



DEPM Annual Report

2007



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DEPM at a glance

The Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (DEPM) is a diverse and growing department, attracting external funding and undertaking contract research and consultancies for a wide range of industry and government departments.



AMREP precinct with the Melbourne skyline

Research areas

Aboriginal health	Arthritis and osteoarthritis	Biostatistical methods
Cardiovascular disease	Chronic disease	Clinical epidemiology
Clinical pharmacology	Clinical trials	Epidemiology
Environmental health	Health services	Human rights and bioethics
Infectious diseases and biosecurity	International public health	Kidney disease
Respiratory disease	Obesity and diabetes	Occupational health
Musculoskeletal	Patient safety	Pre-hospital and emergency trauma

Teaching

Our postgraduate courses have over 350 students currently enrolled from a range of medical and allied health backgrounds including nursing, medical, physiotherapy, pharmacy and health management.

Our honours students enjoy a stimulating environment where they are encouraged to attend weekly departmental seminars and other functions.

Centres and organisations

Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health	Australian Centre for Human Health Risk Assessment
Australian Institute of Health Policy Studies	Cooperative Research Centre for Water Quality and Treatment
Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health	NHMRC Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre
NHMRC Centre for Clinical Research Excellence for Circulatory Diseases in Urban Indigenous Populations (in conjunction with the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council)	NHMRC Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Therapeutics
NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Patient Safety	Transfusion Outcomes Research Collaborative

Registries

The department has a leadership role in the establishment, management and analysis of 13 clinical registries. See the 'Registries' section on page 12.

The head of department's report



Professor John McNeil, Head of School and Mrs Christine Kirkham, office manager for the head of school.

The Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (DEPM) is a teaching and research department within the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Its responsibilities include teaching in every year of the undergraduate medical course, managing the Monash Master of Public Health degree and supervision of doctoral students.

At the end of 2007, the department had over 230 staff, 165 honorary staff and 65 doctoral students. Research funding income was \$12.9 million. DEPM research staff produced 220 peer-reviewed publications, 20 book chapters and reports. There were 13 units, 10 centres and 10 registries.

Selected highlights

Associate Professor Chris Reid, associate director of the NHMRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in Therapeutics based at DEPM, was awarded an NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship, for five years starting in 2008.

Dr Sue Evans, associate director of the Centre for Research Excellence in Patient Safety was awarded an NHMRC Australian-Based Public Health Training Fellowship (\$279,000 over four years).

A large NHMRC project grant was awarded for an ASPIrin for Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE) sub-study named ENVISion (aspirin for the prevention of cognitive decline in the Elderly: a Neuro-Vascular Imaging Study). The principal investigators are Professor Marc Budge (ANU), Canberra Hospital and Professor Elsdon Storey (Monash), based at The Alfred. The study will investigate whether aspirin reduces the occurrence of vascular lesions in the retina and anatomical changes in the brain associated with declining cognitive function. The ENVISion study will be conducted in Victoria and the ACT, and will involve 600 participants. It will begin recruiting participants in mid-2008.

Victorian Cancer Agency (VCA) grant was received to establish a clinical trials unit in Shepparton. ASPREE researchers have been funded to develop the capacity for conducting clinical trials in regional Victoria. In association with the University of Melbourne's School of Rural Health and Department of Medicine at St Vincents, and Goulburn Valley hospital, this grant will help to establish a unit in Shepparton where the first ASPREE participants from regional Victoria will be recruited. This new research facility will enable future clinical trials to be carried out in regional Victoria.

A five-year NHMRC Health Services Grant was awarded for the establishment of an epidemiology modelling unit, to be formed in February 2008. The department was awarded the Transfusion Outcomes Research Collaborative funded by the Australian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service for the next three years. The unit is scheduled to begin operation in 2008 and will be staffed by Dr Louise Phillips, Nikita Schembri and Rosalie Clementson.

The Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH) headed by Professor Malcolm Sim, received a further three-year contract to continue the long running HealthWise study in the aluminium industry. Smaller grants were awarded for further studies of Gulf War veterans, occupational musculoskeletal disorders, air pollution and out-of-hospital cardiac arrests and novel statistical methods to analyse recurrent event data.

Dr Belinda Gabbe, a NHMRC Population Health Research Fellow, received funding from TAC Health Research for a project on 'Improving the measurement of functional and quality of life outcomes in paediatric trauma'. She has also received further funding from TAC Health Research to investigate 'Outcomes following major trauma in Victoria: measuring recovery post discharge' and from Monash University for a study investigating risk factors for injury in triathletes.

The study of Hyperbaric Oxygen Treatment in Lower Limb Trauma (HOLLT) originally funded by the Victorian Trauma Foundation has now received five years of NHMRC Project Grant funding to continue this major international trial. Paul Jennings was awarded a fellowship from the TAC for a study entitled 'Morphine versus morphine and ketamine for traumatic pain in the prehospital setting'.

I congratulate all investigators associated with the department on their success in attracting competitive research funding and look forward to the results changing clinical and public health practice.

Global Health Symposium

Building research capacity to improve global health – lessons and challenges. The forum was a great success, engaging everyone in the discussion and the exchange of ideas. More than 150 participants registered for the forum with some coming from other states and countries in the region. The opening address was given by Professor Richard Larkins, Vice-Chancellor of Monash University.



International global health symposium participants from left to right:

Brian Oldenburg; International Public Health; Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine; Monash University, Steve Wesselingh; Director; Burnet Institute, Anuar Zaini; Head; School of Medicine and Health Sciences; Monash University; Malaysia, Jan Pryor; Professor and Director of Research; Fiji School of Medicine, Richard Southby; Distinguished Professor of Global Health and Executive Dean Emeritus; George Washington University Medical Centre, Lenore Manderson; School of Psychology; Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine; Monash University, Jim Tulloch; Principal Health Advisor; AusAID, John McNeil; Head; Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine; Monash University, Basil Hetzel; Former Chair; International Council for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, Tony McMichael; Director, National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health; ANU, Vivian Lin; School of Public Health; LaTrobe University, Andy Haines; Director; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; UK, Terry Dwyer; Director; Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Bebe Loff; Head; Human Rights and Bioethics Unit; Monash University.

A record number of PhD Scholarships (17) were awarded during 2007. See the 'Doctoral' section for more details.

Comings and goings

Among the new staff that we welcomed in 2007 were Nicole Shears, Associate Professor Caroline Brand, Susan Montgomery, Waranon Buranasiri, Martine Radegonde, Elissa Farrell, Katherine Eadie, Judy McInnes, Douglas Wong, Adrienne O'Neil, Dr Catriona Bradshaw, Dr Susan Shortreed, Judy Lowthian, Colin Wood, Siouxy Morrison, Dr John Oldroyd, Diem Dinh, Alina Jovanovska, Dr Alistair D. Nichol, Dr Bronwyn Fredericks, Dr Robert Hall and Dr Beverley Copnell.

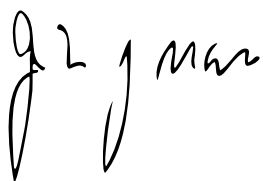
In 2007, we farewelled Dr James Chan, Angela Baxter, Melissa Booth, Andrew Briggs, Naomi Cooke, Joanne Croucher, Katherine Drew, Sue Edwards, Virginia Hagger, Linton Harriss, Peter Ittak, Daryl Jones, Danny Liew, David Low, Dr Richard Lunz, David O'Reilly and Dr Helen Potts. We thank them for their contributions to the department and wish them well for the future.

In particular, I would like to commend Danny Liew for his whole-hearted social and intellectual commitment to DEPM in his time with us from 2001–2007 and we look forward to continued fruitful collaboration.

Additionally, we were particularly sorry to lose Carolyn Barrie who has been our marketing, communications and short course coordinator for many years. Carol has been a friend and colleague to almost a generation of staff and students who have passed through DEPM.

She joined the department in the late 1980s, working first with John Powles and later with Malcolm Sim. She has served a variety of administrative roles ranging from MPH consortium coordinator to publicity officer. She has also worked with David Newman to establish the first Aviation Medicine course in Australia. Throughout she has been the most helpful, modest and capable person imaginable. Carol's contribution to DEPM has been immense. She initiated the e-news which has always been one of the highest quality of any Monash newsletter. She has also put together all of our annual reports, advertised our courses, produced our publicity items, maintained our website, provided the massive amount of data required by Monash, The Alfred and sundry, other bodies and for a long time served as a one-person social committee. Most of all, she has been the go-to-person when a crisis happens and the ultimate repository of information. We all wish Carol a very happy transition into her new role at the University of Melbourne. My own special thanks for her tremendous service to DEPM and all of our staff.

The new Dean of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Professor Steven Wesselingh has foreshadowed the creation of a School of Public Health at Monash. The department looks forward to joining with other institutes and centres in 2008 to pursue the opportunities for education, collaborative research and community engagement that this will create.



John McNeil, Head of School

Danny Liew



"I started my PhD in 2000 under the supervision of John McNeil and Theo Vos, with scholarships from the NHMRC and The Alfred. The thesis was entitled 'Epidemiological Modelling of Cardiovascular Disease in Australia'. During the graduation ceremony for my basic degree, I'll always remember chuckling at the PhD theses titles of others, notably for the implied obscurity of the projects – now I live in a glass house!

I completed a Graduate Certificate in Health Economics in 2001, as my project involved economic analyses and so that I could boast a longer list of qualifications, and this particular qualification was appealing for its nice long acronym. 2001–2002 were busy years, with my being also Clinical Pharmacology Fellow at The Alfred (under Henry Krum) and running the DEPM mixed netball team. The team was called 'Livin' La Vida Loca', and went on to great fame for winning a couple of finals and for its name (which incidentally would have made

a good PhD thesis title.) No prizes for guessing what our theme song was. Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians came at the end of 2002, and from 2003–2007, I worked as a consultant physician at The Alfred. During this time of living *la vida loca*, I managed to submit my PhD (2005), and continued in DEPM as a senior lecturer. I supervised two incredibly bright honours students, Sharmayne Brady and Queena Qin in 2006 and 2007, and tried to (falsely) claim as much responsibility for their successes as I could. I enjoyed teaching throughout my time at DEPM and The Alfred Hospital and was (and continue to be) inspired by great teachers like David Goddard and Laila Rotstein. Beyond intellectuality, I cherished the strong social environment provided by the DEPM, highlighted in 2004 by our organising a large fund-raising event for victims of the Asian tsunami. It was a memorable night. In late 2007, I crossed the Yarra to the University of Melbourne and St Vincent's Hospital, but continue to collaborate closely with McNeil, Krum and Co. While I'm enjoying my new surrounds, even after one year I still miss the DEPM very much."

Research governance

What is research governance?

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

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

Dr Giuliana Fuscaldo was the research governance coordinator during 2007. The research governance coordinator and the research governance committee provide researchers with resources, advice and assistance to ensure that research at the DEPM continues to meet high standards of research conduct.

One of the key operational ‘governance tools’ adopted by DEPM is routine random audits of HREC approved research. The areas audited are the research protocol, the participant information and consent forms, HREC approval, relevant study documentation, data management, data confidentiality procedures and overall study management. The audit process is promoted as an opportunity for researchers to reflect on and check their ‘work in progress’. The research governance coordinator also provides training and education to researchers about ethical research conduct. The department regularly holds short courses in clinical research practice and ethics and all DEPM students and new researchers are encouraged to attend.

The research governance committee

Associate Professor Andrew Forbes (Chair), Dr Giuliana Fuscaldo, Dr Elizabeth Douglas, Ms Marina Skiba, Dr Owen Williamson, Dr Danny Liew, Associate Professor Bebe Loff, Mr Ewan MacFarlane and Ms Ruth Stuckey are student representatives.



Giuliana Fuscaldo – research governance coordinator.

DEPM has developed and implemented a research governance framework which is underpinned by four components:

- a risk management plan;
- the publication of departmental guidelines on responsible research conduct;
- training and education of staff and students in responsible research conduct; and
- the appointment of a research governance coordinator.

¹ W. P. Anderson, C. D. Cordner and KJ Breen (2006) Strengthening Australia's framework for research oversight. MJA 184 (6): 261-263 p262

² S. J. Poustie, Taylor, A. B. Forbes, M. A. Skiba, M. R. Nelson and J. J. McNeil (2006) Implementing a research governance framework for clinical and public health research. MJA 185: 623-626

³ Details of the DEPMs research governance framework are given in, S. J. Poustie, D. McD Taylor, A. B. Forbes, M. A. Skiba, M R Nelson and J. J. McNeil? (2006) Implementing a research governance framework for clinical and public health research. MJA 185: 623-626.

Awards, prizes and fellowships in 2007

Professor Rachelle Buchbinder, Head of Clinical Epidemiology at Cabrini Medical Centre, was awarded:

- the 2006 Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal in February 2007 for her thesis, *Short and long-term effects of a public health media campaign designed to reduce disability associated with back pain*;
- a commendation in the 2007 Premier's Award for Medical Research. The Honourable Bronwyn Pike MP, Minister for Health, presented the award in June. Between 1997 and 2000, Professor Buchbinder evaluated the effect of a mass-media campaign 'Back Pain: Don't take it lying down'. The campaign was designed to educate Victorians about back pain and provide the latest advice on how it should be managed. It was the first time, worldwide, that a public health approach for back-related disability had been implemented;
- 2007 Best Clinical Science Paper, Annual Scientific Meeting, Australian Rheumatology Association; and
- 2007 Cabrini Hospital Research Day – Best Presentation.

The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre, based at DEPM (ANZIC-RC), recently analysed the data set and assisted with preparation of manuscripts for the CAT study – a study led by Associate Professor John Myburgh at St George Hospital in Sydney, comparing the clinical effects of adrenaline and noradrenaline in critically ill patients with circulatory dysfunction or failure. The CAT study was awarded the International Sepsis Forum Award for best abstract at the ESICM meeting in Berlin.

The Australian Association for Environmental Education chose associate Frank Fisher as (Inaugural) National Environmental Educator of the Year, 2007. The award is presented to an individual for excellence in their contribution to either formal or community sustainability education within Australia.

Dr Martha Sinclair received an award from the Global Water Research Coalition for her contribution to the global water community regarding the review of health risks of emerging waterborne contaminants. Formed in 2002, the GWRC is an international association of 14 major water research organisations including Australia's CRC for Water Quality and Treatment, and the Water Services Association of Australia.

Dr Tina Racunica received the Best Clinical Poster Prize at the Annual Australian Rheumatology Association Meeting, Sydney 2007 for her poster, 'The effect of physical activity on articular knee joint structures in community-based adults'.

Dr Yuan Wang won the 2007 Alfred Hospital Poster Week – whole time medical specialists private practice scheme prize for clinical research "Effect of antioxidants on knee cartilage and bone in healthy, middle-aged subjects."

Dr Alistair Nichol (ANZIC-RC) received the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS) 'Matt Spence' medal in November 2007 for outstanding research by an intensive care doctor in training.

Fellowships

Dr Yuan Wang
NHMRC Public Health Fellowship

Dr Catriona Bradshaw
NHMRC Public Health Fellowship

Professor Jamie Cooper
NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship

Dr Anna Ahimastos
NHMRC Peter Doherty Fellowship

Dr Bronwyn Fredericks
NHMRC Training Fellowship

Dr Belinda Gabbe
Career Development Award,
NHMRC Award

Dr Geza Benke
Career Development Award,
NHMRC Award

See the 'PhD' section on page 54 for awards and prizes earned by DEPM PhD students during 2007.



Rachelle Buchbinder with the 2007 Premier's Award for Medical Research commendation.

Registries

DEPM is a leader in developing a critical mass of expertise around the establishment, management and analysis of clinical registries.



A number of trends in healthcare have led to an increased demand for these specialist skills. They include:

- a rapid increase in provision of health-related data driven by the increasing ability to collect large volumes of data within IT systems;
- an increased requirement to provide evidence of effectiveness and long term safety of medical and surgical interventions;
- growing emphasis and financial incentives for prevention of illness. Evidence of the effectiveness of preventive interventions is often dependent on the data from large scale trials;
- increased emphasis on measuring and benchmarking quality of healthcare through data from disease and procedure registries; and
- increased concern about long-term hazards of medical and surgical interventions leading to an increase in long-term surveillance programs.

During 2007, the Clinical Informatics and Data Management Centre (CIDMC) in DEPM provided a range of data management services for DEPM and external clinical registries, clinical trials and cohort studies – see the 'CIDMC' section for detail.

