## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WELCOME</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONASH UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRATEGIC PLAN: 2016 -2021</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGHLIGHTS IN 2018</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RECOGNITION AND AWARDS</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERSHIPS</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESEARCH</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUMMER AND WINTER SCHOLARSHIPS</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCGILL UNIVERSITY INTERNSHIP</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HONOURS STUDENTS</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASTERS STUDENTS</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC REGISTRARS</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNUAL GP AFFILIATES AWARDS DINNER 2017</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40TH JOHN MURTAGH ANNUAL UPDATE COURSE FOR GENERAL PRACTITIONERS 2018</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHINESE GP LEADERS TRAINING PROGRAM</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACADEMIC SEMINAR SERIES</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUBLICATIONS</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAREWELLS</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REFLECTION ON A CAREER</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I am delighted to present you our annual report for 2018. This report highlights the many achievements of the talented staff and students of the Department of General Practice and the growing scope of work undertaken in undergraduate education, graduate studies and primary care research.

Early in the year, Emeritus Professor John Murtagh AM was awarded with the Australian Medical Association (AMA)’s highest honour, the AMA Gold Medal. It was a fantastic acknowledgement of Professor Murtagh’s outstanding contribution to medicine and general practice as both a doctor and an educator in Australia.

In addition to this award, many staff have been recognised for their work in primary care, as evidenced in the Recognition and Awards section of this report. Of note is the MRFF Fellowship received by Dr Joanne Enticott and RACGP 2018 Registrar of the Year award to Dr Daniel Epstein.

A major highlight of 2018 was the announcement of $2.5 million in NHMRC funding for SPHERE a Centre of Research Excellence in women’s sexual and reproductive health in primary care. In addition to this new centre, the Department received continued funding through the Medical Research Future Fund for projects related to primary care data and data linkages and refugee health. The Department was also selected by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to run national programs of research capacity building for academic registrars and training providers.

The Department continues to attract high quality postgraduate students including another three academic registrars who will join us in 2019. The Department provides higher degree research students with invaluable learning experiences and opportunities to delve into a wide range of research areas. The Department was also delighted to host 11 winter and 11 summer students for our scholarship program. The students contributed to projects on a range of research themes including mental health, vulnerable populations and women’s health.

A major highlight of 2018 was the announcement of $2.5 million in NHMRC funding for SPHERE a Centre of Research Excellence in women’s sexual and reproductive health in primary care. In addition to this fantastic new centre, the Department received continued funding through the Medical Research Future Fund for projects related to primary care data and data linkages and refugee health. The Department was also selected by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners to run national programs of research capacity building for academic registrars and training providers.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff and students of the Department who have all contributed to another successful year. Since our last annual report, we welcomed Dr Joanne Enticott and Dr Chris Barton to the Department.

In 2018, we bid a sad farewell to Professor Jan Coles, Dr Ian Chenoweth and Mrs Pearl Noronha. Jan will continue her important work in family violence as an adjunct at Monash University and after 25 years working with us as a highly respected educator, Ian is set for retirement. So too Pearl who has been my PA for the last eight years. I would like to thank her for the enormous contribution she has made and her support over that time.

Professor Danielle Mazza
Head of Department of General Practice
Professor Danielle Mazza  
**Head of Department of General Practice**

Professor Danielle Mazza has been the Head of Department of General Practice since 2010. She leads a program of translational research with a particular focus on closing evidence gaps in women’s sexual and reproductive health, preventative care, and primary care aspects of cancer. Danielle continues to work as a general practitioner in the Bayside region of Melbourne.

Associate Professor Claire Harrison  
**Year 4 Coordinator**

Curriculum assessment lead for the General Practice program  
Lead of MEyeNet (online teaching ophthalmology and ENT)  
Prescribing skills assessment lead; and  
General Practitioner.

Prof Grant Russell  
**Professor of Primary Care Research**

GP and health services researcher.  
Grant is the Australian Lead Investigator of IMPACT – Centre of Research Excellence and OPTIMISE, an NHMRC partnership project trialing a new way to deliver primary care to refugees.

Ms Claudette Gerreyn  
**Senior Administrative Officer, Undergraduate Program**

Organises medical student placement in general practice clinics across Victoria; and manages MBBS/MD students enrolled in the general practice rotation.

Dr Chris Barton  
**Senior Lecturer and Research Training Coordinator**

Provides supervision, leadership and skills development of undergraduate, postgraduate and post-doctoral researchers.

Dr Joanne Enticott  
**Senior Research Fellow and Biostatistician**

Leads work in translational clinical research design and biostatistics in primary care data and data linkages.  
Joanne also coordinates the Department’s profile and marketing activities.
At Monash, the desire to make a difference informs everything we do. But we go beyond good intentions. We make an impact, both locally and internationally.

