcomes*

The overarching aim of the Ph.D. project is to identify individual, injury, workplace, healthcare, and compensation-related characteristics associated with time to treatment. The project also aims to determine the effects of time to treatment on key occupational injury outcomes, including a return to work, recovery, and disability duration for claimants with compensated work-related musculoskeletal conditions.



Pip Buckingham

Supervisors: Professor Danielle Mazza and Associate Professor Safeera Hussainy

Title: *Feasibility and acceptability of community pharmacy contraceptive counselling from end-user perspectives*

Pip started a PhD with SPHERE at the DGP in 2019. Pip's thesis examines the potential feasibility of community pharmacy contraceptive counselling from pharmacist perspectives and the acceptability of pharmacists as sources of contraceptive information and characteristics of person-centred contraceptive care from consumer perspectives. The findings of the research will inform the development of a person-centred pharmacy contraceptive counselling and referral initiative that will be trialed in community pharmacies in Victoria, Northern Territory and New South Wales, commencing in 2022, to determine whether pharmacy contraceptive care can increase contraceptive access and improve satisfaction and experiences of care.



Susan Saldanha

Supervisors: Prof Danielle Mazza, Dr Jessica Botfield

PhD project title: *Identifying and responding to reproductive coercion and abuse in Australian general practices*

Susan completed her undergraduate studies in Health Sciences (Public Health) and Commerce (Management) in 2020 and was awarded the 2019 Victorian International Student of the Year (Higher Education) by the state of Victoria. She graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Biomedicine (Degree with Honours) in 2021. Susan joined the Department of General Practice as a PhD student in 2022 and her research aims to understand reproductive coercion and abuse among individuals attending Australian general practice settings.

PHD COMPLETIONS

Congratulations to the following Monash General Practice PhD students who completed or submitted their thesis in the past 12 months.



Dr Sajal Saha (October 2021)

Supervisors: Professor Danielle Mazza, Professor Karin Thirsky (external), Dr David Kong (external)

Thesis: *Optimising antimicrobial use in primary care utilising collaboration between general practitioners and pharmacists. Monash University. Thesis. <https://doi.org/10.26180/17148527.v1>*



Dr Natasha Lakaev (May 2022)

Supervisors: Dr Chris Barton, Professor Craig Hassed, Professor Jan Coles (retired)

Thesis Title: *Refinement and development of the Lakaev Academic Stress Response Scale-2 (LASRS-2) for research, clinical and educational settings using Rasch Analysis*



Dr Pallavi Prathivadi (July 2022)

Supervisors: Professor Danielle Mazza, Dr Chris Barton

Thesis Title: *The opioid prescribing knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Australian General Practitioners. Monash University. Thesis. <https://doi.org/10.26180/20264925.v1>*



Dr Dan Epstein (November 2022)

Supervisors: Dr Chris Barton, Dr Joanne Enticott, Professor Heidi Larson (external)

Thesis Title: *Game design and behaviour change using Vaxcards: A collectible card game to increase vaccine confidence.*

GRADUATE RESEARCH GROUP REPORT

Authors: Areni Altun and Jessica Moulton

The Graduate Research Group (GRG) was established in 2018 to provide a space for our research students and academic registrars to meet regularly to support professional development and discuss issues in research in a supportive and collaborative group environment. While the GRG is student-led, we receive support and guidance from Dr Chris Barton and are overseen by the DGP Research Committee. This year, Jess Moulton and Areni Altun - who are PhD Candidates - took over from Dr. Pallavi Prathivadi and Pip Buckingham as GRG Co-Chairs. Fellow PhD Candidate Melis Selamoglu was also a co-chair for the first half of 2022, before heading abroad for the second half of her studies. The GRG provides a supportive space for students to engage with and share their learnings with each other. In addition to this, students are taught from experts in leading fields of study who present their expertise in primary care research. The fortnightly program consists of educational sessions from guest speakers (e.g. survey design, planning primary care research careers, thesis writing, qualitative interviewing and more); and student practice presentations to receive feedback on assessments, milestones, and conference papers and posters. In 2022, after COVID-19 workplace restrictions were lifted, we returned to face-to-face meetings whilst also offering a hybrid format of online Zoom meetings to ensure students stayed connected and supported one another throughout the year.



RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Author: Grant Russell

The Department of General Practice's research committee aims to facilitate the implementation of the Research Objectives in the DGP Strategic Plan, monitor university, faculty and school initiatives that affect research, oversee a range of research activities within the department (in particular the Graduate Research Group) and to report to the Department's Strategic Management Team on research issues.

Members are Grant Russell (Chair) Chris Barton, Samantha Chakraborty, Jennifer Neil and Maria De Leon Santiago. They are joined by the co-chairs of the student group within the GRG (Jessica Moulton and Areni Altun) and Nishadi, a PhD student, who provides secretariat support.

This year we have:

- Overseen the impressive and ongoing work within the Graduate Research Group and discussed organising PhD celebration events.

- Enhanced strategies to recruit Med Sci honours students through information sessions such as the one held at Clayton
- Organised 'Research In Progress' seminars, where researchers describe research initiatives receive feedback and commentary from across the department to refine the research concept.
- Continued to develop MonRen, the Department's Practice Based Research Network. Our funded Monash Partners study that is exploring best practice in the implementation of PBRNs is adding to our knowledge of the area
- Encouraged the Department's extensive participation in the AAAPC conference.
- Discussed the availability of storage space at 553 St Kilda to facilitate the move on 9th December 2022.

MEDIA AND MARKETING COMMITTEE

Author: Chris Barton

The Media and Marketing committee was Chaired this year by Dr Chris Barton. He was joined by members from across the department including Joly Kwek, Chavy Arora, Nazha Nazeem, Marion Daniels, Melis Selamoglu, Praghya Godavarthy and Grace Goatcher.

The committee devised campaigns to promote the department's programs to potential Academic Post registrars and research students. Dr Barton attended information evenings hosted by GPSN, the Alfred precinct, Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences, and the RACGP.