Registries during 2007

Australian Society of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons (ASCTS) Database	Australian Rheumatology Association Database (ARAD)
Atherothrombotic Effects Registry	Bosentan Patient Registry
Haemostasis Registry	Melbourne Interventional Group (MIG) Cardiology Registry
Surveillance of Australian Workplace Based Respiratory Events (SABRE)	Victorian Cardiac Arrest Registry
Victorian Orthopaedic Trauma Registry	VSTORM – Monitoring and Evaluation of the Victorian State Trauma Registry

Centres and institutes

Australian Centre for Human Health Risk Assessment (ACHHRA)

ACHHRA was established in 2002 as a consortium of four Australian universities with expertise in human health risk assessment.



Staff

Director

Professor Brian Priestly

ACHHRA's establishment was funded by a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing through the Innovations Program of the Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP). Following completion of the PHERP-funded project in 2006, ACHHRA has become associated with the Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH).

ACHHRA offers a multidisciplinary approach to health risk assessment, with access to expertise in epidemiology, toxicology, environmental sciences, analytical chemistry, microbiology, communicable diseases, clinical evaluation and biostatistics. The main focus of ACHHRA is human exposure to hazardous chemicals and micro-organisms arising from environmental or occupational media (air, water, soil, food). Hazardous chemicals and exposures may be of natural origin or result from anthropogenic activities.

ACHHRA has been active in supporting Commonwealth and State government agencies in managing environmental health risks, through participation in expert advisory panels, preparation of risk assessment guidance documents and peer review of reports. It has assisted HHRA workforce development for governments and the commercial sector through training programs and workshops.

A seminal event in 2007 was the publication of a special issue of the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health. The special Australian issue of JTEH was an outcome of a successful symposium Challenges in Environmental Toxicology in Australia, hosted by

ACHHRA in July 2006. From the 33 papers presented at this symposium, Australian scientists submitted 16 papers for full publication, to showcase their research activities in environmental health issues.

ACHHRA has also continued to support the Australasian College of Toxicology and Risk Assessment (ACTRA), an incorporated body which is developing continuing education programs for toxicologists and risk assessment professionals, and which is establishing a register to inform professional accreditation. Professor Priestly served on the ACTRA management committee through 2007, and was elected at the AGM in November 2007, to serve as its president in 2008.

Professor Priestly has been active in issues relating to technological development, including the safety assessment of food produced by GM technology, and the newly emerging nanotechnologies. He made presentations at a number of meetings and symposia, was appointed to several expert advisory groups, and chairs the NHMRC advisory committee on health and nanotechnology, established late in 2007 to develop research strategies on OHS issues and biomedical applications of the nanotechnologies. ACHHRA's research interests in risk perception and risk communication are currently being applied to this newly developing field of technological innovation. He was appointed a Science Fellow by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to provide scientific support for their respective regulatory functions.

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/achhra

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

The Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC) was established in 2006 with an NHMRC Enabling Grant.

The centre is becoming a national teaching, training and methods centre for clinical researchers in intensive care.

Staff

Chair

Professor Rinaldo Bellomo; MBBS (Hons), MD (Pittsburgh), MD (Monash), FRACP, FACC, FJFICM

Monash director

Professor Jamie Cooper; BM, BS, FRACP, MD, FJFICM

Executive officer

Lisa Higgins; BPhysio (Hons), MPH, GDip Biostats

Gillian Syres; RN, BA, PgDipAdvN, MPH

Research staff

Mr Michael Bailey; BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD

Dr Alistair Nichol; MB, BCh, BAO, BA, Dip, FRCARCSI, PhD

Dr Andrew Westbrook; MB, BAO, BCh, FCARSI, JFICM

Siouxzy Morrison; RN, GDip, CCN

Alina Jovanovska; BN, Grad Cert Intensive Care

Administrative staff

Lucinda Gabriel; BA, BSc

Renate Johnson

Honorary staff

Professor Simon Finfer; MBBS, MRCP, FRCA, FFICANZCA, FJFICM, FRCP

Professor John Myburgh; MBCh, DA, PhD, FJFICM, FFICANZCA, FANZCA, FFARACS

Dr Daryl Jones; BSc, MBBS,

Dr Peter Kruger; BSc (Hons), MBBS, FJFICM, FANZCA

Dr Andrew Davies; MBBS, FJFICM, FRACPA

Dr Megan Robertson; MBBS, FJFICM, FANZCA, FFICANZCA, FRACP

Doctoral students

Dr Ruwan Wijemunige; MBBS

Major achievements and activities

Alistair Nichol won the Matt Spence Medal for best presentation by a trainee at the ANZICS/ACCCN Annual Scientific Meeting in Rotorua, New Zealand.

The centre has grown with new positions of senior lecturer (Alistair Nichol), biostatistician (Michael Bailey), nutrition research fellow (Siouxzy Morrison) and research fellow (Alina Jovanovska). Gillian Syres became executive officer.

Research

- Audit of Severe Acute Pancreatitis Feeding Practices in Australasia, funded by the Intensive Care Foundation, the Arthur A. Thomas Trust and Australasian Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (AuSPEN). Chief Investigator – (CI) Andrew Davies.
- NICE-TBI, funded by the VNI 2007–2010, CI Professor – Simon Finfer.
- Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Clinical Trials Group (ANZICS CTG).
- ANZICS Adult Patient Database.
- George Institute for International Health.
- The Australasian Resuscitation in Sepsis Evaluation Randomised Controlled Trial NHMRC Project Grant CI Rinaldo Bellomo. Funding awarded October 2007.
- Heparin in Severe Sepsis. Funded by the Intensive Care Foundation and Royal Melbourne Hospital Intensive Care Academic Fund. CI Megan Robertson.
- The Statins in Sepsis Study NHMRC Project Grant, CI Peter Kruger, project manager – Gillian Syres and Alina Jovanovska. Funding awarded in October 2006, first patient enrolled in June 2007.
- Normoglycaemia in Intensive Care Traumatic Brain Injury Study (NICE-TBI); CI Professor Simon Finfer; 2007–2010 Victorian Neurotrauma Initiative.
- Permissive Hypercapnia, Alveolar Recruitment and Limited Airway Pressure (PHARLAP); CI Alistair Nichol, Alfred Hospital, Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, Intensive Care Foundation.
- Heparin in Severe Sepsis: measurement of Interleukin-6; CI Alistair Nichol; Alfred Hospital, Intensive Care Foundation.
- PhD Scholarship; Ruwan Wijemunige, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

www.anzicrc.monash.org



ANZIC-RC Research Group team, from left to right, standing: Andrew Westbrook, Ruwan Wijemunige, Michael Bailey. Seated: Siouxy Morrison, Gillian Syres, Alistair Nichol, Alina Jovanovska.

Australian Institute of Health Policy Studies (AIHPS)

AIHPS is a national research institute devoted to studying the ways that health policy can improve the health of all Australians.

Staff

Directorate executive officer

Ms Rebecca Watson, BAppSci (HealthSci)

The mission of AIHPS is to:

- improve the national capacity for policy-relevant research;
- stimulate, commission and conduct policy-relevant research; and
- encourage debate and discussion about current and future health policy.

AIHPS's research program focuses on five topic areas:

1. *Engaging consumers in health policy* – examines the ways of involving consumers in decisions about health policy and funding;
2. *Financing for prevention* – focuses on ways of increasing the funding for prevention and the delivery systems for achieving these;
3. *Improving chronic disease outcomes* – identifies the systems and policy changes required to improve delivery and outcomes;
4. *Improving health priority setting* – examines how health priorities are determined and their influence on health; and
5. *Australian health workforce* – examines the ways in which Australia can develop a more appropriate, responsive and adaptable workforce for health and prevention.

Research

In 2007, AIHPS was successful in receiving a ARC Linkage Grant to undertake a study in three state health jurisdictions (ACT, QLD and SA) on the topic of developing and evaluating new methods for building health policy capacity in Australia.

The AIHPS also completed and published a series of case studies on different approaches to consumer engagement being used by health and other sectors around Australia.

Roundtables and seminars

Two national roundtable events were held in 2007, with these being: Leadership for health: Lessons and challenges (April 2007, Sydney) and Health Reform is everybody's business (November 2007, Melbourne). AIHPS Roundtables bring together leaders from local, state and federal government, non-government organisations, academic, business and community groups to discuss and debate major issues affecting Australia's health system.



Governance and management

AIHPS is managed by a National Board, with day-to-day activities coordinated through the AIHPS Directorate Office based at Monash University.

The Academic Partner Institutions are:

- La Trobe University
- Monash University
- Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
- University of Queensland
- University of Wollongong
- University of South Australia
- University of Adelaide
- Bond University

The AIHPS Board is chaired by Mr Mitch Messer (chairperson of Consumers Health Forum of Australia) and eight other directors from around Australia.

For more information on AIHPS please visit the AIHPS website or contact the AIHPS research director, Professor Brian Oldenburg or the directorate executive officer, Ms Rebecca Watson via email: info@aihps.org

www.aihps.org



Clinical Informatics and Data Management Centre

During 2007, the centre provided a range of data management services for DEPM and external clinical registries, clinical trials and cohort studies.

These included:

- case report form design;
- database design;
- data capture systems – paper, scan, fax, electronic and web-based; and
- reporting systems – recruitment tracking, data query resolution and real-time web reporting. Data management services conform to GCRP standards.

Staff

Director and head

Associate Professor Christopher Reid;
BA, Dip Ed, MSc, PhD

Research staff

Dr Colin Wood; senior research fellow

Research assistants

Ms Molly Bond; BBiotech (Hons)

Mr Nino Hay

Ms Philippa Loane; BBMedSci

Ms Fanny Sampurno

Other students

Ms Zahide Yildirim

Mr Douglas Wong



Emily Kelly with unit files.

Registries and clinical trials managed by the Data Management Centre

*Administering institution	Project	Project type	Clinical context	Sponsor	Period	Recruitment
DEPM-CCRE	ANBP2	Cohort study	Cardiovascular disease	GPs	2006 – ongoing	1199 GPs
Australian Rheumatology Association	ARAD	Registry	Rheumatology	NHMRC	2001 – ongoing	159 rheumatologists
DEPM-CCRE	ASCTS	Registry	Cardiac surgery	DHS	2002 – ongoing	10 Australian hospitals
DEPM-CCRE	ASPREE	Clinical trial	Cardiovascular disease	NHMRC	2005 – ongoing	88 Australian GPs
DEPM-CCRE	HOPE3	Clinical trial	Cardiovascular disease	National Heart Foundation	2008 – ongoing	150 international sites
DEPM-CCRE	INTEGRATE	Clinical trial	Cardiovascular disease	Bristol Myers Squibb	2007 – ongoing	755 Victorian GPs
DEPM-CCRE	MIG	Registry	Cardiovascular disease	Commercial-various	2006 – ongoing	8 Victorian hospitals
Alfred ICU	ENTERIC	Clinical trial	Intensive care	Various	2005 – ongoing	14 Victorian sites
Alfred ICU	STATINS	Clinical trial	Intensive care	NHMRC	2007 – ongoing	17 Australian hospitals
Alfred/NTRI	DECRA	Clinical trial	Trauma	NHMRC/TAC	2005 – ongoing	30 Victorian hospitals
Burnet	Sentinel Surveillance	Observational study	Infectious diseases	DHS	2005 – ongoing	16 Victorian clinics

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/data-mgmt-centre.html

Cooperative Research Centre for Water Quality and Treatment (epidemiology program)

The Cooperative Research Centre for Water Quality and Treatment is Australia's national drinking water research organisation.

The centre's mission is to assist the Australian water industry to deliver high quality drinking water at an affordable price.

Staff

Director and head

Dr Karin Leder; MBBS (Hons)
FRACP, MPH, PhD

Research staff

Ms Naomi Cooke; BSc

Ms Pam Lightbody; BSc

Dr Martha Sinclair; BSc (Hons), PhD

Dr Samantha Rizak; BA, BAppSc, MSc, PhD

Teaching staff

Dr Karin Leder; MBBS (Hons), FRACP,
MPH, PhD

Doctoral students

Ms Joanne O'Toole; BAppSc, MBA

Ms Shelly Rodrigo; BSc (Hons),
MFoodTech, MPhil

(Note: the same staff work both for the CRC and IDEP)

The Infectious Disease Epidemiology unit (IDEP) in DEPM has coordinated the CRC's public health research program since the centre was founded in 1995. The objective of the CRC research conducted at DEPM is to apply epidemiological techniques to characterise human health risks from microbial and chemical contaminants in drinking water and alternative water sources.

Techniques employed in this research include specific investigations measuring health outcomes in human participants, the development of methods to provide improved estimates of individual exposure levels, and the use of risk assessment for evaluation of perceived health risks. This work also considers the broader public health context of water-related risks in order to facilitate cost-effective use of public resources in risk management.

Another important facet of DEPM activity in the CRC is the provision of expertise to a range of committees and advisory bodies involved in the regulation of water supplies – including drinking water, recycled water and recreational water. These activities help to ensure that water quality management in Australia is informed by contemporary research knowledge.

Recent water shortages in Australia have seen the rapid development of alternative water sources such as rainwater, stormwater and recycled water from treated sewage as a substitute or supplement for conventional tap water supplies. While much attention has been focused on water quantity, increased utilisation of such water sources also requires careful management of water quality to ensure that public health is not compromised by exposure to microbial and chemical contaminants.

Water-related research projects at DEPM are aimed at filling information gaps and reducing uncertainty in health risk assessment for waterborne contaminants by providing improved human exposure data for a range of domestic water uses. This is being done through characterisation of household water use habits and conducting experimental studies of specific water use scenarios. The health impact of pathogens in rainwater is also being assessed using a rigorous randomised controlled trial methodology.

Outcomes from this research will feed into regulatory processes and permit health authorities to make better informed decisions about requirements for water quality and management options for domestic use of alternative water sources.

DEPM staff also produce Health Stream, the public health newsletter of the CRC for Water Quality and Treatment. This quarterly newsletter has an international circulation of approximately 2500 readers.

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/infdis/crcwqt.html



Monash Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health (MonCOEH)

MonCOEH investigates the role of workplace hazards and environmental exposures as risk factors for chronic diseases, such as cancer and respiratory disease. The centre has research interests in occupational disease surveillance, exposure assessment and the physical and psychological health of war veterans.

Staff

Director

Professor Malcolm Sim

Research staff

Dr Geza Benke
 Dr James Cui
 Dr Deborah Glass
 Dr Helen Kelsall
 Ms Jill Blackman
 Dr Martine Dennekamp
 Dr Melissa Friesen
 Mr Ewan MacFarlane
 Mr Dean McKenzie
 Ms Elisa Wood
 Ms Christina Dimitriadis
 Mr Peter Ittak
 Data Managers
 Mr Anthony Del Monaco
 Ms Koralj Giuliano

Teaching staff

Dr Neville Betts
 Dr James Chan
 Dr David Elder
 Dr David Fish
 Dr David Goddard

Honorary staff

Dr Mahendra Arnold – visiting academic
 Dr Bruce Hocking
 Dr Jan Hoving
 Dr Narges Khanjani
 Dr Richard Lunz
 Dr Samia Radi

Administrative staff

Ms Vanessa Murray
 Ms Jane Ball

Major activities and achievements

- Professor Malcolm Sim spent six months as a visiting scientist with the Gene, Environment and Lifestyle Group at the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France.
- Dr Geza Benke began his five-year NHMRC Career Development Award on the topic of 'Occupational respiratory and new technology epidemiology'.
- Mr Dean McKenzie began his two-year NHMRC Public Health Postgraduate Scholarship on the topic of 'Building brief screening and diagnostic tests of mental health'.
- Dr Geza Benke was elected president of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene (AIOH) (12-month term) in December 2007.
- Dr Deborah Glass was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (FAIOH) in December 2007.
- Dr Deborah Glass was invited to join the Occupational Cancer Risk Working Party of the Cancer Council Australia in July 2007.
- Professor Malcolm Sim was invited to join the Human Research Ethics Committee of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) in 2007.
- Professor Sim was appointed to the editorial board of the Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health in 2007.

Our international teaching profile increased in 2007, with the expansion of the undergraduate occupational and environmental medicine teaching programs to Monash University's Malaysian campus, where 51 students undertook the offered units. Professor Sim was awarded a grant by the Australia-Thailand Institute to facilitate links between Australia and Thailand and used the funds to provide a series of training workshops in workplace disease surveillance.

MonCOEH staff published 31 papers in peer-reviewed journals, had a further 14 papers in press, and published seven conference abstracts, including one Lancet paper. Staff gave six invited presentations, including keynote addresses by Dr Deborah Glass and Malcolm Sim. MonCOEH staff made 16 other oral and three poster presentations at conferences. Four research reports were released.