We are a global university with a presence on four continents. And our plans for the future are ambitious.

Monash University is in the top one per cent of world universities according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2017-2018)

Monash University is the 21st in the World’s Most International Universities in 2012 (Times Higher Education)

Leader’s from the world’s most successful companies consistently rate Monash as a preferred university from which to hire graduates (Global Employability Rankings 2011-2015)

Member of the Group of Eight, an alliance of leading Australian universities recognised for their excellence in teaching and research.
OUR VISION

A globally recognised department that provides innovation and excellence in training in generalist patient care and advances the discipline of General Practice through research and education.

The Department of General Practice was established in 1975 and is one of the largest general practice teaching departments in Australia.

With rapid change occurring in the general practice and primary health care environment in which we work, we recognise the importance of working together with others to respond to, and engage with, the change that is upon us.

We strive to maintain excellence in teaching and grow and strengthen our discipline.

We believe that by exposing our students to high quality general practice and primary health care we will nurture in them an interest in pursuing a career in general practice.

We are undertaking world-class, cutting edge research to inform clinical practice and policy in primary health care.
We are focussed on empowering our people to make positive and lasting change.
The Department’s strategic plan focuses on four key priority areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRIORITIES</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research and Education</td>
<td>• Build on existing research strategies</td>
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<td>• Increase use of digital technologies and educational innovations</td>
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<td>• Align teaching content to research findings</td>
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<td>• Respond to market demand</td>
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<td>• Drive market demand</td>
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<td>Innovative and excellent research and education focused initiatives that grow the national and international reputation.</td>
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<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>• Leverage Department research translation capability</td>
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<td>• Connect and strengthen key regional, national and international networks</td>
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<td>• Support Faculty to have a focus on primary care</td>
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<td>• Foster interdisciplinary links with relevant partners within the University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profile</td>
<td>• Raise the internal and external profile of the Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>• Integrate communication and marketing into all Departmental work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workforce</td>
<td>• Build the Department’s expertise through high-impact star recruitment</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Recognise excellence and innovation</td>
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<td>• Increase exposure to, and involvement in, the global best practice</td>
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<td>• Provide an aligned, effective and efficient service</td>
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<td>• Increase staff research and teaching capability</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Strategic partnerships that focus on University and healthcare priorities and provide growth in research opportunities and education innovation.</td>
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<td>Workforce development that addresses sustainability and promotes excellence within the Department in the areas of research, education, systems and processes.</td>
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HIGHLIGHTS IN 2018

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

FUNDING SUCCESS

The Department has excelled in achieving five highly competitive Category One grants:

- SPHERE
- OPTIMISE
- ACCORD
- IMPACT
- LEAD

In 2018, the Department was awarded a $2.5 million NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence which focuses on women’s sexual and reproductive health in primary care.

SPHERE was formally announced in August 2018 by the former Federal Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP. This Centre will commence operation in February 2019.

SPHERE
The Centre of Research Excellence in Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health will achieve better outcomes for women by generating new knowledge to improve sexual and reproductive health care delivery through primary care.

OPTIMISE
OPTIMISE aims to generate a model of integrated refugee primary health care suitable for uptake throughout Australia through implementing a collaborative, system-orientated approach.

ACCORD
The Australian Contraceptive Choice Project aims to increase the uptake of Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs), amongst Australian women by trialing a complex intervention involving training GPs to provide ‘LARC first’, structured contraceptive counselling and implementing rapid referral pathways to LARC insertion.

IMPACT
IMPACT aims to improve access to appropriate care for vulnerable populations resulting in reduced unmet need, avoidable emergency department visits and avoidable hospitalization for vulnerable populations.

LEAD
LEAD aims to measure, compare and contrast the diagnostic and treatment pathways between CALD and Anglo-Australian lung cancer patients and identify factors that influence these pathways.
RESEARCH TRANSLATION AND IMPACT

The Department has contributed to the development of national general practice guidelines, including:

- The draft clinical guideline for the diagnosis and management of work-related mental health conditions in general practice. This guideline, developed in accordance with National Health and Medical Research (NHMRC) guideline standards, will be released in 2019.
- The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Putting Prevention into Practice (Green Book), 2018. Prof Danielle Mazza was the Chair of the editorial committee.

A/Professor Craig Hassed co-convened two online mindfulness courses for Monash University staff and students; Mindfulness for Wellbeing and Peak Performance and, Maintaining a Mindful Life. Recently, both courses were rated among the top 50 courses globally with the first having attracted over 300,000 registrants.

RESEARCH EDUCATION

The Department, along with our consortium partners (The University of Sydney and Bond University) were the successful tenderer to deliver a research activity package to support the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Academic Registrars in 2018.