The department Twitter account was managed by Melis Selamoglu providing information and promoting staff and student achievements across the year. In particular, she tweeted staff and student activity at major conferences including AAAPC and SAPC annual research conferences.

The other major task of the committee is the production of this annual report. I'd like to especially thank Marion Daniels for her administrative support and coordination of this process.

PROJECT MANAGERS GROUP

Author: Sharon Clifford

The project manager's group started in 2020 and is facilitated by Sharon Clifford. Meetings were originally held in a coffee shop close to the Notting Hill office, however since the COVID-19 pandemic meetings have transitioned online, which is also inclusive of our interstate staff. The group meets six-weekly for approximately 45 minutes via Zoom and aims to connect project staff, break down barriers and share information about what is happening in other projects.

The group was initiated by the DGP Research Committee and welcomes any staff in the Department who are working in a project management role. The group can feed back issues and requests to the Committee when required. Members have also benefited from sharing resources, skills and information and offering help, advice and contacts.

Discussion topics have included recruitment tips, use of databases including MonReN Practice Based Research Network, data storage and data sharing agreements, legal contracts, managing our time and competing priorities, strategies to increase participant engagement, working with consumer representatives, using DGP social media for recruitment and report writing templates. We also discuss project management training, resources and related professional development.



SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Authors: Atish Manek

The Department of General Practice (DGP) Social Committee continued to meet frequently throughout 2022. This year's members included Atish Manek, Maria De Leon-Santiago, Areni Altun, Susan Saldanha, Melis Selamoglu, Marion Daniels, & Praghya. Together, the committee used out of the box thinking to help keep the DGP socially engaged during 2022.

2022 kicked off with a DGP social gathering at the trusty venue, 'The Nott'. A long favourite of Monash students and staff, the hotel has provided an excellent casual venue for occasional get togethers for the DGP while based at its current Notting Hill site. A hearty lunch was eaten by all, and a fantastic opportunity to meet new colleagues.

A vibrant DGP acknowledged IDAHOBIT Day by coming out in all colours of the Rainbow in May, and enjoying appropriately patterned tasty treats

The committee went on to organise the ever-popular International Lunch. Staff prepared and shared a meal with their colleagues. Similar to previous years, it was an enjoyable event where there was no shortage of delicious flavours and smiles shared.

At the time of writing, the social committee is in the process of preparing for the end of year festivities. We look forward to celebrating with you soon!! The DGP Social Committee is hoping to organise more face to face activities in 2023.



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Authors: Nadida Kachkouche, Sandra Zovko, Anisa Assifi and Laxmi Iyengar

In line with Monash University's commitments to driving sustainable change, the Department of General Practice is dedicated to being a sustainable organisation and recognises the need to embed sustainable practices throughout its operations including teaching, research and other.

Given that sustainability is everyone's responsibility, the sustainability committee team members follow a collaborative approach to ensure broad engagement and commitments from the department's staff members to shared sustainability goals and use education as a key tool. These education tools include presentations, sharing tips on saving water and electricity, reducing paper waste, and also by using interactive quizzes on correct disposal of common items.

The sustainability committee team is also working on a sustainable moving plan to the new location at St Kilda Road including sustainable transport measures, the proper disposal of recyclable material and the donation of unwanted good quality books.

Sustainability Committee team: Nadida Kachkouche, Sandra Zovko, Anisa Assifi and Laxmi Iyengar



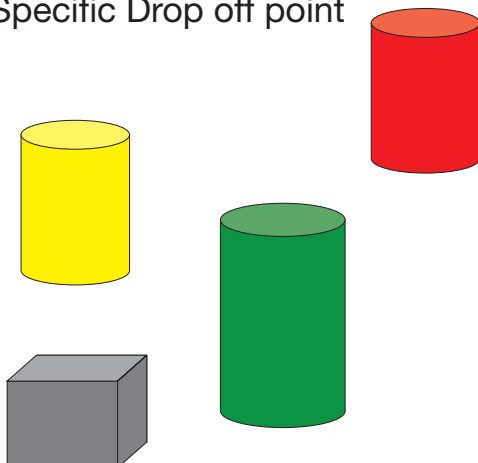
Place the item in the right bin

Red coloured lid

Yellow coloured lid

Green coloured lid

Specific Drop off point



DGP ACADEMIC SEMINARS

Authors: Vera Costa, Sanduni Madawala, Kimberley Yew

The Department of General Practice hosts weekly academic seminars featuring leading experts in research, education and policy. The seminars are open to all staff, students and stakeholders to attend. A special invitation is extended to medical students who are undertaking their general practice term.

The seminars cover a variety of topics pertaining to primary care, general practice, and intersections between healthcare and other fields. The Department aims to provide a range of presenters relevant to the education of students as well as current research interests. The Department would like to thank the Academic Seminar Coordinators for 2022 Dr Vera Costa, Sanduni Madawala and Dr Kimberley Yew for the organisation of this important program.

During the year we hosted a range of speakers, including: Prof Wendy Norman, Prof Heather Douglas, Professor Kelsey Hegarty, Prof Mark Morgan, Prof Alex Collie, Prof Dragan Ilic, Dr Bianca Bell, Dr Nicole Allard, Prof Paul Glasziou, Prof Karen Walker-Bone, Dr Danielle Pollock, Assoc/Prof James Brown, Prof Stephen Tong, and Prof Rachele Buchbinder.

DGP Academic Seminar Aug 2022 presented by Prof Rachele Buchbinder and Dr Romi Haas



FAREWELLS

DR ANN DRILLICH

Dr Ann Drillich has been a dedicated member of the teaching team of the Department of General Practice since 2008. She has mentored and guided a whole generation of medical students in their primary care rotation. She has been heavily involved in curriculum development and for many years has coordinated the women's health and respiratory weeks of the GP program in addition to giving a number of lectures and taking tutorials for students. We wish Ann well in her retirement.