New research projects in 2007 (coordinated at MonCOEH)

- Air pollution and out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Melbourne;
- Cultural factors in disability from occupational musculoskeletal disorders;
- Gulf War Veterans serum sample project;
- Novel statistical methods to analyse recurrent event data to investigate the biological process of a disease in epidemiological follow-up studies;
- Review of the scientific literature relevant to research into health effects of veterans of the Middle East Area of Operations;
- Risk factors and symptom patterns associated with PTSD in Australian Gulf War veterans: subgroup analysis and development of brief screening tests; and
- The Healthwise Study – cancer incidence, mortality and respiratory morbidity in Alcoa workers employed in mining, refining and smelting.

New research projects in 2007 (coordinated elsewhere)

- Genetic epidemiology of chronic respiratory diseases from childhood to adulthood: a prospective study of sib-ships;
- Australian peacekeepers: the long term effects on mental health status, health service use and quality of life;
- Childhood cognitive antecedents of adult psychopathology: follow up of the Port Pirie lead cohort into adulthood;
- Case-control study of genetic and environmental risk factors for pancreatic carcinoma; and
- Occupational risk factors for NHL and NHL subtypes: an interlymph-based analysis.

Ongoing research projects in 2007

- **Health Watch Cohort Study**
Sim, M.R. and Glass, D.G. Funded by the Australian Institute of Petroleum: \$460,000 over three years (2005–2007).
- **Mobile Phone Users Surveillance Study**

International research collaborations

- INTEROCC – occupational exposure and brain cancer.
- Pooled analysis of petroleum case control studies.

Visitors

Dr Mahendra Arnold, a public health physician from Sri Lanka, joined MonCOEH in November 2006. He spent nine months training with MonCOEH before returning to Sri Lanka in July 2007.

Doctoral students

MonCOEH has an active research program, with six full- or part-time doctoral students enrolled in 2007. Two students, Ms Jill Blackman and Mr Ken Karipidis submitted theses for examination in 2007.

www.coeh.monash.org



Professor Malcolm Sim outside the office of the International Agency for Research on Cancer, France.

NHMRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) in Therapeutics

The CCRE in therapeutics, under the direction of Professor Henry Krum and Associate Professor Christopher Reid, aims to improve clinical outcomes at the individual and community level through the use of evidence, based on high quality clinical research.

Staff

Director and head

Professor Henry Krum; MBBS, PhD, FRACP, FCSANZ

Associate director

Associate Professor Christopher Reid; BA, Dip Ed, MSc, PhD

Research fellows

Associate Professor Andrew Ajani; MBBS, MD, FRACP, FJFICM

Dr Robyn Woods; BSc (Hons), PhD

Dr Alice Owen; BSc (Hons), PhD

Mr John Varigos; BSc

Dr Nick Andrianopoulos; MBBS

Dr Colin Wood; PhD

Dr Ruth Hannan; BSc (Hons), PhD

Ms Angela Brennan; RN

Ms Louise Shiel; BSc, GradDipAppSci, GradDipEd (Sec)

Dr Andrea Driscoll; RN, BN, MNursing, MEd, PhD

Dr Diem Dinh; PhD

Dr Baki Billah; PhD, MAS

Research assistants

Ms Molly Bond; BBiotech (Hons)

Mr Nino Hay

Ms Philippa Loane; BBMedSci

Ms Emily Kelly; BAppSc (PharmSci)

Ms Rosanne Freak-Poli

Ms Fanny Sampurno

Ms Ella Zomer; BSc

Study coordinators

Ms Louise Turnour; RN, RM, Grad Dip Health Ed

Ms Susan Montgomery; RN

Ms Kathleen White; RN

Ms Kimberley Irwin; BA, RN, GradDipClinEpi

Ms Marisa Jenkins; RN, BHSc, MNsg, GDipNsg(Periop), MCN

Ms Elizabeth Jenkins; RN

Ms Suzanna Pally; RN

Administrative staff

Ms Jo Harwood

Ms Dorina Heng; BSc

Ms Kate Mann; BA

Ms Sarah Mann

Ms Anne Jenes; RN



Doctoral students

Mr Stephen Haas; BPharm,
BPharmSci (Hons), MSHPA,
MAEA, MHBPRCA

Dr Will Kemp; MBBS, FRACP

Dr Hendrik Zimmet; MBBS, FRACP,
FCSANZ

Dr Dipak Kotecha; MBChB, MRCP

Dr Maros Elsik; BSc(Med),
MBBS (Hons 1), FRACP

Dr Michele McGrady; MBBS

Dr Pupalan Ingykaran; MBBS

Ms Zanfena Ademij; MPharm, MPH

Ms Jessica Chellappah; BSc (Hons), MPH

Ms Lavinia Tran; BBiomedSci (Hons)

Ms Helen Walls; BSc, MPH (Hons)

Other students

Ms Zahide Yildirim

Mr Douglas Wong

MSc Uppsala University

Ms Sara Sjoquist

Honorary staff

Anne Bruce; RN

Robyn Berry; RN

Research

Clinical trials

- ASPREE (ASpirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly)
- SCREEN-HF (SCReening Evaluation of the Evolution of New Heart Failure)
- HOPE-3 (Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation)
- INTEGRATE (Improving Action Inertia in Managing Hypertension)
- VYTUL (Vytorin Treating Uncontrolled Lipids)

New research projects

The Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiological Modelling Project

This project arises from an ARC-Linkage Grant with industry partner Sanofi-Aventis and the International Diabetes Institute (IDI). The project will use innovative statistical modelling techniques developed by CCRE researchers and bring together existing and soon-to-be-released data sources from both industry- and publicly-funded research to facilitate a detailed analysis of the future risk of cardiovascular disease in Australia.

Ongoing research projects

- MIG Registry
- ASCTS Registry
- ARAD Registry
- Bostentan Registry
- REACH Registry
- The Second Australian National Blood Pressure (ANBP2) Follow-up Study

The NHMRC funding of CCRE Therapeutics finished at end of 2007. One of the stated goals of NHMRC funding was self-sustainability at the end of that funding period. The directors of CCRE Therapeutics are confident that goal has been achieved with demonstrable financial stability as well as a track record of productivity with regard to clinical trial activity, publications and grant success.

For centre details, see the 2007 Annual Report for CCRE Therapeutics. This can be found at: www.ccretherapeutics.org.au/assets/images/ccre2007report.pdf

www.ccretherapeutics.org.au



CCRE Therapeutics Unit staff.

NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Patient Safety (CRE-PS)

The NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Patient Safety (CRE-PS) designs, conducts, promotes and promulgates high quality multi-centre research to improve quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness of healthcare in Australia. The consortium includes a team of experts in healthcare risk management and an advisory group including patient safety specialists from the UK and USA.

Staff

Principal investigators

Professor John McNeil
Professor Peter Cameron
Professor Just Stoelwinder
Professor Don Campbell
Associate Professor Paul Myles
Professor Stephen Duckett
Professor Penelope Sanderson

Director

Professor Peter Cameron;
MBBS, MD, FACEM

Associate directors

Professor Joseph Ibrahim
Associate Professor Peter Sprivulis
Dr Caroline Brand

Executive officer

Dr Sue Evans

Research staff

Professor Damian Jolley
Dr Nick Andrianopoulos
Dr Bev Copnell
Dr Shelly Jeffcott
Dr Deborah Roberts
Ms Judy Lowthian
Ms Judy McInnes

Administrative staff

Peta McLaughlin
Catherine Pound

Doctoral students

Megan Bohensky
Georgiana Chin
Ben Clissold
Basia Duig
Tobias Grundgeiger
Dominic Robin Guda
Jocelyn Lowinger
Carolina Weller
Cameron Willis

Major activities and achievements

- A seminar on clinical handover was run in conjunction with Queensland Health and Princess Alexandra Hospital and was held at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.
- A workshop on clinical handover was run in Brisbane and was supported by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare.
- A seminar on incident reporting was held in Sydney.
- In December, Sidney Dekker; professor in human factors and system safety and Director of Research at the Lund University School of Aviation (LUSA) Sweden, presented a series of seminars and lectures.
- Dr Sue Evans was awarded a NHMRC Australian Based Public Health Training Fellowship.
- Megan Bohensky, Ben Clissold and Christine Moje were awarded Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) Scholarships.

Research

A program of research is now developing in the following areas:

- measurement of safety and quality – registries, administrative data, other data sources;
- human factors – handover, trauma reception and resuscitation; and
- collaborations are underway with the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC) and the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS).

New research projects

In 2007 funding was received from the Department of Human Services to look at reducing harm to older persons from hot weather and heat waves and this study will be completed in 2008.

Ongoing research projects

In 2006 funding was received from the NHMRC (\$2.6 million for five years) for a Health Services Research Grant entitled 'Using data to monitor quality of quality'. Funding was also received from the Australian Centre for Health Research to identify a core set of clinical indicators to be collected in private hospitals to monitor the quality of care. In 2007 funding was received from the NHMRC for 'A case control study investigating factors contributing to the risk of bleeding in patients receiving warfarin therapy' (\$553,550 for three years).

In collaboration with The Alfred Emergency and Trauma Centre, the Trauma Reception and Resuscitation Project funded by the Victorian Trauma Foundation (now TAC Health Research) is ongoing.

Several PhD projects are examining a broad range of topics including quality indicator development, improved stroke care, handover and obstetrics, venous thromboembolism (VTE) prophylaxis, chronic ulcer treatment and better use of administrative datasets.

Teaching

The unit has nine PhD students and is responsible for the Principles of Health Care Quality Improvement unit of the Masters in Public Health.

www.crepatientsafety.org.au



Professor Peter Cameron in Emergency at the Alfred Hospital. Photo: Janine Eastgate.
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Research partners

Collaborations are in place with:

- Bayside Health, the Key Centre in Human Factors at the University of Queensland;
- Southern Health;
- CSIRO Mathematical and Informational Sciences;
- ACT Department of Health/ANU Centre for Health Stewardship;
- Medical Defence Association of Victoria, Melbourne Health;
- Peninsula Health Rehabilitation;
- Aged and Palliative Care Services;
- Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine;
- Wimmera Health Care Group;
- Hunter New England Health;
- Queensland Health Patient Safety Centre;
- Princess Alexandra Hospital;
- Clinical Excellence Commission;
- South Australian Department of Health;
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare;
- The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care;
- Women's and Children's Hospital in South Australia;
- Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC); and
- the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS) and the National E-Health Transition Authority.

Units

Biostatistics Unit

The Biostatistics Unit is involved in collaborative epidemiological and statistical research projects within and external to the department. It provides statistical support to DEPM's staff and students, and presents the statistical components of DEPM's teaching programs. The unit offers a biostatistical consulting service for other Monash departments at The Alfred, hospitals and other health service groups.

Staff

Head of unit

Associate Professor Andrew Forbes;
BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD

Research staff

Dr Michael Bailey
Dr Baki Billah
Dr James Cui
Dr Jahar Choudhury
Dr Liyun (Fran) Feng
Mr Dean McKenzie
Dr Susan Shortreed
Ms Pam Simpson
Associate Professor Rory Wolfe

Research

Biostatistical methodological research

Staff of the biostatistics unit are involved in a number of methodological research activities, including assessment of methodology for meta analysis of short interrupted time series; methods for causal, latent variable and missing data modelling in longitudinal studies; methodology for inter-rater reliability studies with multi-factorial designs; models and estimation for repeated ordinal responses; statistical process control methods for monitoring of health systems; issues concerning baseline adjustment in randomised trials; development and application of classification tree methods for identification of subgroups or screening instruments; methods for handling recurrent event data; model selection methods with correlated data.

Departmental statistical support

The Biostatistics Unit has significant input into design, data collection and analysis for the vast majority of research projects conducted in the department. Members of the unit hold chief investigator and/or associate investigator status on a numerous research projects within and external to the department.

Biostatistical consulting service

Staff of the Biostatistics Unit provide a biostatistical consulting service available to Monash University research staff, research students and external clients. (See page 28 for the 'Biostatistics Unit' section.)

Teaching

The teaching activities of the unit consist of lectures and tutorials within and external to the department, both by traditional face-to-face teaching as well as distance education learning. The unit coordinates subjects in the Masters of Biostatistics program, and conducts statistics teaching in the undergraduate medicine and biomedical science courses, as well as postgraduate teaching for the Master of Public Health and the Graduate Diplomas in Clinical Epidemiology, Occupational and Environmental Health, Clinical Health Management, International Health. Other activities include a series of short courses on basic statistics and the statistical software package.

Visitors

Dr Liyun Feng – July 2007 to July 2008;
from the College of Public Health,
Zhengzhou University, China

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/biostats



From left to right: Susan Shortreed, Fahad Hanna, Kaylene Hanlon and Andrew Forbes.

Cardiovascular Research Unit

The Cardiovascular Research Unit is involved in collaborative epidemiological and clinical research to aid understanding, prediction and treatment of cardiovascular illness.

Staff

Head of unit

Professor Andrew Tonkin;
MBBS, MD, FRACP, FCSANZ

Research staff

Ms Alison Beauchamp
Dr James Cui
Ms Andrea Driscoll
Mrs Karen Duve
Mr David O'Reilly
Dr Anna Peeters
Dr Julie Yallop

Doctoral students

Ms Elizabeth Barr
Ms Alison Beauchamp
Mr Adrian Cameron
Ms Lei Chen
Mr Linton Harriss

Current research

Home Automated External defibrillator trial study (HAT)

HAT is funded by the NIH and conducted in the US, Canada, Australia, UK and New Zealand. In Australia the study involves 31 hospitals. Professor Andrew Tonkin is principal investigator for Australia and Julie Yallop the Australian and New Zealand study coordinator, and a member of the Steering Committee for the study. The results were published in the New England Journal of Medicine, March 2008.

ASpirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE)

ASPREE is a large-scale double-blind-controlled trial to determine the effect of low-dose aspirin versus placebo over a five-year treatment period, for the prevention of cardiovascular events (fatal and non fatal) in subjects aged over 70 years without known cardiovascular disease. Additional aims are to investigate aspirin effects on all cause mortality, dementia, haemorrhagic stroke, preservation of cognitive function, gastrointestinal bleeds, and other clinical significant bleeding, carcinoma, thrombo-embolism, institutionalization, disability, cost-effectiveness, depression and quality of life.

Epidemiology of chronic diseases and DNA studies

Professor Andrew Tonkin is a cardiovascular lead in the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study established in the 1990s by the Cancer Council of Australia to investigate the role of diet and other lifestyle factors in cancer. At baseline, 41,500 people were recruited into the study.

In 2002, a NHMRC Program Grant was awarded to re-survey the surviving participants and expand the capture of outcomes to include cardiovascular disease and the metabolic syndrome. The data collected will aid the study of the determinants of heart disease with the aim of developing prediction tools and other novel determinants of outcomes.

Chronic Heart failure Assisted by Telephone study (CHAT)

CHAT is a randomised trial of telephone support for chronic heart failure patients at high risk of rehospitalisation funded by the NHMRC and the Medical Benefits Fund. Chronic heart failure is a major public health problem in Australia. This project is implementing the first Australia-wide randomised clinical trial of telephone support for CHF patients provided by trained nurses to enable patients and their families to maintain their health in as stable a manner as possible, in their homes. This strategy has significant implications for providing equity of access for rural and remote Australians.

Other current research

'Diabetes, glucose intolerance and insulin resistance: what is their cardiovascular impact? A national, population based cohort study – AusDiab'

'Reduction in disparities in health outcomes in cardiovascular diseases and chronic kidney disease for Indigenous Australians'

'CARDIAC-ARIA: Measuring the accessibility to cardiovascular services in rural and remote Australia via applied geographical spatial technology (GIS)'

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/cardiore



Clinical Epidemiology Unit – The Alfred

Clinical epidemiology is about the application of epidemiological methods to the care of individual patients. The unit at The Alfred focuses on respiratory diseases in collaboration with the hospital Department of Allergy, Immunology and Respiratory Medicine.

Staff

Director/head

Professor Michael Abramson;
MBBS, PhD, FRACP, FAFPHM

Project coordinator

Ms Rosa Schattner; BEc, MPH

Research staff

Ms Lorien Barrie; RN Div 1, CCRN

Ms Christina Dimitriadis; BAppSc
(jointly with MonCOEH)

Ms Bernadette Flanagan; RN Div 1

Ms Joan Green; BSc

Mr Tom Lanigan

Ms Angela; Lewis BAppSc

Ms Joan Raven; RN

Honorary staff

Ms Rosie Gehrig-Mills; RN,
GradCert(CritCare), ADA(AppPhot)

Administrative staff

Ms Kaylene Hanlon

Doctoral students

Ms Charmian Bennett; MA, MSc

Mr Imo Inyang; BAppSc, Dip Epi Bio

Ms Margaret Stebbing; DipAppSc, MPH

Major activities and achievements

SPIRO-GP was awarded the TSANZ/
Australian Lung Foundation Prize for
the best presentation on primary care
related issues.