MS CLAUDETTE GERREYN

Claudette has been the loyal and dedicated senior administrative officer for the year 4 general practice teaching program for 15 years. She has worked tirelessly yet always has a smile on her face. She has built up relationships with nearly 180 GP supervisors and appears to effortlessly place more than 70 students every rotation into practices. Claudette is a problem solver and always knows the answer. She has been the glue that holds the teaching program together. She will certainly be missed but we wish her well in her retirement.

DR ANDY MORGAN

In January 2023, Dr Andy Morgan will finish up his role within the teaching team of the Department of General Practice with a well-earned retirement. He joined the Departments teaching team in October 2019 and has been pivotal in the teaching of ophthalmology, ENT, dermatology and palliative care. He has been heavily involved in curriculum development, assessment writing as well as winning two departmental teaching awards for his outstanding contribution for teaching medical students. He is much-loved by staff and students alike for his wisdom, kindness and compassion. The Department looks forward to an ongoing association with Andy as he moves into an adjunct senior lecturer role next year.

DR EMILY CHEN

Emily joined the Department as an Academic Registrar in 2017 and then continued working as a lecturer/tutor after she achieved Fellowship (FRACGP). Over the last 6 years, she has been an absolutely steadfast and reliable member of the teaching team. Her naturally reserved and modest manner combined with her quietly spoken wisdom has been greatly appreciated by successive rotations of students. In particular, her previous surgical training has given her insights from which we have all benefited. As her colleagues, we have all gained from her gentle and unassuming support. We wish her well for the future and hope that she will consider a return to medical education at some point in her career.

MS CLARE BEEBY

Clare joined the General Practice Year 4C Program as an Administrator in late 2021. She was well known to the Department due to her previous work as the EA to the Head of Department. She has been a great asset to the teaching Program taking over the new HR systems, processing MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) with GP Practices, working on student placements and the general administration work relating to the program. We wish her all the very best for the future.

DR ASVINI SUBASINGHE

Asvini joined the SPHERE NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in early 2019 as a Research Fellow. Her research focus has been on improving access to contraception and medical abortion services in Australia, particularly among women living in rural areas and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Asvini has also supervised a number of Honours students and PhD students during her time with us. She has been a valuable member of the SPHERE team and we wish her all the very best in her research career.

DR RON SCHWEITZER

Ron has had a long association with Monash University starting teaching some 15 years ago. He has been a passionate educator throughout his time at Monash and established family violence into the medical curriculum. As well as his role teaching the fourth years, he has taught second year clinical skills.

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Is it feasible to use general practice patient records to identify women who may most benefit from preconception care? A protocol.
Nishadi Wihanganage¹, Jessica Botfield², Kirsten Black³, Kevin McGeechan⁴, Sharon Cameron⁵, Danielle Mazza⁶
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BACKGROUND	METHOD	POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pregnancy outcomes can be adversely affected by medical risk factors e.g. high blood pressure, diabetes Life-style risk factors e.g. alcohol consumption, smoking during the preconception period^{1,2} Primary care settings like general practices are an appropriate setting to deliver preconception care (PCC)^{3,4} Currently a national system does not exist for primary care providers to be able to identify women who would most benefit from PCC. <p>AIM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine whether it is feasible to use general practice patient records to identify women who may most benefit from PCC, based on their pre-existing medical and lifestyle health outcomes. 	<p>Develop a list of potentially suitable medical and lifestyle health indicators and draft an audit template</p> <p>Recruit 3-8 GPs to participate as pre-audit reviewers to advise finalisation of the audit tool and process.</p> <p>Recruit 10 general practices to participate in the audit. Site data report on each practice to identify 100 non-pregnant women of reproductive age consecutively seen at the practice from January 2021 onwards. Complete the audit template</p> <p>Collate and analyse data from the completed audit templates for each general practice. Provide a report to the practice GP</p> <p>Interview a GP from each practice to discuss key findings and relevance implications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Findings may contribute to the development of a model or tool that primary care providers could use when seeing women of reproductive age Primary care providers will be able to more easily identify and refer those women to provide PCC regularly and provide them with access to PCC resources.

Diagnostic Error Conference

Scott I, Neil J, Clinical Reasoning Workshop, ANZA Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine *Diagnostic Error Conference* 2022

Achieving equitable access to abortion care in regional, rural and remote Australia: Recommendations from the SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Coalition
Mazza D, Botfield J. Members of the SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Coalition
SPHERE, NIMRC Centre of Research Excellence, Department of General Practice, Monash University

Background	Recommendations	Implications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to abortion care in Australia remains highly inequitable Unstable public hospital provision Unstable primary care provision Community and professional stigma High out of pocket costs Long distances to travel Low awareness of networks Low awareness of networks Limited training opportunities <p>Aim & methods</p> <p>Aim: The Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Coalition aimed to develop a consensus statement to highlight current challenges and call for increased access to abortion care.</p> <p>Methods: The statement was drafted and ratified by members of the Coalition and disseminated in November 2022.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Australian government commission an Australian abortion care standards, including KPIs Local hospital districts/regions and primary health networks (PHNs) report publicly against the KPIs on an annual basis to monitor progress in achieving and maintaining the standard Government lead a National Federation Reform Council process that mandates that at local hospital district level, major regional or tertiary hospital services provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive abortion care with escalation and referral Education training for health professionals and students Collaborative support for regional abortion providers PHNs are funded to develop an integrated regional approach that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying gaps in service provision at a local level with careful consideration of remote, rural and regional patients Commissioning one or more abortion services to fill gaps. Strong collaborative links and referral pathways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing access to abortion care for women in rural and remote areas will contribute to meeting the goals of the National Women's Health Strategy and improving health outcomes. Government and stakeholder commitment to implementation of these recommendations is critical to ensure equitable access to abortion care for all women. <p>SPHERE Women's SRH Coalition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formed in April 2020 Led by SPHERE Centre of Research Excellence Comprises organisations and representatives from peak bodies and eminent Australian and international clinicians, researchers and other stakeholders SRH members Meet bi-monthly via Zoom <p>Scan the QR Code to download the full Coalition Consensus Statement</p>

European Respiratory Society Conference

Selamoglu M, Erbas B, Wilson H, Brown J, Barton C. Perceptions of Australian general practitioners on e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid. ERS International congress 2022, Barcelona Spain.

Network on Violence Against Women International Conference

Neil J, Young F, Padiseti A, Padiseti M, Pokharel B, Taft A, Hegarty K and Feder G, HARMONY: Culturally competent online family violence training for primary care practitioners, Nursing Network on Violence Against Women International Conference, 2022

ALLIANCE (Quality Family Planning Services and Referrals in Community Pharmacy: Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice): A protocol for a stepped-wedge trial
Mazza D¹, Hastings S², Bennett S³, Chakraborty S⁴, Botfield J⁵, Backhouse P⁶, Johnson S⁷, Timney P⁸, McGeechan K⁹, Chubb P¹⁰, Grantonnik S¹¹, Wason J¹², Cameron S¹³

INTRODUCTION	THE ALLIANCE TRIAL	EVALUATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community pharmacists in Australia have dispensing emergency contraception (EC) over-the-counter since 2006 and 4-AD0 are registered to dispense early medical abortion (EMA) prescriptions (prescription and non-prescription) Through providing contraceptive counselling during their dispensing consultation, pharmacists could reduce subsequent unintended pregnancies^{1,2} However, pharmacists currently lack the necessary knowledge, confidence, training opportunities, resources and funding to take on this role^{3,4} <p>AIM</p> <p>We aim to compare the uptake of effective contraceptive hormonal or intrauterine in women seeking EC or EMA who receive the intervention (Figure 1) with those who receive usual care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary outcome is effective contraceptive use by women 6 months after EC or EMA Secondary outcomes are contraceptive use, contraceptive continuation, unintended pregnancy and abortion (12 months), a requirement for a cost effectiveness analysis <p>METHOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Study design: Pragmatic stepped-wedge cluster-randomised controlled trial Clusters (n=26): Quality Care Pharmacy Program-accredited pharmacies across VIC, NSW and NT with a private consultation room, and at least 1 selling contraception Women participants (n=1,216): Women seeking EC or EMA from pharmacies who consent to participate and follow-up 	<p>The ALLIANCE trial is guided by Experience-based Co-design⁵ methodology (Figure 1)</p> <p>Define the experience-based co-design methodology (Figure 1)</p> <p>Identify the experience-based co-design methodology (Figure 1)</p> <p>Monitor and evaluate the trial design and implementation</p> <p>Implement the intervention will be supported by tailored implementation activities (Figure 2)</p> <p>The ALLIANCE trial is a phase III implementation trial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraceptive counselling according to women presenting for EC or EMA Online education Academic detailing delivered to pharmacists Access to the AllACPPS online repository of advice Identification of referral pathways to LARC insertion 	<p>IMPACT AND SIGNIFICANCE</p> <p>Anticipated outcomes of the ALLIANCE Trial are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More effective use of contraception Understanding of the feasibility, acceptability and economic viability of the ALLIANCE model of pharmacy practice If proven, the intervention can be readily scaled nationally to improve contraceptive access, use and reproductive health outcomes <p>PROJECT PARTNERS & FUNDING</p> <p>MONASH UNIVERSITY, PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, FAMILY PLANNING SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, PHN, CQI</p>

North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) Conference

Liz Sturgiss, Lauren Ball, Nilakshi Gunatillaka, Catherine Martin, Suzanne Nielsen, Danielle Mazza, Jenny Advocat, Tina Lam, Chris Barton, Grant Russell. Reducing alcohol-related harm in Australian general practice: results from the REACH implementation trial. NAPCRG, Phoenix, Arizona, USA. 18 November – 22 November 2022.

Altun A, Brown H, Sturgiss E, Russell G Exploring the health seeking narratives of Assyrian refugee women living with chronic pain. AAAPC annual research conference. Aus J Prim Health. 2022

Mazza D., Botfield J.R., Members of the SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalition. Achieving equitable access to abortion care in regional, rural and remote Australia: Recommendations from the SPHERE Women's Health Coalition. AAAPC Annual Research Conference, 2022.

James S, Bredhauer J, Callahan B, Mazza D. Primary health care nurse use of telehealth for women's sexual and reproductive health services: A scoping review. AAAPC annual research conference 2022 (Poster).

James S, Moulton J, Botfield J, Assifi A, Black K, Hanson M, Mazza, D. Lifestyle risk reduction during interconception: A scoping review of women's preferences. AAAPC annual research conference 2022 (Poster).

Mazza D., James S., Chakraborty S., Assifi A., Botfield J., Black K., et al. Provision of medical abortion services in Australian general practice: a knowledge, attitudes and practice survey of Australian general practitioners. AAAPC annual research conference. Australian Journal of Primary Health. 2022

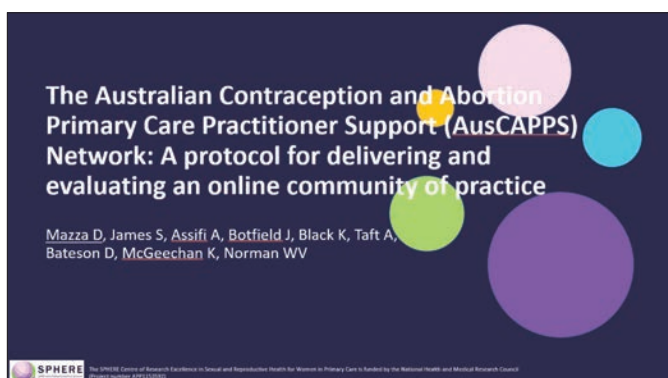
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Mazza D, Assifi A, McGeechan K, Haas M, Peipert JF, Lucke J, Taft A, McNamee K, Black KI. Increasing the uptake of long-acting reversible contraception in general practice: the Australian Contraceptive Choice pROject (ACCORd) cluster randomised controlled trial 3-year follow-up, NAPCRG, Phoenix, Arizona, USA. 18 November – 22 November 2022.