Respiratory scientist, Anne Adikari, with young participant of the SPIRO-GP clinical trial.

Research

The NHMRC funded study of the cardiac and respiratory effects of ultrafine air pollution was completed in 2007.

The Mobile Radiofrequency Phone Exposed Users' Study (MoRPhEUS) completed follow-up of 247 Year 8 students. Preliminary results suggest an association between mobile phone use and impulsive behaviours.

Ongoing research projects

SPIRO-GP is funded by an NHMRC General Practice Clinical Research Grant of \$487,427 over three years. The study has recruited a total of 31 general practices, 124 GPs and 386 patients across metropolitan Melbourne. Partners are The Alfred, University of Melbourne, Pulmetrics, Monash Institute of Health

Services Research and Divisions of General Practice. The aim is to trial spirometry as an intervention for the management of asthma and COPD in a general practice setting.

Primary outcomes of the study are quality of life and asthma control. The study is a randomised controlled trial where practices are randomly allocated to one of three groups: Group A have spirometry intervention every three months with results sent back to the GP, Group B have spirometry before and after the 12-month trial but no results are reported to the general practitioner and Group C provide usual care which may include peak flow monitoring, but not spirometry. Participants return three monthly respiratory and quality of life questionnaires for the duration of the 12-month trial.

Research partners

- Australian Centre for Radiofrequency
- Bioeffects Research
- Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology, University of Melbourne

Visitors

Dr John Stewart from Queen's University, Belfast spent a short sabbatical in the unit.

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/clinepi



SPIRO-GP team (from left to right): Nory Del Colle, Michael Abramson, Frank Thien, Joan Green, Rosa Schattner, Nabil Sulaiman and Angeline Ferdinand.

Clinical Epidemiology Unit – Cabrini Hospital

We have a broad multidisciplinary research program with an emphasis on musculoskeletal conditions.

We are involved in a range of randomised controlled trials including vertebroplasty for the treatment of osteoporotic spinal fractures, physiotherapy for rotator cuff disease and self-management courses for arthritis. The department coordinates the Australian Rheumatology Association Database (ARAD) which is a national observational registry set up to determine the long-term effectiveness and safety of biologic therapy for inflammatory arthritis. It also houses the Australian Editorial Base of the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group, responsible for performing and editing systematic reviews examining treatments for rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, osteoporosis and soft tissue disorders. Other major projects include improving outcomes from low back pain through mass media campaigns and better medical management; improving communication between health professionals and patients including development of a linguistic framework for improving the quality of written communication and understanding the role and impact of health literacy on health outcomes. This work has been supported by various local, national and international bodies.

Staff

Research

Professor Rachelle Buchbinder; director

Dr Margaret Staples; biostatistician

Dr Renea Johnston; coordinator – Australian Editorial Base, Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group (maternity leave January to October, 2007)

Dr Peter Kent; NHMRC training fellow

Dr John Oldroyd; research fellow

Ms Miranda Cumpston; coordinator – Australian Satellite, Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group (January to October, 2007)

Ms Bridie Murphy; research assistant

Ms Di Hirsh; research assistant (May 2007 to April 2008)

Administrative staff

Ms Lavonne Collins

Students

R. Buchbinder

Jennifer Coghlan; PhD scholar (Monash University)

Simon French; PhD scholar (Monash University)

Lucy Busija; PhD Scholar (joint with University of Melbourne)

Sabina Ciciriello; PhD scholar (joint with University of Melbourne)

Joanne Jordan; PhD scholar (joint with University of Melbourne)

Joel Radford; PhD scholar (joint with University of West Sydney) (completed)

Awards

R. Buchbinder

- Monash University Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal for best PhD, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
- 2007 Commendation for the Premier's Award for Medical Research
- Best Clinical Science Paper, Annual Scientific Meeting, Australian Rheumatology Association
- Cabrini Hospital Research Day – Best Overall Presentations

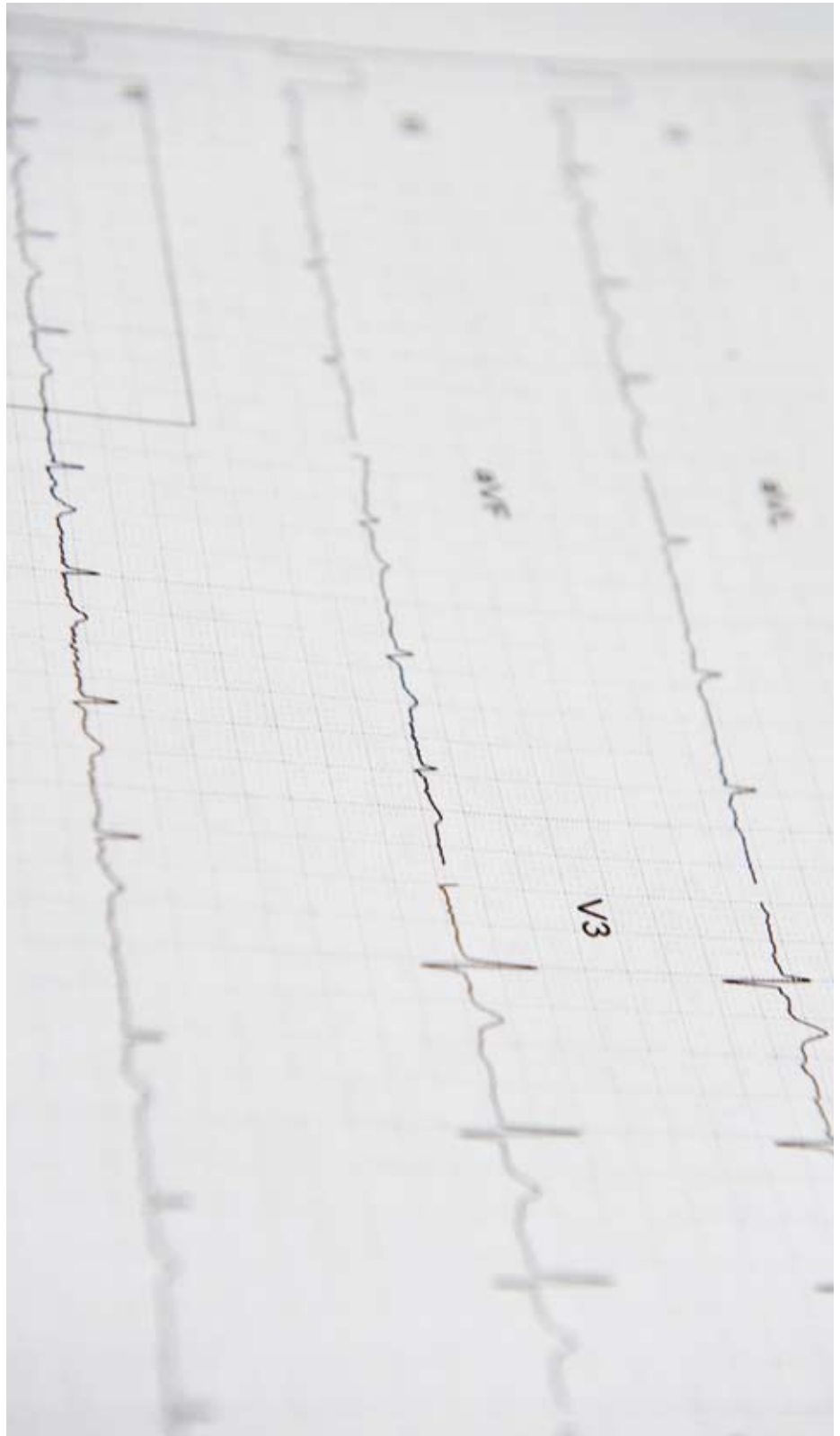
P. Kent

- La Trobe University Outstanding Thesis Award, Faculty of Health Sciences

Current research projects

- Australian Rheumatology Association Database (ARAD): A national longitudinal study of the long-term outcomes of treatment with biological therapies for inflammatory arthritis in Australia.
- A four-year NHMRC-funded randomised double-blind placebo-controlled trial investigating the efficacy and safety of vertebroplasty for acute painful osteoporotic spinal compression fractures.
- Efficacy and cost-effectiveness of physiotherapy for chronic rotator cuff pathology. (Professor Kim Bennell, University of Melbourne)
- Can patient self-management education programs improve outcomes of people with osteoarthritis? (Associate Professor Richard Osborne, University of Melbourne)
- Cochrane reviews of interventions for shoulder pain and tennis elbow.
- Further validation of a linguistic framework to assess the quality of written patient information.
- Cross-sectional survey of the Victoria population to assess health literacy levels in the community.
- Quality of life, disability and prioritisation of people waiting for joint replacement surgery.
- What is the influence of special interests and continuing medical education on beliefs about the management of back pain amongst general practitioners?

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/clinmeas



Clinical Pharmacology Unit

The Clinical Pharmacology Unit provides drug-related services to The Alfred, including advice to and membership of the Drug and Therapeutics Advisory Committee and the Human Research Ethics Committee, leadership on the Adverse Drug Reactions Committee and consulting on drug and toxicology related clinical problems.

The Clinical Pharmacology Unit has a very active program of basic and clinical research with regard to evaluation of new and established drug therapies.

Staff

Head

Professor Henry Krum; MBBS, PhD, FRACP

Research Staff

Dr Danny Liew; MBBS, PhD

Dr Emma Ashton; PhD

Ms Julie Yallop; NZRN

Ms Joanne Croucher

Registrar

Dr Genevieve Flannery; MBBS

Regulatory affairs manager

Mrs Marina Skiba; BEd(Sec)Sci

Research nurses

Ms Jane Brack; RN

Mrs Robyn Funston; RN

Ms Emma Windebank; RN

Administrative staff

Ms Jo Harwood

Doctoral students

Mr Stephen Haas

Dr Will Kemp

Dr Hendrik Zimmel

Dr Maros Elsik

Dr Michele McGrady

Dr Pupalan Iyngkaran

Major activities and achievements

Dr Maros Elsik was awarded the highly distinguished Ralph Reader Prize at the 2007 CSANZ Annual Meeting held in Christchurch.

Research

- Clinical research is focused on drugs that may affect the cardiovascular system. Agents under current active research evaluation include COX-2 inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers, statin therapies, clozapine and beta-blockers, as well as various experimental agents.
- Evaluations include assessment of autonomic and endothelial function as well as microcirculation tone in health and disease.
- The unit also conducts a number of basic research programs within the Monash Medical School research laboratories on The Alfred campus. Current programs include:
 - » role of urotensin II in cardiac disease (NHMRC supported);
 - » role of p38 MAP kinase system in heart failure disease progression;
 - » role of Rho kinase in cardiac fibrosis; and
 - » role of novel agents in cardiac fibrosis and inflammation.

Ongoing research projects

The unit also serves as a coordinating centre for multi-centre clinical trials. Current ongoing trials include:

- CHAT (Chronic Heart failure Assistance by Telephone): This study has recruited over 400 patients and 300 general practitioners and has finished recruitment with database closure anticipated early 2008.
- SCREEN-HF: (SCReening Evaluation of the Evolution of New Heart Failure). The SCREEN-HF study involves recruiting 3500 elderly (>60 years) subjects with at least one risk factor for heart failure and determining plasma brain natriuretic peptide levels.
- Triple R (Reverse Remodelling Resynchronisation) Study: Patients with heart failure may be eligible to receive a biventricular pacemaker (cardiac resynchronisation therapy) if they have evidence of dyssynchrony, either on ECG or imaging.

Research partners

BUPA (SCREEN-HF), Medtronic, Ardian, Myogen, Amgen, HD Medical, International Diabetes Institute, BMS, Sanofi-Aventis, Johnston and Johnston.

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/clinpharm



Research nurse Jane Brack.

Health Services Management Unit

The primary focus of the unit is the delivery of high quality, flexible education and programs in health services management. A range of teaching programs is provided for health professional undergraduates and postgraduates. Staff also provide advisory and consulting services in safety, quality and accreditation; health service organisation and program design and performance evaluation; economic evaluation; pharmaceutical pricing; health policy development; and senior health executive coaching.

Staff

Head of unit

Professor Just Stoelwinder; MBBS, MD, FRACMA, FACHSE, FAFPHM

Research staff

Dr Peter Bradford; MBBS moderator

Dr Sue Evans; quality improvement

Dr Jennifer Grafton; accounting

Dr Guy Haller; MBBS moderator

Dr Catherine Joyce; health policy

Ms Elizabeth Kennedy; health services law

Ms Kelly Makarounas-Kirchmann; finance and economic decision making

Dr Biswadev Mitra; MBBS moderator

Dr Deborah Roberts; health system reform and development

Dr Lakshmi Sumithran; MBBS moderator



Professor Just Stoelwinder

Teaching

Undergraduate

MBBS, Year 4, Theme II, Health Management

BMSc, BMS3032, Health Policy and Management

Postgraduate

Graduate Certificate in Health Services Management

Graduate Diploma in Health Services Management

Master of Health Services Management

Master of Public Health, Health Services Management stream

Research

The unit is a partner in the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety, which was established at DEPM in 2005.

Participation in other projects includes:

- COSMIC – The Cost of Myocardial Infarction and Heart Failure in Australia
- PITCH – Predictors Influencing The Change in Health Status of Elderly in Community Care

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/hsm

Human Rights and Bioethics Unit

The Human Rights and Bioethics Unit conducts teaching at both postgraduate and undergraduate levels.

The unit offers a range of consultancy services in the areas of research ethics, bioethics, human rights and public health law.

Head of unit

Associate Professor Bebe Loff; BA LBB, MA (Med Law and Ethics), PhD

Staff

Mr Bradley Crammond; BA, LLB

Dr Deborah Zion; BA (Hons), MA, PhD

Liz Bishop; BA, LLB

Jo Bird; BA, LLB, PhD

Honorary staff

Dr Jim Black

Dr Wendy Holmes

Associate Professor Mike Toole



Unit staff (left to right): Dr Deborah Zion, Assoc Prof Bebe Loff and Mr Brad Crammond.

Grants

Major grants administered by the unit currently include an NHMRC project examining regulatory responses to obesity and an ARC project looking at the ethical questions regarding the provision of healthcare to asylum seekers in detention centres.

Teaching

The unit is responsible for the Masters in International Research Bioethics, funded by the Fogarty International Centre of the United States National Institutes of Health. The unit also coordinates the Graduate Diploma in International Health and the Masters of International Health.

The unit has a partnership with the Northeastern University in Boston. Students from the Criminal Justice and Health Sciences programs will work as interns in the unit for up to four months, under the supervision of Deborah Zion and Bebe Loff.

Meetings

Bebe Loff attended two meetings during April 2007 in Cambodia and New Zealand. In Cambodia she met with sex-workers from the Asia Pacific region to develop their rights based messages and a paper to be delivered at a World Health Organisation sponsored meeting concerning the 100% Condom Use Program.

The second meeting Bebe attended was in Auckland and was sponsored by UNDP, UNAIDS and the Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team. The meeting resulted in a Ministerial Declaration concerning a rights based framework for the development of law to deal with HIV/AIDS.

Dr Deborah Zion was invited to be a keynote speaker at The Ethics of Research with Refugees Workshop held in July and organised by the South Australian Refugee Health Network (SARHN), a network of people interested in supporting the health of refugees and asylum seekers.

Consultancies

- Consulting services were provided to the Department of Human Services on the implementation of the Victorian Human Rights Charter of Rights and Responsibilities and to the National Heart Foundation on a review of Victoria's planning provisions.
- Australian Society for HIV Medicine dealing with public health laws relating to HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C in all Australian jurisdictions \$13,200 PI.
- DHS training officers of the department about the content and implementation of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities \$40,000 PI.
- National Heart Foundation, Review of Planning Law from a Public Health Perspective \$16,000 PI.
- Department of Human Services (Victoria), Human Rights Charter Training for Public Hospitals \$20,000 PI.

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/humanrights



Bebe Loff in Cambodia.

Infectious Disease Epidemiology Unit

Infectious Disease Epidemiology includes the study of the prevalence of infections in populations, the identification of risk factors, and the development and evaluation of effective treatment measures and prevention strategies. The unit focuses on areas of water quality and public health, environmental impacts on infections, travellers' health, and health issues in immigrants and refugees.

Staff

Director/head

Dr Karin Leder; MBBS (Hons), FRACP, MPH, PhD

Research staff

Ms Naomi Cooke; BSc

Ms Pam Lightbody; BSc

Dr Martha Sinclair; BSc (Hons), PhD

Dr Samantha Rizak; BA, BAppSc, MSc, PhD

Teaching staff

Dr Karin Leder; MBBS (Hons), FRACP MPH, PhD

Doctoral students

Ms Joanne O'Toole; BAppSc, MBA

Ms Shelly Rodrigo; BSc (Hons), MFoodTech, MPhil

Major activities and achievements

- PhD awarded to Samantha Rizak: Achieving Safe Drinking Water: The Role of Water Quality Monitoring and Risk Management.
- Dr Martha Sinclair received the inaugural Global Water Research Coalition Award for outstanding contributions to the global water community.

Conference presentations

- K. Leder; Invited symposium speaker, Australian Gastroenterology Week, October 2007, Perth.
- J. O'Toole, K. Leder, M. Sinclair, T. Jeavons; Oral presentation at the IWA 14th International Symposium on health-related water microbiology, September 2007, Tokyo.
- J. O'Toole, K. Leder, M. Sinclair; Poster presentation at the IWA 14th International Symposium on health-related water microbiology, September 2007, Tokyo.
- J. O'Toole, K. Leder, M. Sinclair; Oral presentation at Australasian Epidemiological Meeting, August 2007, Tasmania.
- S. Rodrigo, M. Sinclair, K. Leder; Oral presentation at Australasian Epidemiology Conference, August 2007, Tasmania.
- S. Rodrigo, M. Sinclair, D. Cunliffe, K. Leder; Oral presentation at International Rainwater Catchment Systems Conference, August 2007, Sydney.
- K. Leder; Invited symposium speaker, 10th Conference of the International Society of Travel Medicine, May 2007, Vancouver, Canada.

Research

Research projects include the health impacts of microbial pathogens in drinking water, and the development of improved monitoring and risk management systems for drinking water supplies. More recently the research activities of the unit have expanded to include public health aspects of alternative water sources (including rainwater, greywater and recycled water).

New research projects

Health Services Utilisation and Urban Dual Reticulation Systems, CRC for Drinking Water Quality and Treatment funding, \$280,015, CIA Dr Karin Leder

Ongoing research projects

- Exposure Assessment in Urban Reticulation Systems, CRC for Drinking Water Quality and Treatment funding, \$112,000, CIA Dr Karin Leder.
 - A series of exposure experiments – recycled water and alternative water sources, CRC for Drinking Water Quality and Treatment funding, \$264,583, CIA Dr Karin Leder.
 - Health risk assessment – recycled water, Victorian Water Trust grant, \$151,490 over two years, CIA Dr Karin Leder.
 - Health Effects of Rainwater Consumption, NHMRC Project Grant, \$844,313 over three years, CIA Dr Karin Leder.
- ### Research partners
- Cooperative Research Centre for Water Quality and Treatment
 - CSIRO
 - Hawkesbury-Hills Division of General Practice

Visitors

Mr David Wain BA; GDip Ed, MPH,
Victorian Public Health Trainee

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/infdis



Greywater from washing machines.



Testing the water.

International Public Health Unit (IPHU)

The International Public Health Unit (IPHU) aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in low and middle income countries through the School's education programs, short courses, research and related capacity building programs.

IPHU collaborates with staff at Monash University including South African and Malaysian campuses and colleagues in other countries. It works closely with other AMREP institutions, particularly the Burnet Institute.

Through the Monash Institute for Global Health Improvement (MIGHI), IPHU collaborates with other universities and research bodies in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region with a focus on improving health globally. IPHU runs the directorate for the Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) which is an academic network of more than 60 schools of public health from around the region.

Staff

Director/head

Professor Brian Oldenburg;
BSc (Hons), MPsy, PhD

Research Staff

Dr Dominique Bird; DM, M.H.S.

Dr Bronwyn Fredericks; DipT, BEduc,
MEduc, MEducStudies, PhD, JP

Dr Steven Bunker; RN,
GradDipAdultEd, PhD

Dr Robyn Tapp; Dip (ChildStud),
BA (Psych and PsychPhys),
GradDip (HealthStats), PhD

Dr Catherine Joyce; BA (Hons),
MPsy, PhD

Ms Adrienne O'Neil; BA (Hons)

Ms Vivien Harris; Med, PGCertECTE,
BSocWrk

Ms Katherine Eadie; BBehSc (Hons)

Ms Megan Rollo; BHSc, BAppSc

Ms Bernice Kelly; BAppSc (HlthEd)

Ms Brigid Hanley

Mr Wei-I WU; BInfTech (Hons)

Administrative staff

Mr Desmond Gul; MSc (Hons)

Ms Rebecca Watson; BHSc

Ms Suzy Giuliano

Affiliated staff

Dr Anna Hawkes; BSc (Hons),
MPH, PhD, health coach manager,
Psycho-Oncology Research Unit,
The Cancer Council Queensland

Associate Professor Maximilian de Courten;
MD, MPH, DEPM

Major activities and achievements

- IPHU completed its first year of operation in DEPM.
- IPHU is providing the coordination for MIGHI, APACPH, AIHPS (see separate section) and many research projects in Victoria, nationally and internationally.
- Global Health Symposium – Building research capacity to improve global health – lessons and challenges. The forum was a success, engaging everyone in the discussion and the exchange of ideas. More than 150 national and international participants registered for the forum.



Dr Robyn Tapp.



IPHU staff, from left to right: Brian Oldenburg, Suzy Giuliano, Adrienne O'Neil, Rebecca Watson, Des Gul.

Research

- Two new NHMRC-funded trials began in early 2007.
- A RCT of a telehealth intervention with people following myocardial infarction focused on lifestyle change and Quality of life improvement.
- A controlled evaluation and RCT of a new automated communication for improving the management and prevention of Type 2 Diabetes.
- Professor Oldenburg leads an NHMRC Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) – based primarily in Queensland – which is focused on ‘reducing the gap’ experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relation to cardiovascular and related conditions. He is the Research Director for the Australian Institute of Health Policy Studies (AIHPS).

Research programs for the unit's two research fellows

- Dr Bronwyn Fredericks (NHMRC Public Health Post-Doctoral Fellowship) – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perceptions of the risks associated with chronic disease.
- Dr Robyn Tapp (NHMRC Sidney Sax Post-Doctoral Fellowship) – Microvascular architecture, growth patterns and adult chronic disease.

Visitors

- Zandile Mciza – nutritionist, University of Western Cape and the University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Professor Ole Mortensen – chief physician at Bispebjerg University Hospital and associate professor in the Department of Social Medicine, University of Copenhagen in Denmark
- Dr Dan Murphy – medical director, Bairo Pite Clinic in Dili, East Timor
- Isuru Liyanage, Randi Caldera, Ashan Pathirana – University of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/iphu

Kidney Disease Prevention Unit

The Kidney Disease Prevention Unit provides expertise in kidney disease to many aspects of the department. It is particularly involved in the prevention of chronic kidney disease. It is headed by Professor Robert Atkins who was Director of the Department of Nephrology at Monash Medical Centre from its inception in 1972 until 2005.

Professor Atkins has published more than 1000 scientific papers and abstracts. He has been the President of the International Society of Nephrology, President of the Asian Pacific Society of Nephrology and of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology.

Staff

Professor Robert Atkins; AM, MBBS, MSc, DSc, FRACP

Honorary

Dr Anne Reutens; MBBS, PhD, FRACP

Major Activities

- Asia-Pacific clinical Coordinating Centre for the Collaborative Study Group.
- National Chronic Kidney Disease Strategy – chair.
- WHO Chronic Kidney Disease Programme – reviewer.
- KDIGO (Kidney Disease – Improving Global Outcome) – director.
- International Diabetes Institute – director.
- Cochrane Collaborative Research Group – chair.

Research

NHMRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence Programme in Kidney Diseases. 2007 was the final year of a five-year \$2 million grant.

Ongoing Research

Australian Diabetes, Obesity and Lifestyle (AusDiab) study.

Programme for the detection and management of chronic kidney disease, hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease in developing countries.

Clinical Trials

Asian Pacific Coordinating Centre for the Sulodexide in Diabetic Nephropathy Trials.

Consultancies

Diab– B Tech – scientific advisory board.

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/kidney



Professor Bob Atkins – Head of the Kidney Disease Prevention Unit.

Musculoskeletal Unit

The Musculoskeletal Unit's research focuses on the development of outcome methods in musculoskeletal disease and the application of these methods in the prevention and management of musculoskeletal disease.

Staff

Director/head

Professor Flavia Cicuttini

Post doctoral fellows

Dr Anita Wluka
Dr Donna Urquart
Dr Fahad Hanna
Dr Yuanyuan Wang

Project Coordinator

Ms Judy Hankin

Teaching staff

Dr Anita Wluka; coordinator MPH 2013

Doctoral students

Dr Frank Buchanan
Dr Tina Racunica
Ms Miranda Tuck
Ms Patricia Berry
Ms Sharon Brennan

Completed honours students

Ms Patricia Berry
Ms Katrina Parkins
Ms Ana Galevska-Dimitrovska
Ms Juliette Mutheu

Current masters students

Mr Pradeep Wijeratne

Current honours students

Ms Stephanie Tanamas

Awards

The Alfred Poster Week – whole time medical specialists private practice scheme prize for clinical research 'Effect of antioxidants on knee cartilage and bone in healthy, middle-aged subjects'

Research activities/current projects

- The effect of weight loss on the risk of knee osteoarthritis and potential modification by biomechanical factors.
- The role of lifestyle factors on knee cartilage volume and rate of cartilage loss in a normal community-based population a longitudinal study.
- Role of musculoskeletal biomechanical factors in cartilage loss in those who undergo partial medial meniscectomy.
- The predictors of knee cartilage loss: A five year natural history based on an existing cohort.
- Cross-sectional and longitudinal associations between physical activity and knee joint health.
- Body composition and changes in knee structure in a HIV positive population.
- Bone marrow lesions.
- Identification of blood (serum) and urinary biomarkers associated with osteoarthritis disease progression in a well established cohort of subjects with knee osteoarthritis.
- Factors that affect knee structure in healthy women.
- The relationship between body composition and hip cartilage.
- The effect of physical activity on knee joint health: Is it good or bad?
- Low back pain (LBP) and urinary incontinence (UI): What are the risk factors and are these conditions associated?
- Antidepressants for non-specific lower back pain.
- In-hospital outcomes and hospital resource utilisation of primary and revision hip replacement procedures.
- The effect of sociodemographic and lifestyle factors on the risk of primary and revision joint replacement in the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study.

The Musculoskeletal Unit is an active participant in the two following NHMRC Centres of Clinical Research Excellence:

- NHMRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) in Therapeutics Krum, Tonkin, McNeil, Forbes, Cicuttini, Myles. 2003–7.
- NHMRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) in Women's Health Davis S., Bell R., Burger H., Hailes-Michelmores J.

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/muscskel



MRI scanning.

Pre-hospital, Emergency and Trauma Unit

The Pre-hospital, Emergency and Trauma Unit focuses on trauma epidemiology, injury prevention and management, pre-hospital care, health services and systems research.

Staff

Head of unit

Professor Peter Cameron,
MBBS, MD, FACEM

Deputy head of unit

Dr Belinda Gabbe,
BPhysio (Hons), MAppSc, PhD

Research staff

Ms Priyana Bhabha
Mr Travis Bloom
Mr Edward Chow
Ms Melissa Hart
Ms Belinda Jackson
Ms Louisa Lam
Ms Sue McLellan
Ms Antonina Mikocka-Walus
Ms Emily Mulholland
Mr Julian Murphy
Dr Louise Phillips
Ms Vina Nyugen
Ms Elizabeth Richards
Mr Ben Silvester
Ms Ann Sutherland
Ms Diane Waters
Dr Owen Williamson

Trauma information systems manager

Mr Andrew Hannaford

Data managers

Mr Kunnapoj Pruksawognsin
Mr Waranon Burnasari

Administrative Staff

Ms Rosalie Clementson
Ms Mimi Morgan

Honorary staff

Associate Professor Stephen Bernard
Dr George Braitberg
Ms Shelley Cox
Ms Alex Currell
Mr Elton Edwards
Ms Masha Fridman
Professor George Jelinek
Dr Ian Millar
Dr Gerard O'Reilly
Mr Ian Patrick

Doctoral students

Ms Helen Ackland
Ms Nadine Andrew
Mr Cameron Gosling
Mr Paul Jennings
Ms Louisa Lam
Ms Marg Loughnan
Dr DeVilliers Smit
Mr Jason Wasiak
Mr Cameron Willis

Major activities and achievements

- Dr Belinda Gabbe received an NHMRC Career Development Award (CDA) for \$445,000 for five years. Dr Gabbe's NHMRC funded research project "Outcomes of major trauma and sports injuries" will be featured in the NHMRC's '10 of the Best' (research projects) publication.
- Professor Peter Cameron was the chief guest at the Inaugural Meeting of the Critical Care Society of Sri Lanka in Kandy; and presented the P.S. Ramani Oration at the Neurological Society Meeting of India in Gwalior. Peter was also re-elected as Vice President of the International Federation of Emergency Medicine (IFEM).
- Cameron Gosling won the NSW Sporting Injuries Committee Award for Best New Investigator – Injury Prevention (\$2,000).

Research

The unit collaborates with large clinical research groups, eg the Centre for Research Excellence in Therapeutics looking at the impact of Brain Natriuretic Peptide (BNP) testing in the management of heart failure in the emergency department at The Alfred and Northern Hospitals; and the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC) with 'The Australasian Resuscitation in Sepsis Evaluation Randomised Controlled Trial (ARISE-RCT).'

The completion of a number of large emergency randomised controlled trials and funding to undertake further studies ensures an active research program.

New research projects

Dr Belinda Gabbe, NHMRC Population Health Research Fellow, received funding for three projects:

- TAC Health Research: 'Improving the measurement of functional and quality of life outcomes in paediatric trauma'.
- TAC Health Research: 'Outcomes following major trauma in Victoria: measuring recovery post discharge'.
- Monash University (Strategic Grant): investigating risk factors for injury in triathletes.
- The study of hyperbaric oxygen treatment in lower limb trauma originally funded by the Victorian Trauma Foundation (now TAC Health Research) has now received NHMRC Project Grant funding.
- Paul Jennings was awarded a fellowship from the Transport Accident Commission (\$92,000 over two years) for a study entitled 'Morphine versus morphine and ketamine for traumatic pain in the prehospital setting'.

Ongoing research projects

Two pre-hospital trials are reaching completion, the RICH (Rapid Infusion of Cold Hartmann's for Hypothermia following Cardiac Arrest) and the RSI Study (Rapid Sequence Intubation).

Research partners

- TAC Health Research;
- Metropolitan Ambulance Service;
- Rural Ambulance Victoria;
- Cardiac Arrest Registry;
- National Trauma Registry Consortium;
- Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre (ANZIC-RC);
- National Trauma Research Institute;
- Trauma Audit and Research Network (TARN) in the UK; and
- Research groups in Hong Kong and New Zealand.

Registries

Victorian State Trauma Outcomes Registry Monitoring Group (VSTORM), the Victorian Orthopaedic Trauma Outcomes Registry (VOTOR) and the Haemostasis Registry.

Teaching

The unit has nine PhD students and is responsible for the Injury Epidemiology and Prevention unit of the Masters in Public Health.

www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/traumaepi



From left to right: Mimi Morgan, Peter Cameron, Sue McLellan, Belinda Gabbe, Andrew Hannaford, Ann Sutherland.

Visiting students and academics

DEPM hosted local and international visiting students and academics during 2007.

Louise Beaton, manager, Heart Health Education Centre at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute.



Dr Mahendra Arnold (Sri Lanka), a public health physician from Sri Lanka, joined MonCOEH in November 2006. He spent nine months training with MonCOEH before returning to Sri Lanka in July 2007. As pictured above (left), Dr Mahendra Arnold, Visiting Academic from Sri Lanka, presents a Sri Lankan silver platter to Professor Malcolm Sim of MonCOEH.



Xiaoxin Guo was a visiting WHO Fellow from China. She works for the drug regulator in the area of post-marketing surveillance and visited DEPM for two weeks from 4–15 June, as part of a 3-month fellowship in Australia. Xiaoxin Guo spent two months with the TGA in the Adverse Drug Reactions Unit and the last two weeks of her stay at the National Prescribing Service in Sydney.



Juliette Jessie Mutheu finished honours in DEPM in July 2006 after completing a BBiomedSc degree at Monash. Her honours thesis was looking at the effect of nutritional factors on osteoarthritis. She worked in DEPM as a research assistant and also tutored medical students. Early in January 2007, Juliet returned to Kenya where she became an intern at Wellcome Trust Research Collaborative – Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) doing geographical medicine-mapping of disease. She visited DEPM later in 2007.