Altun A, Brown H, Sturgiss E, Russell G Exploring the health seeking narratives of Assyrian refugee women living with chronic pain. NAPCRG, Phoenix, Arizona, USA. 18 November – 22 November 2022.

Madawala S, Warren N, Osadnik C, Barton C. The experience of primary care for adults with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): an IPA study. North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) 2022

Madawala S, Osadnik C, Warren N, Kasiviswanathan K, Barton C. Healthcare experiences of adults with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): a meta-ethnography. North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) 2022



Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) Conference

Selamoglu M, Erbas B, Wilson H, Brown J, **Barton C**. Perceptions of Australian general practitioners on e-cigarettes as a smoking cessation aid. Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) Annual Scientific Meeting. Lancashire, UK. 2022

Danielle Mazza, Asvini K. Subasinghe, Mridula Shankar, Jessica R. Botfield, Samantha Chakraborty, Jessica E. Moulton, Kellie Hamill, Kirsten Black, Jane Tomnay, Deborah Bateson, Kevin McGeechan, Tracey Laba, Wendy V. Norman. The ORIENT trial: protocol for evaluating the effect of a nurse-led model on contraception and medical abortion access in Australian rural & regional general practice. Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC). 04 July – 06 July 2022

Mazza D, Hussainy S, Bateson D, Chakraborty S, Assifi A, Buckingham P, Johnston S, Tomnay J, McGeechan K, Church J, Grzeskowiak L, Nissen L, Cameron S. Quality Family Planning Services and Referrals in Community Pharmacy: Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice: A protocol for the ALLIANCE stepped-wedge trial, Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC). 04 July – 06 July 2022

Mazza D, James S, Assifi A, Botfield J, Black K, Taft A, Bateson D, McGeechan K, Norman WV. The Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support (AusCAPPs) Network: A protocol for delivering and evaluating an online community of practice. Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC). 04 July – 06 July 2022 (Poster)

Nishadi Withanage, Jessica Botfield, Sonia Srinivasan, Kirsten Black, **Danielle Mazza**. A systematic review of the effectiveness of preconception interventions in primary care. Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC). 04 July – 06 July 2022

WONCA

Mazza D, Botfield JR, Members of the SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalition. Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalition: Advocacy and impact in Australia. WONCA Hybrid, London, UK 28 June – 01 July 2022

Vera Camões-Costa, Samantha Chakraborty, Catriona Rowe, Sharon Reid, Alex Collie, Justin Kenardy, Bianca Brijnath, Duncan Mortimer, Joanne Enticott, Michael Kidd, Lyndal Trevena, **Danielle Mazza**. Engaging general practitioners in research during a pandemic: The experiences of the IMPROVE trial. WONCA Hybrid, London, UK 28 June – 01 July 2022

Watson, Cathy, Bernard, Elodie, James, Sharon, **Mazza, Danielle**. Interconception care by Australian general practitioners: A qualitative study WONCA Hybrid, London, UK 28 June – 01 July 2022

Mazza D, James S, Assifi A, Hamill K, Botfield J, Black K, Taft A, Bateson D, McGeechan K, Norman WV. The Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support (AusCAPPs) Network: An online community of practice protocol. WONCA Hybrid, London, UK 28 June – 01 July 2022

Mazza D, Hussainy S, Bateson D, Chakraborty S, Assifi A, Buckingham P, Johnston S, Tomnay J, McGeechan K, Church J, Grzeskowiak L, Nissen L, Cameron S. Quality Family Planning Services and Referrals in Community Pharmacy: Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice: A protocol for the ALLIANCE stepped-wedge trial, WONCA Hybrid, London, UK 28 June – 01 July 2022

Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Coalition: Advocacy and impact in Australia

Mazza D,¹ Botfield JR,¹ Members of the SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Coalition
¹SPHERE, NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence, Department of General Practice, Monash University



INNOVATING FAMILY MEDICINE TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Background

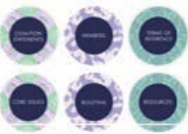
- Only ~11% of Australian women are using effective contraception (hormonal IUD and implant)¹
- 1 in 4 women had unintended pregnancy²
- 30% of unintended pregnancies end in abortion²
- Access to abortion care highly inequitable
- ~10% of GPs prescribe medical abortion medicines³

Women's SRH Coalition

- Formed in April 2020
- Led by SPHERE Centre of Research Excellence
- Comprises organisations and representatives from peak bodies and eminent Australian and international clinicians, researchers and other stakeholders

Women's SRH COVID-19 COALITION

The Women's SRH COVID-19 Coalition is a national coalition of experts and organisations working together to address the reproductive health needs of women during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Coalition consensus statements

1. Shortage of norethisterone-containing pills in Australia: Advice for GPs
2. Contraceptive method considerations for individuals with active COVID-19 infection
3. Using telehealth to provide early medical abortion during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond
4. Nurse and midwife-led provision of mifepristone and misoprostol for the purposes of early medical abortion
5. Publicly funded abortion service provision: a duty of care
6. A consensus statement on achieving equitable access to abortion care in regional, rural and remote Australia

Influencing policy

- Telehealth rebates available to subsidise costs for sexual and reproductive health consultations
- Increased rebates for IUD insertions

Influencing practice

- Guidance developed by National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce on use of oestrogen-containing therapies for women with COVID-19 drew on advice provided within a consensus statement
- Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) linked to a consensus statement when reporting on global shortage of contraceptive pills containing progestogen norethisterone
- Removal of Anti-D requirement for medical abortion from National Blood Authority Guidelines

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2. Taft et al (2018). Medical Journal of Australia, 209(9):407-8
3. MS Health. Medical abortion dispenser & prescriber program, 2021

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Engaging general practitioners in research during a pandemic: Experiences of the IMPROVE trial

Presented by **Prof Danielle Mazza** on behalf of the co-authors:

Vera Camões-Costa, Samantha Chakraborty, Catriona Rowe, Sharon Reid, Alex Collie, Justin Kenardy, Bianca Brijnath, Duncan Mortimer, Joanne Enticott, Michael Kidd, Lyndal Trevena, **Danielle Mazza**



IMPROVE

Implementing work-related Mental health guidelines in general PRactice, a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Partnership Trial

SIRC (Society for Implementation Research Collaboration)

S. Chakraborty, F. Mozaffari, **V. Camões-Costa**, J. Kenardy, B. Brijnath, D. Mortimer, J. Enticott, M. Kidd, L. Trevena, S. Reid, A. Collie, D. Mazza. Assessing the fidelity of an academic detailing behavioural intervention delivered in general practice: A sub-study of the 'Implementing work-related Mental health guidelines in general PRACTICE' (IMPROVE) trial. 6th Society for Implementation Research Collaboration Conference. San Diego, USA. 08 September – 10 September 2022.