The International Public Health Unit (IPHU) hosted many visitors during the year, including **Zandile Mciza** – Nutritionist, University of Western Cape and the University of Cape Town, South Africa. **Professor Ole Mortensen** – Chief Physician at Bispebjerg University Hospital and associate professor in the Department of Social Medicine, University of Copenhagen in Denmark and **Dr Dan Murphy** – Medical Director, Bairo Pite Clinic in Dili, East Timor.

IPHU also hosted three medical students from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, who joined the department for a three-week attachment as part of their medical education in September. The students, **Isuru Liyanage**, **Randi Caldera** and **Ashan Pathirana**, were in their final year and were supervised by Professor Brian Oldenburg while at DEPM. Dr Stephen Bunker was their academic mentor.



Professor Sidney Dekker is a professor in Human Factors and System Safety and Director of Research at the Lund University School of Aviation (LUSA), Sweden. His specialities and research interests are human error, system safety, human factors of new technology, constructions of risk, reactions to failure and criminalisation, and organisational resilience.



Dr Yaxu (Dorcas) Zhang (China) is from the Heilongjiang Province in China, chief of two divisions at the Nan Gang Center for disease control at Harbin: The Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Division and the Quality Control Division. She has more than 16 years experience in chronic disease epidemiology. Her research interests include intervention methods in the community to prevent atherosclerosis.

Professor John Yudkin is a professor of Medicine at the University College London, and a Honorary Consultant Physician in General Medicine and Diabetes, Whittington Hospital. His main interests are nutrition and heart disease; obesity, inflammation, cytokines, insulin resistance, vascular disease; cardiovascular risk and preventing CV disease; global health and the medical curriculum; drugs, underdevelopment, big pharma, diabetes; nutritional transition and CV disease in low income countries; diabetes vascular complications, hyperglycaemia, healthcare delivery.

Dr Arintaya Phrommintikul, Chiang Mai University, Thailand. Arintaya is a cardiologist and a visiting academic in our Clinical Pharmacology Unit. Her work is looking at new pharmacological interventions in hypertension and cardiac remodelling.

Dr John Stewart from Queen's University, in Belfast, spent a three-month sabbatical in the clinical epidemiology unit – The Alfred. Dr Stewart is a Principal Research Fellow at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. John is on sabbatical here for three months. His research interests include computer modelling of indoor airflows, temperatures, humidity and contaminants. He uses dynamic models to track variations in indoor conditions and resulting occupant exposure histories. During his three month visit to Monash, he is hoping to apply his model, using data collected here in previous studies, to extend our understanding of the variations in indoor pollutant levels in different parts of building, at different times, and under different outdoor weather conditions.

Dr Hoai Nguyen Thi Thu is a doctor from the Vietnam National Heart Institute in Hanoi. She spent six months training in DEPM on a Fellowship from the Vietnam government.

Dr Liyun (Fanny) Feng was hosted by the biostatistics unit from July 2007 to July 2008. Dr Feng is from the College of Public Health, Zhengzhou University, China.

Luisa Marama Taito visited the department for two weeks. Luisa works as a non-communicable diseases officer in the Public Health Division of the Ministry of Health in Fiji. The purpose of her visit is to learn about how surveillance work is done in Australia in the areas of cancer, diabetes, accident, injury and violence; how Fiji can improve their surveillance system, and also to learn from Dr Max De Courten how Fiji can improve on the NCD steps survey as the country prepares for another population survey next year.

Fanny Sampurno did an internship at DEPM, helping Associate Professor Maximilian de Courten with his project on the eSTEPS database for the World Health Organisation.

Seminars

The 2007 DEPM seminar program featured a wide variety of staff, students and guest speakers presenting on a variety of topics.

Guest speakers in 2007 included:

Dr Peter Sargious

General internist and founding medical director of Calgary's Chronic Disease Management (CDM) Portfolio, Canada; 'Chronic disease management – The Canadian experience'.

Dr Arintaya Phrommintikul

Chiang Mai University, Thailand; 'Adventures in Cardiovascular Therapies'.

Dr Andrew Pipe

Professor of Medicine, University of Ottawa, Chairman FINA Doping Control and Review Board; 'Drugs in Sport'.

Dr John Stewart

Principal Research Fellow, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland; 'Can indoor air modelling help in epidemiological studies?'.

Professor John Lynch

Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, McGill University and Canada, Research Chair in Population Health; 'Reflections on 25 years of research on the causes of population levels and social inequalities in heart disease'.

Dr Leanne Riley

Team leader Surveillance, Department for Chronic Disease and Health Promotion at the World Health Organisation, Geneva; 'Global issues for chronic disease'.

Professor Robert Burton

DEPM; 'Global Cancer Control: The perspective from Australia'.

Associate Professor Alan Crockett

Director, Primary Care Respiratory Unit, Discipline of General Practice, Adelaide University; 'Home oxygen therapy – facts, fads, fallacies'.

Dr Obioha Ukoumunne

Murdoch Children's Research Institute; 'Design and analysis of cluster randomised trials: a methodological analysis'.

Professor Simon Stewart

Baker Institute; 'A population in epidemiologic transition – The Heart of Soweto Study'.

Dr Jo Salmon

School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences at Deakin University; 'Reducing sedentary behaviour among primary school children: research and research-to-practice outcomes'.

Associate Professor Jim Black

Public health physician and epidemiologist with the Nossal Institute for Global Health; 'The Nossal Institute for Global Health – a view from the inside'.

Associate Professor Elliot Berry

Director, Department of Human Nutrition and Metabolism, Braun School of Public Health; Hebrew University – Hadassah Medical School; 'The National Task Force on Preventing Obesity'.

Professor Paul Demers

University of British Columbia in Vancouver; 'Cardiovascular disease and exposure to PAHs among Canadian Aluminium smelter workers'.

Dr Guy Haller

University Hospital in Geneva; 'Crew Resource Management: from aviation to labour and delivery units.'

Professor Sidney Dekker

Professor in Human Factors and System Safety and Director of Research at the Lund University School of Aviation (LUSA), Sweden; 'What is the biggest risk to patient safety?'.



Professor Melanie Wakefield

Cancer Council Victoria; 'Smoke signals: do anti-smoking messages really work?'.

Professor Ole Mortensen

Chief Physician at Bispebjerg University Hospital and Associate Professor in the Department of Social Medicine, University of Copenhagen in Denmark; 'Depression and IHD'.

The DEPM Seminar calendar can be found at: www.med.monash.edu.au/epidemiology/events

Short courses

Committee coordinators

Max de Courten and Elizabeth Douglas

Administrative officer

Suzy Giuliano

Registration

Gary White

Administrative support

Sabina Davy

Publicity

Carolyn Barrie

Background to Short Courses

Short Courses (SC) provide short-term, intensive educational opportunities for those seeking professional development, for industry involved in evaluating research, and for those who are unable to undertake full-time studies. A broad, but informal range of SCs has been offered irregularly over the last decade by DEPM. In 2006, only four were offered. Late in 2006, a small SC committee was formed with the brief to develop and expand the programme, with some SCs to be offered more than once in any year.

Short courses range in length from a half day to 10 days, with competitively set fees. An increased range of courses is planned, with one course in the Spring School to be convened externally (Lifestyle Medicine). Other, diverse collaborations are planned (see below).

Rationale for development of the program

The SC policy is to share profits with participating units exclusively for the purpose of supporting PhD students and early career researchers who wish to attend conferences.

Developing program

SPHPM offers a broad range of SCs in a rapidly developing programme. In 2007, 13 SCs were run, in which there were a total of 191 enrolments. The inaugural Spring School ran three courses.

Short courses in 2007

Biostatistics for Clinical and Public Health Researchers
Introduction to Stata (x 2)
Clinical Research Methods
Ethics and Good Research Practice (x 2)
Research with Vulnerable Populations
Australian Certificate of Civil Aviation Medicine (x 2)
Introduction to Stata

2007 Monash Spring School for Public Health and Preventive Medicine

Chronic Disease Modelling
Ethics and Good Research Practice
Scientific Writing

Collaborations

Current collaborations are already in place with the RACGP and Australian and New Zealand nursing associations. More are planned with other external organisations to cater for their professional education needs and to broaden participation.

There are indications that there is demand for a programme that appears to be unique in Australia in its breadth, with the added benefit of CME/CNE accreditation. Growing awareness of the programme nation-wide is evidenced by increasing enquiries and registrations.

Teaching

Undergraduate

Staff of DEPM contribute to the undergraduate program – both Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery and Bachelor of Biomedical Science courses which are administered centrally by the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Clayton.

MBBS

We share overall responsibility for Theme II: Population, society, health and illness, which comprises 15 per cent of the undergraduate medical curriculum with staff from the Monash Institute of Health Services Research, Department of General Practice and Centre for Health Economics. Theme II provides the structure to develop students' abilities to deal with broader society and population issues. We teach population health in first year, health promotion in second year, evidence-based clinical practice, occupational and environmental medicine in third year and health services management in fourth year.

Because the students are spread all over Victoria in Year 4, most of our teaching is conducted on the internet (Monash University Studies Online/Blackboard). Fifth year is seen primarily as a preparation for internship, but students do have the opportunity to take a public health rotation and international electives.

Members of the department have also been involved in planning Theme II content for the new graduate medical school in Gippsland and training teachers at the Monash Medical School in Malaysia.

Occupational and environmental medicine

Third-year medical students are invited to sit the examination for The John Desmond Prize in Occupational Medicine which is donated by Drs Robyn Horsley and Peter Desmond. The examination for the prize was conducted simultaneously at Mildura, Bendigo, Traralgon, Warragul, Sale, and at five Melbourne sites. The equal first rankings were awarded \$400 each: Ajay Kevat, Melissa Northcott and Yan Wang. The equal second rankings were awarded \$200 each: Ged Dalglish, Zhen Siow and Stephanie Tizi.

BBiomedSc

We also teach some units in the Bachelor of Biomedical Sciences course:

- BMS1042 : Biomedical sciences and society
- BMS3032: Health policy and Management Biomedical science students will choose a variety of careers on graduation, so we aim to stimulate their interest in population health. They learn how health is maintained and illness controlled at local, regional and national levels.



Honours program

We welcome enquiries from students considering Honours. Enquiries to Dr Anna Peeters on 03 9903 0177 or email: anna.peeters@med.monash.edu.au

The BMedSci and BBiomed Sci (Hons) program is varied. The BMedSci is a research year within the undergraduate medical course. The BBiomed Sci honours year is open to BBiomed Sci graduates with sufficient grades from the BBiomed Sci course. Honours and BMedSci students through the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine participate in classes in epidemiology and biostatistics, the cornerstones of medical research. They also complete research supervised by researchers within the department and become proficient in presenting their results at departmental seminars.

Honours projects available to students in 2007 included:

- biostatistical methods in epidemiological research;
- cardiovascular disease epidemiology;
- clinical pharmacology;
- diabetes epidemiology;
- environmental health;
- infectious disease epidemiology;
- musculoskeletal;
- occupational health;
- pharmacoepidemiology;
- preventive medicine;
- rheumatology; and
- risk assessment.

DEPM Honours and BMedSci students in 2007 were:

- Sophie Lewis;
- Nonie Chan;
- Genevieve Tai;
- Samuel Merriel; and
- Queena Quin.

Sophie enrolled as a doctoral student in 2008.

Postgraduate

DEPM's postgraduate program is extensive, offering the following courses:

- Masters in Public Health (MPH);
- Biostatistics;
- Clinical epidemiology/
Clinical research methods;
- Health services management;
- International health; and
- Occupational and
environmental health.

DEPM's postgraduate courses attract students from a wide range of backgrounds – including medical, nursing, physiotherapy, pharmacy and health management.

During 2007, DEPM's postgraduate courses had 360 students enrolled from a range of medical and allied health backgrounds including nursing, medical, physiotherapy, pharmacy and health management. 148 of these were studying the Master of Public Health. 105 students graduated in 2007.

Course code	Course title	Student citizenship group	Student 2006	Enrolments 2007
0046	MPH	Domestic	149	144
		International	2	4
	MPH Total		151	148
3403	DPH	Domestic	2	1
	DPH Total		2	1
3420	GradCertBiostats	Domestic	7	3
3421	GradDipBiostats	Domestic	5	8
3422	MBiostats	Domestic	3	6
	Biostatistics Total		15	17
3416	GradCertClinResMeth	Domestic	11	8
0702	GradDipClinRes	Domestic	4	7
		International	1	1
2311	MClinEpi	Domestic	10	8
		International	0	1
	Clinical Epi/CRM total		26	25
2870	GradCertHlthServMt	Domestic	24	27
2314	GradDipHlthServMt	Domestic	15	20
2872	MHlthServMt	Domestic	34	42
		International	4	8
	Health Services Management Total		77	97
1884	GradDipIntHlth	Domestic	20	11
3874	MIH	Domestic	2	18
3874	MIH	International	1	3
3440	MIntResBio	International	0	4
	International Health/IRB Total		23	36
2868	GradCertOccHlth	Domestic	6	3
0160	GradDipOccEnvH	Domestic	21	22
		International	1	0
2312	MOccEnvHlth	Domestic	12	8
		International	2	3
	MOccEnvHlth Total		42	36
	Total Student Enrolments		336	360

We offer students

- over 75 units taught by leaders in their field;
- articulated programs from graduate certificate to masters degree;
- units taught by flexible delivery mode: online, with the Monash University Student Online System (MUSO), involving web based assignments and discussion groups. This enables students to study off-campus;
- self-paced study;
- single unit options;
- a variety of course options for maximum career benefit;
- enthusiastic teaching staff who inspire students; and
- a research rich environment at The Alfred in collaboration with the Burnet Institute, the Baker Heart Research Institute, Clinical Trials Victoria, the National Trauma Centre and others sharing the AMREP facilities.

Master of Public Health (MPH)

The MPH provides students with the full range of quantitative, analytical and communication skills necessary to work in public health.

We are a partner in the Victorian Consortium for Public Health, which is a collaboration between Deakin, La Trobe, Melbourne and Monash Universities.

Through the Victorian Consortium for Public Health, we offer specialisation streams for students enrolled through Monash in this course in clinical epidemiology, environmental health, health economics, health services management, international health, occupational health and environmental health.

The MPH is studied in two parts. In part-one, students from the four member universities study together, and in 2007, the core units were:

- Epidemiology and demography;
- Introductory statistics; and
- Principles and practice of public health.

In part-two of the MPH – students study with their university of enrolment and choose a specialist stream.

Biostatistics

The Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma in Biostatistics give a broad range of biostatistical theory and techniques especially designed for health professionals.

The Master of Biostatistics develops the technical skills needed to commence a professional career as a biostatistician.

Off campus, part-time.

Course coordinator

Associate Professor Andrew Forbes

Clinical epidemiology, clinical research methods

The Graduate Certificate in Clinical Research Methods is an off-campus course with some block requirements. This degree guides you through the many stages required for undertaking research.

The Graduate Diploma in Clinical Research Methods assists clinicians or public health professionals to become familiar with clinical research methodology and can lead to the Master of Clinical Epidemiology or Master of Public Health.

Course coordinator

Associate Professor Max deCourten

The Master of Clinical Epidemiology course is offered off-campus or on-campus, part-time or full-time. This assists health professionals to make rational evidence-based decisions in clinical practice and undertake small clinical research projects.

Course coordinator

Professor Michael Abramson

Health services management

The Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters in Health Services Management are off-campus, part-time or full-time courses. The masters degree caters for medical or general hospital administrators, clinicians, quality assurance managers, team leaders, senior nursing administrators, unit managers and case managers within the healthcare system.

Course coordinator
Professor Just Stoelwinder

International health

The Graduate Diploma in International Health and Master of International Health are offered in collaboration with the centre for International Health at the Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, and provide the skills to design, implement and evaluate the relevant programs that address the major public health priorities of communities in developing countries.

The Graduate Certificate and Masters in International Research Bioethics deal in ethical issues that arise in healthcare settings, in vulnerable populations and in international settings. Particular emphasis is given to ethical issues associated with research in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Course coordinator
Associate Professor Bebe Loff

Occupational and environmental health

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

Course coordinator
Professor Malcolm Sim

We gratefully acknowledge staff of the Centre for International Health, Burnet Institute, for their substantial contribution to our teaching programmes.



Dr Baki Billah with Biostatistics students.

Doctoral program

DEPM's doctoral program has trained many health professionals for senior careers in public health.

The program has continued to grow and attracts students from around Australia and globally.

In 2007, 65 doctoral students were enrolled, from many backgrounds, including microbiology, pharmacy, physiotherapy, public health, medicine, radiography, science, psychology and nursing. The progress of students in the department is facilitated by a very strong research environment, with an extensive program of NHMRC funded research, access to extensive infrastructure support including assistance in biostatistics, data management, computing and support from experienced staff and a large student body. We also have a good research governance coordinator who works with each doctoral student on the development of protocols and the following of strict research guidelines.

The program coordinators in 2007 were: Associate Professor Rory Wolfe (rory.wolfe@med.monash.edu.au) and Associate Professor Bebe Loff (bebe.loff@med.monash.edu.au). Kaylene Hanlon is the doctoral program administrator (kaylene.hanlon@med.monash.edu.au).

Scholarships

In the 2007 round of PhD scholarships our students were awarded a total of 18 competitive scholarships: four NHMRC (Sharon Brennan, Michele McGrady, Helen Walls, Ewan MacFarlane), three international tuition fee scholarships (Zanfina Ademi, Mohammadreza Mohebbi, Pradeep Wijayarathne), five Australian Postgraduate Awards (Pupalan Iyngkaran, Trish Berry, Ben Clissold, Judy Gold, Christine Moje), one College of Surgeons (Ruwen Wijemunige) and five Monash living allowance scholarships (Zanfina Ademi, Mohammadreza Mohebbi, Pradeep Wijayarathne, Geraldine Lee, Megan Bohensky).

Awards and prizes

Maros Elsik was awarded the prestigious 2007 Ralph Reader Prize – Basic Science Section by the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand for his paper entitled: 'Reduced cardiac fibrosis and improved ventricular function in an experimental model of myocardial infarction using a purpose designed direct antifibrotic drug'. There are two prizes awarded, one clinical and one basic science, to the best individual presentation by a young investigator at the CSANZ conference.

Recipient of the Rob Johnston Award for the best presentation by a fellow, trainee, registrar or research scientist: H.M. Ackland, G.M. Malham, D.J. Cooper, T. Kossmann. Assessment of the cervical spine clearance process in a major trauma centre. Spine Society of Australia Annual Scientific Meeting, Hobart, Australia, 20–22 April, 2007.

Zanfina Ademi, a PhD student, was awarded a student travel grant to attend the High Blood Pressure Research Council meeting on 5–7 December in Adelaide.

Recipient of a Student Bursary for a top student abstract. H. L. Walls, R. Wolfe, M. M. Haby, D. J. Magliano, M. de Courten, Reid CM, J.J. McNeil, J Shaw, A. Peeters. Trends in Body Mass Index in Urban Australians, 1980–2000. Australasian Epidemiological Association and International Epidemiological Association Western Pacific Region, 2007.

Adrian Cameron received the Metabolic Syndrome Institute Award, Metabolic Syndrome Institute, 2007.



Cameron Gosling (pictured above), Nadine Andrew and Belinda Gabbe attended the Australian Conference of Science and Medicine in Sport in Adelaide (13–17 October). Cameron's paper won a major conference prize – NSW Sporting Injuries Committee Best New Investigator in Sports Injury Prevention. The prize includes a trophy and \$2000 towards his research.

Megan Lim won first prize during the 2007 Alfred Week, the Burnet Prize for Infectious Diseases; and a Monash University Postgraduate Travel Award to attend the International Society for STD Research, Seattle.

Rachelle Buchbinder was awarded the Monash University Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal for best PhD, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

Doctoral students enrolled in 2007

In 2007, we welcomed 17 new doctoral students.

Asnawi Abdullah	The Duration of Obesity and Its impact on Estimating Risk, Burden of Chronic Diseases, Costing and Health Policy.
Zanfina Ademi	Efficacy and benefits of treatment in the Second National Australian Blood Pressure Study (ANBP2).
Nadine Andrew	Epidemiology and outcomes of serious sport and leisure injuries.
Alison Beauchamp	Socioeconomic status as a determinant of cardiovascular disease in the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort study.
Patricia Berry	The role of lifestyle factors on hip cartilage volume and rate of cartilage loss in a normal community-based population.
Megan Bohensky	Using routine hospital data to measure and improve the quality of patient care.
Sharon Brennan	How does bone metabolism affect knee cartilage in healthy women?
Ben Clissold	How do social risk factors affect Warfarin therapy? What are the social responsibilities and strategies in place to deal with these risk factors?
Basia Diug	Analysis of ambulance factors in identification of stroke and accessibility to hospitals with acute stroke therapies.
Pupalan Iyngkaran	The renovascular axis in cardiovascular disease.
Paul Jennings	Analgesia in the Victorian prehospital setting.

Geraldine Lee	The utility of the ECG in detecting and managing cardiovascular disease in South Africa: The heart of Soweto study.
Jocelyn Lowinger	Development and testing of indicator(s) for monitoring and managing warfarin related harm in Australia.
Michele McGrady	Epidemiological assessment of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians at high risk of developing heart failure.
Lavinia Tran	Therapeutic targeting of signalling pathways in cardiovascular disease.
Jason Wasiak	The physical and psychosocial outcomes following burn injury: A 12 month follow-up study.
Ruwan Wijemunige	Improving the prevention and early detection and secondary brain injury in traumatic brain injury patients within the ICU setting.

Continuing students enrolled during 2007

Helen Ackland	Correlation of clinical and radiographic findings with long outcomes in road trauma patients with acute cervical discoligamentous injury.
Zahid Ansari	Proposal to develop a system to monitor aspects of the quality and performance of the Victorian healthcare system using routine data sources.
Elizabeth Barr	The contribution of impaired glucose metabolism to cardiovascular disease and to mortality in Australians.
Charmian Bennett	The impact of environmental exposures to particulate air pollution on respiratory health and the role of public health interventions.
Jill Blackman	War exposure and its health outcomes in service personnel.
Frank Buchanan	The influence of gender on recovery from general anaesthesia.
Adrian Cameron	The Metabolic Syndrome. Its validity, causes, consequences and uses.
Jessica Chellappah	Surveillance and modification of cardiovascular risk factors in children and young adults.
Lei Chen	Development and validation of appropriate methods for the prediction of risk of future cardiovascular events in the contemporary Australian population.
Georgiana Chin	Transitions of care – obstetric clinical handover.

Jennifer Coghlan	The efficacy and safety of different perioperative modalities of pain control in subacromial decompression and/or rotator cuff repair surgery for rotator cuff disease.
Miranda Davies	The effect of obesity and weight loss on osteoarthritis of the knee.
Glenn Doolan	Occupational exposure using self reports and a job exposure matrix in relation to prostate cancer from an Australian case-control study.
Adam Dowrick	Development of an orthopaedic trauma registry to evaluate and monitor treatment effectiveness.
Gregory Duncan	Incidence and prevalence study of people experiencing chronic wounds in the community in Victoria.
Maros Elsik	Fibrosis and remodelling in chronic heart failure – mechanisms and treatment.
Soula Fillipas	Exercise and HIV/AIDS.
Andrea Fradkin	Sports injury epidemiology.
Cameron Gosling	Incidence, risk factors and outcomes of injuries in triathletes.
Rebecca Guy	Linked voluntary sentinel surveillance for HIV in Victoria.
Steven Haas	Pharmacotherapy: Safety, Efficacy and Impact upon outcomes of heart failure and hypertension.
Linton Harriss	Dietary risks and alcohol as determinants of cardiovascular disease in the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study.

Peter Higgs	Ethnic Vietnamese drug users and blood borne viruses: A study of social contexts, culture and risk.
Imo Inyang	Assessment of exposure to radiofrequency energy in an epidemiological cohort.
Ken Karipidis	Electromagnetic fields and the possibility of adverse health effects.
Will Kemp	The impact of norfloxacin on portal pressures and endotoxaemia in clinically significant portal hypertension and the role of urotension II.
Louisa Lam	The diagnosis and treatment of patients with acute decompensated heart failure.
Karin Leder	Infections in travellers.
Danny Liew	Epidemiological modelling of ischaemic heart disease in Australia.
Megan Lim	Novel ways of assessing and reducing the sexual risk behaviour of young men and women.
Ewan MacFarlane	Occupational exposures and cancer risk in Australian workers.
Dean McKenzie	The development, comparison and application of brief psychological diagnostic and screening tests by statistical and machine learning methods.
Shyamala Nataraj	Bioethics and HIV interventions.
Joanne O'Toole	Water re-use and alternative water sources: attitudes, practices, risk assessment and human health outcomes.

Shelly Rodrigo	A randomised, double-blinded intervention study to assess health effects of drinking water from rainwater tanks.
Margaret Stebbing	Current issues in risk perception and the transmission of ideas of risk.
Rwth Stuckey	Evaluation of occupational health for light vehicle use.
Ogilvie Thom	Preventive aspects of non invasive haemodynamic monitoring in severely ill patients in the emergency department.
Nicholas Thomson	Public health implications of amphetamine use epidemic in Northern Thailand.
Helen Walls	Effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and equity of obesity prevention strategies.
Nicholas Walsh	Psychosocial, environmental and pharmacotherapy determinants of antiviral treatment in injecting-drug users.
Carolina Weller	Chronic wounds: outcomes for people attending specialist wound clinics.
Cameron Willis	The practicality of using indicators to assess quality within health systems.
Julie Yallop	Multi-centre national and multi-national clinical trials in chronic disease – methodological considerations.
Tsharni Zazryn	A prospective study of cumulative brain injury in boxers.
Hendrik Zimmet	Novel experimental strategies combining mesenchymal stems cells (MSC) with angioblasts and cost-efficacy analyses of such strategies in the treatment of congestive heart failure.

Completed and passed during 2007

Fahad Hanna	Magnetic resonance imaging of osteoarthritis.
Narges Khanjani	Organochlorines and breast cancer.
Samantha Rizak	Developing evidence-based, strategic water quality monitoring systems.
Alan Wolff	Wimmera clinical risk management model.

Graduated during 2007

Michael Glisson was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in January 2007. Michael's thesis was 'Magnetic resonance imaging manual volumetry methods and variations applied to investigations of knee tibial cartilage osteoarthritis'.



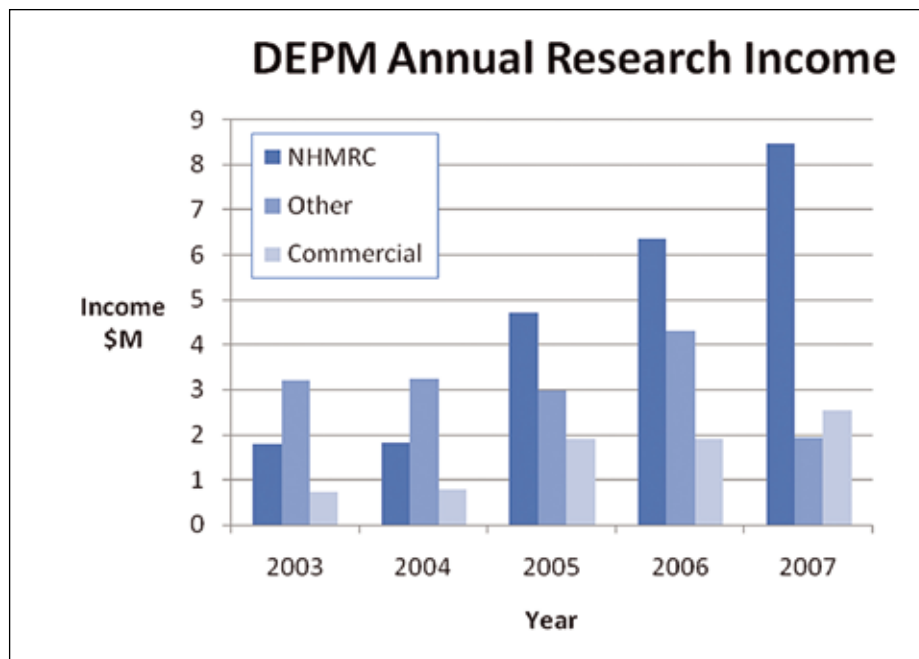
Lavinia Tran, PhD student.

Research funding

DEPM was successful in obtaining a variety of grants in 2007, including project, development, scholarship, fellowship and project linkage.

Funding sources summary

Funding Source	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
NHMRC	\$1,788,443	\$1,828,511	\$4,731,346	\$6,377,861	\$8,472,925
Other	\$3,206,862	\$3,233,107	\$2,992,391	\$4,310,483	\$1,931,526
Commercial	\$730,964	\$768,257	\$1,915,709	\$1,922,662	\$2,537,034
Total	\$5,726,269	\$5,829,875	\$9,639,446	\$12,611,006	\$12,941,485



Project grants, fellowships and other disbursements – starting 2007

A case-control study investigating factors contributing to the risk of bleeding in patients receiving warfarin therapy. NHMRC Project Grant, CI J. McNeil, 2007–2009, \$553,550.

A comprehensive regulatory strategy for obesity prevention in Australia. NHMRC Preventive Healthcare and Strengthening Australia's Social and Economic Fabric Research Grant, CI B. Loff, 2007–2011, \$761,184.

A phase II randomised controlled trial of atorvastatin therapy in intensive care patients with severe sepsis. NHMRC Project Grant, CI P. Kruger, 2007–2008, \$603,825.

A randomised trial of telephone support for chronic heart-failure patients without access to home management programs, National Heart Foundation, CI L. Piterman, 2007.

ACE inhibition – A potential new therapy for Peripheral Arterial disease. NHMRC Peter Doherty Fellowship, A. Ahimastos, 2007–2011, \$269,000.

Air pollution and out-of-hospital cardiac arrests in Melbourne. Monash University Project Grant, CI M. Dennekamp, 2007, \$35,000.

An implementation trial of a telephone-based care management program for patients following myocardial infarction. NHMRC Project grant, CI B. Oldenburg, 2007–2010, \$569,000.

Audit of Severe Acute Pancreatitis Feeding Practices in Australasia (ASAP). Intensive Care Foundation, the Arthur A Thomas Trust and AuSPEN, CI A. Davies, 2007–2008, \$39,660.

Australasian resuscitation in sepsis evaluation – randomised controlled trial. NHMRC Project Grant, CI R. Bellomo, 2007–2011, \$2,423,132.

Better targeting of preventive services using epidemiological modelling NHMRC Development Grant, CI J. McNeil, 2007–2011, \$1,823,750.

Building brief screening and diagnostic tests of mental health, NHMRC PhD scholarship, D. McKenzie, \$43,732.

Caring for Asylum Seekers in Australia: Bioethics and Human Rights ARC Project Grant, CI D. Zion, 2007–2009, \$95,723.

Chronic Heart-failure Assistance by Telephone (CHAT) Study. NHF Grant-in-Aid, L. Piterman, H. Krum, A. Tonkin, S. Stewart, 2007, \$63,000.

Determining the awareness of health professionals and carers of the health risks to the elderly from extreme weather conditions. Department of Human Services (Vic). CI J. Ibrahim, 2007, \$99,938.

Reducing harm to older persons from hot weather and heat waves. Department of Human Services (Vic). CI J. Ibrahim, 2007, \$99,938.

Does Bone Metabolism Affect Risk of Osteoarthritis In Healthy Women? LEW CARTY Charitable Trust, CI A.E. Wluka, J. Pasco, 2007, \$39,875.

Enhancing communication transfers between the Ambulance Service and the Emergency Department. Transport Accident Commission, I. Patrick, 2007, \$80,950.

Epidemiological assessment of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians at high risk of developing heart failure. National Heart Foundation Scholarship, M McGrady, 2007–2009, \$85,000.

Epidemiological modelling of cardiovascular disease and diabetes in Australia. ARC Project Linkage Grant, CI C. Reid, D. Liew, A. Owen, J Shaw, D Magliano, 2007–2009, \$212,000.

Epidemiological modelling of cardiovascular disease and diabetes in Australia. NHF Fellowship, CI D. Liew, 2007–2008, \$122,686.

Evaluation of the feasibility and utility of Visual Life-Adjusted Display (VLAD) Methodology for Victorian Datasets, Department of Human Services, CI S. Evans, 2007, \$64,311.

Factors that affect knee structure in healthy women Geelong MRI. NHMRC Project Grant, CI A. Wluka, 2007–2009, \$190,950.

Fitness versus fatness and burden of disease. NHMRC Project Grant, CI A. Forbes, 2007–2008, \$193,000.

Gulf War serum sample project. Department of Veterans' Affairs, CI M. Sim, 2007, \$103,314.

Haemostasis Registry. Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals (Educational Grant), CI P. Cameron, 2007, \$137,000.

HD Medical study. HD Medical, CI H. Krum. 2007, \$24,000.

Health services utilisation and urban dual reticulation systems. CRC for Water Quality and Treatment, CI K. Leder, 2007–2008, \$82,471.

Heparin in severe sepsis: il-6 as a marker of efficacy. Intensive Care Foundation, CI A. Nichol, 2007, \$6,134.