FIAPAC

Mazza D, Hussainy S, Bateson D, Chakraborty S, Assifi A, Buckingham P, Johnston S, Tomnay J, McGeechan K, Church J, Grzeskowiak L, Nissen L, Cameron S. Quality Family Planning Services and Referrals in Community Pharmacy: Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice: A protocol for the ALLIANCE stepped-wedge trial, FIAPAC, Riga, Latvia 08 September – 10 September 2022.

Mazza D, James S, Assifi A, Hamill K, Botfield J, Black K, Taft A, Bateson D, McGeechan K, Norman WV. The Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support (AusCAPPs) Network: An Online Community of Practice Protocol. FIAPAC, Riga, Latvia 08 September – 10 September 2022 (Poster)

Danielle Mazza, Asvini K. Subasinghe, Mridula Shankar, Jessica R. Botfield, Samantha Chakraborty, Jessica E. Moulton, Kellie Hamill, Kirsten Black, Jane Tomnay, Deborah Bateson, Kevin McGeechan, Tracey Laba, Wendy V. Norman. Improving rural and regional access to long acting reversible contraception and medical abortion through nurse-led models of care, task sharing and telehealth (ORIENT): a protocol for a stepped-wedge pragmatic cluster randomised controlled trial in Australian general practice. FIAPAC, Riga, Latvia 08 September – 10 September 2022

Mazza D, Assifi A, McGeechan K, Haas M, Peipert JF, Lucke J, Taft A, McNamee K, Black KI. Increasing the uptake of long-acting reversible contraception in general practice: the Australian Contraceptive CHOICE pROject (ACCORD) cluster randomised controlled trial 3-year follow-up, FIAPAC, Riga, Latvia 08 September – 10 September 2022.

Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Annual Scientific Meeting

Madawala S, Osadnik C, Warren N, **Kasiviswanathan K**, **Barton C**. Healthcare experiences of adults with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) across community health care settings: A meta-ethnography. TSANZ ASM 2022 (online).

Increasing the uptake of long-acting reversible contraception in family practice: results of the 3-year follow-up of the Australian Contraceptive CHOICE pROject (ACCORD) cluster randomised controlled trial

Mazza D¹, Assifi A¹, McGeechan K¹, Haas M¹, Peipert JF², Lucke J³, Taft A⁴, McNamee K⁵, Black K⁶

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Background

- 1 in 4 Australian women experience an unintended pregnancy with 1/3 of these ending in abortion¹
- Use of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) in Australia is lower (11%) than other countries e.g Sweden where it is >20%²
- Australian Contraceptive CHOICE pROject (ACCORD), a cluster RCT of a complex intervention in family practice involving:
 - training family physicians (FPs) in effectiveness based contraceptive counselling and
 - access to rapid referral pathways for LARC insertion achieved increased LARC uptake at 1, 6 and 12-months³

Aims and outcomes

To assess the longer-term efficacy of the ACCORD intervention at achieving sustained LARC uptake and reducing unplanned pregnancy and abortion.

Primary outcome: continuation rate of LARC methods vs non-LARC methods

Secondary outcomes: contraceptive method used, satisfaction with contraceptive choice, unintended pregnancies, and abortions

Results

531 participants = 76% response rate

Continuation rate of the use of LARC methods compared with non-LARC methods and satisfaction with method

LARC and OCP users	Number of women with information available	Number (%) with outcome	Odds ratio (95% CI) †	P-value
Currently using same method as at 6 months	LARC users at 6 months	165		
	OCP users at 6 months	147	1.83 (1.08, 2.51)	0.027
Satisfaction with method	LARC continuing users at 3 years	109		
	OCP continuing users at 3 years	81	4.29 (1.78, 10.27)	0.001

† Adjusted for GP characteristics of general practice and GP location, and the number characteristics of age group, parity, previous abortion or unintended pregnancy and use of LARC or non-LARC. Also adjusted for clustering by GP.

Contraceptive method used at 3 years - number of unintended pregnancies and abortions

	Intervention group (N=229)	Control Group (N=302)	Odds ratio (95% CI) †	P-value
LARC use at 3 years	93 (41%)	84 (28%)	1.75 (1.10, 2.80)	0.019
Unintended pregnancy since start of trial	7 (3.1%)	19 (6.3%)	0.38 (0.16, 0.88)	0.021
Abortion since start of trial	2 (0.9%)	11 (3.6%)	0.10 (0.02, 0.50)	0.0051

Discussion

- Training FPs in effectiveness-based contraceptive counselling and providing rapid referral pathways to LARC insertion results in both sustained LARC uptake at 3 years and reduced unintended pregnancy and abortion.
- Significantly higher continuation rate LARC vs OCP at 3-years also reported in the US CHOICE Project
- Strength of the follow-up study is the high cohort retention rate of participants in the original trial

Methods

- Study design** – Longitudinal 3-year follow-up survey
- Location** – Metropolitan Melbourne, Australia
- Participants** – Women who received contraceptive counselling from family physicians in the ACCORD trial
- ACCORD Intervention** – FP training in effectiveness based contraceptive counselling & access to rapid referral pathways for LARC insertion
- Participant recruitment** – August 2019 to August 2020
- Analysis** – Logistic regression models, adjusted for clustering by GP

Implications and significance

- Long term sustained impact of ACCORD trial was demonstrated
- A family practice focused intervention can reduce unintended pregnancy and abortion
- Implementation outside of metropolitan settings is necessary to determine whether uptake is scalable to wider contexts

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ALLIANCE (Quality Family Planning Services and Referrals in Community Pharmacy: Expanding Pharmacists' Scope of Practice): A protocol for a stepped-wedge trial

Mazza D¹, Hussainy S¹, Bateson D¹, Chakraborty S¹, Assifi A¹, Buckingham P¹, Johnston S¹, Tomnay J¹, McGeechan K¹, Church J¹, Grzeskowiak L¹, Nissen L¹, Cameron S¹

¹ Department of General Practice, Monash University, Australia; ² Pharmacy Department, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia; ³ DePoli Centre, Faculty of Medicine and Health, the University of Sydney, Australia; ⁴ Pharmaceutical Society of Australia, Australia; ⁵ Centre for Excellence in Rural Small Health, University of Melbourne, Australia; ⁶ School of Public Health, University of Sydney, Australia; ⁷ Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, University of Technology Sydney, Australia; ⁸ College of Medicine and Public Health, Flinders University, Australia; ⁹ School of Clinical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology; ¹⁰ MRC Centre for Reproductive Health, University of Edinburgh, Scotland

Introduction

- Community pharmacists in Australia have dispensed emergency contraception (EC) over-the-counter since 2004 and 34,400 are registered to dispense early medical abortion (EMA) prescriptions (mifepristone and misoprostol regimen)¹
- Through providing contraceptive counselling during these dispensing consultations, pharmacists could reduce subsequent unintended pregnancies.^{2,3}
- However, pharmacists currently lack the necessary knowledge, confidence, training opportunities, resources and funding to take on this role⁴

Aims and outcomes

We aim to compare the uptake of effective contraception (hormonal or intrauterine) in women seeking EC or EMA who receive the intervention (Figure 2) with those who receive usual care

- Primary outcome** is effective contraception use by women 4-months after EC or EMA
- Secondary outcomes** are contraceptive use, contraceptive continuation, unintended pregnancy and abortion at 12-months, evaluation of implementation and cost-effectiveness

The ALLIANCE trial methodology is guided by Experience-Based Co-Design⁵ methodology (Figure 1). Implementation of the intervention will be supported through tailored implementation activities (Figure 2).

Methods

- Study design** - Pragmatic stepped-wedge cluster-randomised controlled trial
- Clusters (n=24)** - Quality Care Pharmacy Program-accredited pharmacies across three Australian States and Territories, with a private consultation room and at least 1 willing pharmacist(s)
- Women participants (n=1,176)** - Women seeking EC or EMA from pharmacies, who consent to participation and follow-up

Implications and significance

Anticipated outcomes of the ALLIANCE trial are:

- Community pharmacists will be equipped with resources, networks, knowledge and skills to expand their scope of practice to provide patient-centred, effectiveness-based contraceptive counselling
- More effective use of contraception
- Understanding of the feasibility, acceptability and economic viability of the ALLIANCE expanded scope of pharmacy practice
- If proven, the intervention can be rapidly scaled nationally to improve contraceptive access, use and reproductive health outcomes

Evaluation

- Self-report surveys will measure effective contraception use, rate of pregnancies or abortions and cost-effectiveness
- Interviews and web analytics will measure implementation of the intervention

THE ALLIANCE TRIAL

SPHERE, Family Planning, Jean's Hailes, phn, cpi, MONASH University

Kasiviswanathan K, Enticott J, Selamoglu M, Madawala S, Sturgiss E, Barton C. The impact of smoking status on trust in general practitioners. TSANZ ASM 2022 (online).

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National Rural Health Conference

Samantha Chakraborty, Asvini K Subasinghe, Kevin McGeechan, Jessica E Moulton, Luke E Grzeskowiak and Danielle Mazza. Variation in the provision of medical abortion in primary care in Australia. NRHC 2022

Mazza D., Botfield J.R., Chakraborty S., & Members of the SPHERE Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health COVID-19 Coalition. Achieving equitable access to abortion care in regional, rural and remote Australia: Recommendations from the SPHERE Women's Health Coalition. NRHC, 2022: Poster

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Mazza D., James S., Assifi A., Hamill K., Botfield J., Black K., et al. A network supporting long-acting reversible contraception and medical abortion: The AusCAPPs protocol. National Rural Health Conference 2022 'Bridging social distance: Rural health innovating and collaborating'; Brisbane, Australia. 2nd - 4th August 2022 (Poster)

The Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support (AusCAPPs) Network: An Online Community of Practice Protocol

Mazza D¹, James S¹, Chakraborty S¹, Assifi A¹, Botfield J¹, Black K², Taft A³, Bateson D^{4,5}, McGeechan K⁶, Norman WV^{6,7}

Introduction

- The use of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) is low among Australian women
- There is inequity in accessing early medical abortion (EMA) medication
 - > 10% of general practitioners (GPs) prescribe^{1,2}
 - > 27% pharmacists dispense^{1,4}
- Challenges exist around increasing the numbers of primary care providers willing to provide LARC and EMA

Objectives

Primary objective: Increase availability of LARC and EMA services in primary care nationwide

Secondary objectives:

- Increase the number of prescribers
- Increase the number of EMA dispensers
- Increase the prescription of LARC and EMA
- Strengthen the knowledge, attitudes and provision of LARC and EMA

Methods

Phase 1 (Nov 20 – Jul 21): Knowledge Exchange Workshop

Phase 2 (Nov 20 – May 22): Attitudes and Barriers Knowledge, Current Practices Survey

Phase 3 (Jul 21 – Jul 24): AusCAPPs Recruitment and Implementation Target: 1,200 GPs, 1,200 Practice Nurses, 1,000 Community Pharmacists

Phase 4 (Aug 21 – Jul 24): Outcome Evaluation: Endline Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice Survey, RCT/MS-2 Case, Google Analytics, Interviews

Phase 5 (Feb 21 – Jul 24): Knowledge Translation Workshop

Implications

The Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support Network (AusCAPPs) network will:

- Increase access to resources, education and training about LARC and EMA care for primary health clinicians
- Provide regional networking opportunities
- Provide peer and expert support
- Improve the access to and equity of these services nationally

Outcomes

AusCAPPs will demonstrate how an online community of practice can empower the primary care workforce to deliver best-practice, evidence based care for women of reproductive age who are trying to prevent or manage an unintended pregnancy.