HIV Project. Department of Health and Ageing consultancy, J. McNeil, 2007–2008. \$98,000.

Improving outcomes measurement in trauma. Monash University SGRS CI P. Cameron, 2007, \$20,000.

Hyperbaric Oxygen in Lower Limb Trauma. TAC Health Research, CI I. Millar, 2007–2009, \$273,000.

Improving the measurement of functional and quality of life outcomes in paediatric Trauma TAC Health Research, CI B. Gabbe, 2007–2008, \$156,000.

Improving the measurement and monitoring of long term outcomes following trauma. NHMRC Career Development Grant, CI B. Gabbe, 2007–2011, \$452,500.

Incidence, risk factors and outcomes of injuries in male triathletes. Monash University Strategic Grants Scheme, B. Gabbe, \$35,000.

Is Rhokinase an important mediator of the pathophysiological effects in cardiac hypertrophy and failure? National Heart Foundation Research Grant, CI H. Krum, 2007–2008, \$126,974.

Measuring patient safety in private hospitals. Australian Centre for Health Research, CI P. Cameron, 2007–2008, \$77,050.

Monash University Master of International Research Bioethics. National Institutes of Health, CI B. Loff, 2007–2011, \$994,500.

Monash University Near Miss Grant. CI P. Cameron, 2007, \$10,000.

Monitoring of the Victorian State Trauma System: Victorian State Trauma Registry Outcomes Monitoring Group (VSTORM) Victorian Trauma Foundation/Department of Human Services, 2005–2008, \$1,771,469.

New methods and approaches for the management and prevention of chronic disease in indigenous people. NHMRC Fellowship, B. Fredericks, 2007–2011 \$274,000.

Normoglycaemia in intensive care traumatic brain injury study (NICE-TBI). Victorian Neurotrauma Initiative Research Grant, CI S. Finfer, 2007–2008, \$43,450.

Novel statistical methods to analyse recurrent event data to investigate the biological process of a disease in epidemiological follow-up studies Monash University Research Grant J. Cui, 2007, \$47,997.

Occupational respiratory and new technology epidemiology NHMRC Career Development Grant, G. Benke 2007–2011, \$445,000.

Optimal ventilation (pharlap) in acute lung injury. Intensive Care Foundation, CI J. Cooper, 2007, \$30,669.

Outcomes following major trauma in Victoria: inclusion of a 12-month followup and quality of life measure (VSTORM) Victorian Trauma Foundation Research Grant, CI B. Gabbe, 2007, \$42,691.

Outcomes following major trauma in Victoria: measuring recovery post discharge. TAC Health Research, CI B. Gabbe, 2007–2009, \$103,500.

Permissive Hypercapnia, Alveolar Recruitment and Limited Airway Pressure (the PHARLAP trial), funded by The Alfred Hospital, ANZCA and the Intensive Care Foundation for a total of \$50,069. CI A. Nichol, 2007 – ongoing.

PhD Scholarship. Royal Australasian College of Surgeons, R. Wijemunige, 2007, \$42,000.

Providing Gulf War Veteran's Health Study participants of the latest developments with their stored serum samples. Commonwealth Department of Veterans Affairs, CI M. Sim, 2007, \$103,314.

Review of the scientific literature relevant to research into health effects of veterans of the Middle East Area of Operations. Centre for Military and Veterans Health, CI M. Sim, 2007, \$34,000.

Risk factors and symptom patterns associated with PTSD in Australian Gulf War veterans: Subgroup analysis and development of brief screening tests. Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation, CI D. McKenzie, 2007, \$15,000.

Role of blood collagen turnover markers in reverse remodelling following cardiac resynchronisation therapy in advanced heart failure Pfizer Inc, CI M. Elsik, 2007, \$55,000.

Screening Evaluation of the Evolution of New Heart Failure (SCREEN-HF). BUPA Australia Health Pty Ltd, H. Krum, C. Reid, D. Liew, 2007, \$458,538.

Second 5 year appointment and promotion (PF2). NHMRC Fellowship, J. Cooper, 2007–2011, \$346,250.

Socioeconomic status as a determinant of cardiovascular disease in the Melbourne collaborative cohort study. NHMRC Scholarship, A. Beauchamp, 2007–2009, \$82,689.

Telephone Linked Care – Type 2 diabetes. Queensland Health Clinical Improvement Centre, CI B. Oldenburg, 2007–2008, \$237,525.

The Cupid study: Factors related to musculoskeletal and other somatic symptoms and associated disability in workers. Monash University Research Grant, CI M. Sim, 2007–2008, \$20,000.

The effect of physical activity on the knee joint: is it good or bad? Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme (Early Career Researcher), D. Urquhart, 2007, \$35,000.

The effect of sociodemographic and lifestyle factors on the risk of primary and revision joint replacement in the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort study. NHMRC Fellowship, Y. Wang, 2007, \$274,000.

The Healthwise Study: cancer incidence, mortality and respiratory morbidity in Alcoa workers employed in mining, refining and smelting. Alcoa of Australia Pty Ltd, CI M. Sim, 2007–2009, \$647,831 pa.

The relationship between body composition and hip cartilage [AA]. Arthritis Australia, CI A. Wluka, 2007–2008, \$50,000.

The role of myocardial fibrosis in ventricular remodelling in heart failure – novel treatment and monitoring strategies. NHMRC PhD scholarship, M. Elsik, 2007–2008, \$43,732.

Treatment and prevention of bacterial vaginosis. NHMRC Public health Fellowship, C. Bradshaw, 2007–2010, \$83,500.

Treatment of Cardiorenal Syndrome NHMRC Development Grant, CI H. Krum, 2007, \$195,000.

Using conversational computer technology to improve diabetes management: A randomised controlled trial NHMRC Project Grant, CI B. Oldenburg, 2007–2010, \$603,000.

Using data to improve quality of healthcare. NHMRC Health Services Research Grant, CI P. Cameron, 2007–2011, \$2,629,000.

Victorian Orthopaedic Trauma Outcomes Registry (VOTOR): Evaluation and Monitoring of Treatment Effectiveness across Victorian Hospitals. Victorian Trauma Foundation, CI P. Cameron, 2007–2009, \$300,000.

DEPM Continuing Grants

REACH Registry. Baker Medical Research Institute, CI C. Reid, 2003–2007, \$189,867.

Identification of blood (serum) and urinary biomarkers that are associated with osteoarthritis disease progression in a well established cohort of subjects with knee osteoarthritis. Astra Zeneca UK Ltd Contract Research, CI F. Cicuttini, 2004–2007, \$382,995.

Dietary risks and alcohol as determinants of cardiovascular disease in the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study. NHMRC Scholarship. H. Linton, 2004–2007, \$91,378.

The effect of weight loss on knee cartilage volume. Shepherd Foundation Project, CI A. Wluka, 2004–2007, \$65,000.

Home Automatic external defibrillator Trial (HAT). Seattle Institute of Cardiac Research Grant, CI A. Tonkin, 2003–2007, \$210,000.

The Alfred/Monash Centre for Therapeutics and Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE). NHMRC Research Grant – CCRE Program, CI H. Krum, 2003–2007, \$2,000,000.

Long-term implications of the increasing prevalence and duration of obesity for health in Australia: An aid to more effective and targeted prevention. VicHealth Fellowship, CI A. Peeters, 2003–2007, \$500,000.

Water reuse and alternative water sources: Attitudes, practices, risk assesment and human health outcomes. CRC for Water Quality and Treatment Scholarship, J. O'Toole, 2004–2007, \$80,500.

Efficacy and safety of vertebroplasty for treatment of painful osteoporotic spinal fractures: a randomised trial. NHMRC Project Grant, CI R. Buchbinder, 2004–2007, \$578,000.

Risk factors for prostate cancer and benign prostatic hypertrophy (ALL Study). Cancer Council of WA Research Grant, CI M. Sim, 2004–2007, \$124,116.

The characterisation of orthopaedic trauma and the evaluation of outcome. NHMRC – Australian Clinical Training Fellowship, D. Urquhart, 2004–2007, \$259,000.

Bosentan project. Actelion Ltd Contract Research, CI C. Reid, 2004–2007, \$423,708.

War stressors, mental health and well-being outcomes in Australian veterans and service personnel. NHMRC – Scholarship, J. Ikin, 2005–2007, \$48,525.

Exposure assessment for urban dual reticulation systems. CRC for Water Quality and Treatment Consulting, CI K. Leder, 2005–2007, \$112,070.

The use of patient-completed outcome assessment instruments following upper extremity orthopaedic trauma. Monash University Faculty Postgraduate Research Scholarship, A. Dowrick, 2005–2007, \$56,511.

Mobile Radiofrequency Phone Exposed Users' Study (MoRPhEUS). NHMRC Project Grant, CI M. Abramson, 2005–2007, \$204,750.

Effect of lifestyle factors on knee cartilage volume and rate of cartilage loss in a normal population. NHMRC Project Grant, CI F. Cicuttini, 2005–2007, \$233,726.

Health Watch Case Control Study. Australian Institute of Petroleum Ltd Contract Research, CI M. Sim, 2005–2007, \$405,087.

Cardiorespiratory effects of ultrafine particles. NHMRC Project Grant, CI M. Abramson, 2005–2007, \$461,438.

The role of spirometry in managing chronic respiratory diseases in general practice. NHMRC General Practice Clinical Research Program Grant, CI M. Abramson, 2005–2007, \$487,427.

Evaluation of Aspirin and Tranexamic Acid in Coronary Artery Surgery: The ATACAS Trial. NHMRC Project Grant, CI P. Myles, 2005–2007, \$1,170,000.

Multicentre randomised trial of early DEcompressive CRAniectomy in patients with severe traumatic brain injury. NHMRC Project Grant, CI J. Cooper, 2005–2007, \$485,535.

AusJEM: An Australian Job Exposure Matrix. Monash University Faculty Near Miss Grant, CI G. Benke, 2006–2007, \$20,000.

Health risk assessment: Recycled Water. Smart Water Fund (Victorian Water Trust), CI K. Leder, 2006–2007, \$151,490.

Hepar-P. Malaysian Ministry of Health Contract Research, CI C. Reid, 2006–2007, \$95,914.

Predictors Influencing the Change in Health Status of Elderly in Community Care (PITCH). Baptist Community Care Research, CI C. Reid, 2006–2007, \$100,000.

Evaluation of orthopaedic treatment effectiveness across Victorian hospitals. HCF Health and Medical Research Foundation Research, CI D. Urquhart, 2006–2007, \$124,000.

Metabolic interaction between rofecoxib and aldosterone. Pfizer Inc Contract Research, CI H. Krum, 2006–2007, \$210,298.

Occupational exposure to lead compounds and human cancer. NHMRC Project Grant, CI M. Sim, 2006–2007, \$220,850.

EPILONG – Efficacy and safety of eplivanserin 5mg / day on sleep maintenance insomnia: A 12 week multicentre randomised double blind placebo controlled study following by an open treatment phase extension. Sanofi-Aventis Australia Pty Ltd Contract Research, CI H. Krum, 2006–2007, \$183,720.

Development of cost effectiveness model based on major CVD events for atorvastatin therapy for treatment of dyslipidemia. Pfizer Inc Contract Research, CI D. Liew, 2006–2007, \$25,000.

CRC – Health Stream Newsletter. CRC for Water Quality and Treatment Newsletter publication, CI M. Sinclair, 1995–2008, \$472,844.

CRC for Water Quality and Treatment research salary support M. Sinclair. 1995–2008, \$640,000.

Epidemiological research into nutrition and cardiovascular disease. NHMRC Public Health (Australia) Fellowship, E. Ashton, 2003–2008, \$281,400.

Epidemiology of Diabetes Related Complications. NHMRC Sidney Sax Fellowship, R. Tapp, 2005–2008, \$340,772.

Role of musculoskeletal biomechanical factors in cartilage loss in those who undergo partial medical meniscectomy, NHMRC Project Grant, CI F. Cicuttini, 2005–2008, \$644,330.

Sulodexide in diabetic nephropathy. Keryx Biopharmaceuticals Inc Contract Research, CI R. Atkins, 2005–2008, \$662,754.

Australian Centre for Radiofrequency Bioeffects Research (ACRBR); Mobile phone users surveillance study (MORPHEUS). NHMRC CRE, CI I. Cosic, 2005–2008, \$2,499,200.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Victorian State Trauma System. Department of Human Services Research, CI P. Cameron, 2005–2008, \$1,235,221.

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Intelliheart Research Project. IM Medical Limited Research, CI D. Eccleston, 2006–2008, \$447,000.

The practicality of using indicators to assess quality within health systems. NHMRC Scholarship, C. Willis, 2006–2008, \$80,451.

Use of adult mesenchymal precursor cells in the treatment of heart failure – novel experimental strategies, immunomodulatory properties and cost-efficacy. National Heart Foundation Scholarship, H. Zimmet, 2006–2008, \$92,082.

Pooled Analysis of Petroleum Case Control Studies. CONCAWE Contract Research, CI D. Glass, 2006–2008, \$291,990.

A randomised, double-blinded intervention study to assess health effects of drinking water from rainwater tanks. NHMRC Project Grant, CI K. Leder, 2006–2008, \$844,313.

The effect of weight loss on the risk of knee osteoarthritis and potential modification by biomechanical factors. NHMRC Project Grant, CI F Cicuttini, 2006–2008, \$464,000.

Vytorin treating uncontrolled lipids (VYTUL study). Merck, Sharp and Dohme (Australia) Pty Ltd Contract Research, CI C. Reid, 2006–2008, \$454,896.

A study of health and work in employees of Alcoa of Australia Ltd. (Healthwise). Alcoa Australia Ltd Contract Research, CI J. McNeil, 1994–2009, \$4,636,035.

NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship, R. Buchbinder, 2005–2008, \$388,500.

Risk and determinants of fatal and non-fatal coronary heart disease in the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study. NHMRC Project Grant, CI J. McNeil, 2005–2009, \$422,500.

Randomised double-blind placebo-controlled trial of aspirin in primary prevention of CVD events or dementia in the aged (ASPREE). NHMRC Project Grant, CI J. McNeil, 2005–2009, \$3,503,500.

Novel therapeutic strategies to reduce the burden of chronic heart failure. NHMRC Program Grant, CI H. Krum, 2005–2009, \$4,634,965.

A randomised, double-blinded intervention study to assess health effects of drinking water from rainwater tanks. CRC for Water Quality and Treatment Scholarship, S. Rodrigo, 2006–2009, \$23,076.

A prospective cohort study of recent-onset low back pain in primary care. NHMRC Training Fellowship – Health Professional Research, P. Kent, 2006–2009, \$188,300.

Cancer incidence, the effect of diet and physical activity on breast cancer prognosis, disability and quality of life in ageing Australians investigated through the MCCS. NHMRC Training Fellowship – Public Health Postdoctoral, H. Kelsall, 2006–2009, \$299,000.

Does hyperbaric oxygen therapy reduce complications and improve outcomes after open tibial fractures with severe soft tissue injury? An international multi-centre randomised controlled trial. Victorian Trauma Foundation Research Grant, CI I. Millar, 2006–2009, \$273,000.

Primary health care in Australia: What is its scope and what is the role of the nurse? NHMRC Training Fellowship – Public Health Postdoctoral, C. Joyce, 2006–2009, \$269,000.

National Centre for Intensive Care Research (NCICR). NHMRC Enabling Grant (Clinical Trials Resources), CI R. Bellomo, 2005–2010, \$1,290,000.

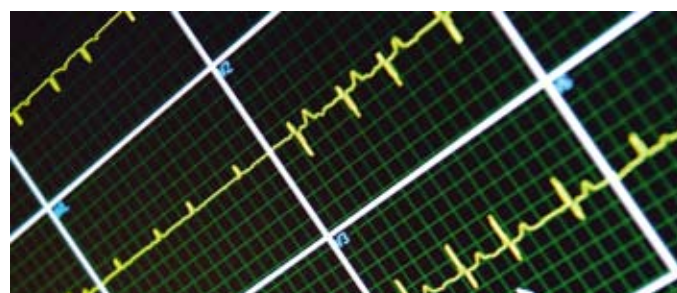
Centre of Research Excellence in Patient Safety (CREPS). NHMRC Capacity Building, CI J. McNeil, 2005–2010, \$2,640,000.

Health inequalities, governance and participation. VicHealth Senior Research Fellowship, B. Loff, 2006–2010, \$650,000.

Australian Rheumatology Association Database (ARAD). NHMRC Enabling Grant – Special Facilities, R. Buchbinder, 2006–2010, \$1,250,000.

CCRE – Circulatory and associated conditions in urban and indigenous peoples. NHMRC CCRE, CI B. Oldenburg, 2006–2010, \$1,998,868.

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