PROJECT PARTNERS

SPHERE, Monash University, Australian Government Department of Health, RACGP, SHINE, Australian Pharmaceutical Society, Children by Choice, BHNA, Australian Contraception Society, Family Planning Tasmania, Family Planning NSW, Family Planning Queensland, Family Planning Victoria, Family Planning Western Australia, Family Planning South Australia, Family Planning Northern Territory, Family Planning ACT, Family Planning New South Wales, Family Planning Northern Territory, Family Planning Queensland, Family Planning South Australia, Family Planning Victoria, Family Planning Western Australia, Family Planning Northern Territory, Family Planning ACT, Family Planning New South Wales.

Improving rural and regional access to long acting reversible contraception and medical abortion through nurse-led models of care, task sharing and telehealth (ORIENT): a protocol for a stepped-wedge pragmatic cluster randomised controlled trial in Australian general practice

Mazza D¹, Shankar M¹, Botfield JR¹, Moulton JE¹, Black K², Tomnay J³, Bateson D⁴, McGeechan K⁵, Laba T⁶, Norman WV⁶

Background

- Rural women 1.4x more likely to experience unintended pregnancy than metropolitan⁽¹⁾
- Also have less access to contraception & abortion services – limited providers, high costs^(1,2)
- Only ~10% of general practitioners (GPs) prescribe medical abortion medicines⁽³⁾ and largely located in urban areas
- Utilising practice nurses to provide long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) and early medical abortion (EMA) has potential to ↑ access
- Nurse-led models for LARC and EMA exist in community health and family planning settings^(4,5) but have not been applied in general practice.

Aim

Assess the effectiveness of a nurse-led model of care (involving task-sharing, and where appropriate implant insertion by nurses and telehealth) in general practice for improving women's uptake of LARC and access to EMA in rural and regional areas.

Methods

- Design:** Pragmatic, stepped-wedge, cluster randomised controlled trial.
- Participants and setting:** 32 general practices in regional/rural Australia, with 2 GPs, 1 practice nurse and 1 practice manager willing to enroll

Implementation support activities

Intervention: Nurse-led model of care

The model of care includes recommendations and resources for setting up the service all the way through to full delivery of the service:

- Setting up the service**
 - Staff training and access to support
 - Connecting with relevant support services
 - Raising patient awareness about LARC and EMA services
 - Setting up the booking service
- Delivering the service**
 - Booking appointments
 - First contact appointment (if required)
 - Implant / EMA assessment
 - Referral (if required)
 - Results management
 - Implant insertion / EMA provision
 - Follow-up and aftercare

The intervention will be supported by a bundle of activities (Fig 1)

Fig 1. Model implementation support activities

1. Online training and education
 - Implant insertion + referral
 - CLS/LARC and EMA modules
 - Mid-level prescriber training
2. Educational outreach via academic detailing
 - Publications of implementing the nurse-led model of care
3. Support through Community of Practice medicine website www.auscapp.com.au

Outcomes measures

- Rate of LARC and MS-2 Step prescribing comparing usual care and intervention
- Process evaluation to provide contextual information relevant to scale-up
- Cost-effectiveness of intervention compared to usual care

Conclusion

We anticipate broadening the scope of practice for practice nurses to provide LARC and EMA services will increase access, decrease unintended pregnancies and improve health outcomes.

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2021 BMS Hons student Lauren Moloney presenting her poster at the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health Congress

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AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR ACADEMIC PRIMARY CARE (AAAPC) ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE REPORT



AAAPC 2022

Author: Chris Barton

The Monash Department of General Practice was again well represented at the AAAPC annual research conference. Staff and students presented oral presentations, poster presentations, provided a skill building workshop, and delivered keynote presentations at the prize winners plenary. Professor Danielle Mazza was awarded the NAPCRG prize for her paper presenting findings from the 3 year follow up of the Australian contraceptive choice project (ACCORd). The NAPCRG prize provides an international award enabling the winner to present their work at the NAPCRG Annual Meeting.

We were also thrilled to find that one of our past Honours students, Rhea Singh, was awarded the conference Most Distinguished Paper prize. Rhea is a final year medical student who completed her Bachelor of Medical Science Honours degree with the SPHERE team in 2021. She has a strong interest in both general practice and women's health, with a particular interest in addressing health inequalities in women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Another Monash general practice student, Nor Akma Yunus, who is in the final year of her PhD, was awarded the Australian Journal of Primary Health best oral paper prize. The prize consists of a certificate and a year's subscription to the journal. The winner(s) is offered free Open Access in the journal for an accepted, peer-reviewed article arising from the Best Oral Paper. Akma is supervised by Dr Liz Sturgiss and Prof Grant Russell.

This years AAAPC was once again held online due to uncertainty related to the COVID19 pandemic but the conference organisers were able to arrange dinners at regional hubs, including Melbourne. A large contingent of staff and students from Monash attended the dinner on the Yarra and had a wonderful time catching up with colleagues and meeting researchers from other universities and departments with interest in primary care research.



Monash staff and students attended the AAAPC conference dinner held in Melbourne.

Increasing the uptake of long-acting reversible contraception in general practice: the Australian Contraceptive ChOice pROject (ACCORd) cluster randomised controlled trial 3-year follow-up

Prof Danielle Mazza, Dr Anisa Assifi, Prof Kevin McGeechan, Prof Marion Haas, Dr Jeffrey F Peipert, Prof Jayne Lucke, Prof Angela Taft, Dr Kathleen McNamee, Prof Kirsten I Black



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