The Department was also the successful tenderer to deliver a research activity package to RACGP Education Research Grant holders in 2018. This program is undertaken with our partners at Monash Centre for Scholarship in Health Education and the School of Primary and Allied Health Care.

Both research and education programs comprise of three-inter-related components including: 1) workshops; 2) webinars; and 3) online mentoring and support.

DATA TO SUPPORT POLICY AND PRACTICE

The Department of General Practice is leading Australian researchers in using routinely-collected general practice data to develop a robust evidence base to support targeted and priority-driven strategic research in primary health care. Our expertise in linking general practice data with other datasets has generated important insights on the patient journey and strategies to improve integration of care between primary and acute care and other health services.

Future data-driven research will continue building links with the various layers of health services, and conduct collaborative research to improve health outcomes for patients and health system sustainability.
EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

PRESCRIBING SKILLS ASSESSMENT

The Prescribing Skills Assessment (PSA) is an international, online teaching and assessment tool, developed to improve student competence in clinical pharmacology. It has been developed by the British Pharmacological Society. The aim of its use is to address global concerns that new graduates feel underprepared to prescribe safely and make medication errors, which may lead to adverse patient outcomes. Associate Professor Claire Harrison continues to lead its implementation in Australia. After an initial pilot at Monash University in 2016, the PSA has now expanded to involve 9 Australian medical schools, which have also been joined by 2 schools in New Zealand.

Results from a national Australian pilot were presented at the Australian and New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators, held at Hobart, Tasmania:


INTER-PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Building on the success of pilots in 2017, joint teaching sessions between medical students and their colleagues in the Master of Interpreting and Translating Studies have continued across 2018. This work is the result of collaboration between Associate Professor Claire Harrison (Department of General Practice) and Dr Jim Hlavac (Master of Interpreting and Translating Studies). In these events, students from both programs work together to assess and manage patients of Limited English Proficiency. Initial results relating to the evaluation of the program were presented this year at the Australian and New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators, held at Hobart, Tasmania:

- Harrison C, Hlavac J. How do we prepare learners to better communicate with patients of Limited English Proficiency? An inter-professional pilot involving medical and interpreting students – ANZHAPE 2018 – poster presentation

Further dissemination of this work is planned in 2019 through a collaboration between Dr Jim Hlavac, Associate Professor Claire Harrison and Dr Bernadette Saunders (Department of Social Work, Monash University). This is through a submission to the CIUTI conference 2019:

- Hlavac J, Harrison C, Saunders B. Collaborative practice in interpreter training: joint sessions with medical and social work students
FAMILY VIOLENCE

The Family Violence teaching program in the Year 4C program, involves access to Professor Jan Coles’ award-winning online modules: PACTS - www.pactsproject.org/index.html. This is then complemented by face-to-face teaching led by Dr Ronald Schweitzer. The latter is comprised of an interactive lecture on family violence followed by two small group tutorials with simulated patients. Each role play is purposefully designed so that students have an experience of responding to these challenging consultations in a structured, supervised situation.

The program is well received with the medical students valuing the opportunity to learn skills in a safe and supported setting. The program has been expanded from the Department, to the Peninsula component of the medical school in Frankston. Additionally, in 2017, resources were shared with Professor Kirsty Douglas from the Department of General Practice at ANU Medical School. This was with a view to their implementation in ANU in 2018.

Dr Schweitzer’s work has led to the involvement of the Department with a project from the Department of Community Health and Paramedics (Monash University), led by Dr Simon Sawyer. This project seeks to develop and evaluate a new scale to measure the readiness of healthcare students to encounter patients experiencing partner abuse. Data from the scale will be used to measure the impact of educational interventions to assist educators to better prepare students for future practice. Dr Ron Schweitzer from the Department of General Practice is acting as co-investigator, advising the project team on what training in family violence to implement and how best to do so, in healthcare curricula.

YEAR 5D GENERAL PRACTICE PLACEMENTS

In 2018, the Department of General Practice was delighted to welcome final year medical students to spend additional time in placement in the specialty. In 2018, the Department of General Practice was delighted to welcome final year medical students to spend additional time in placement in the specialty and gain experiences in medical education. The new 6-week placements allow students to build on their skills from Year 4C, through additional time in General Practice as an Elective or Specialty Block.
RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Emeritus Professor John Murtagh AM was awarded the Australian Medical Associations (AMA) highest honour of the AMA Gold Medal.

Noted as the most highly used medical text book in Australia, Emeritus Professor John Murtagh released the 7th Edition of ‘John Murtagh’s General Practice’ in October.

Dr Nourulhuda Obaidallah completed her International Postgraduate Fellowship Education Program on geriatrics.

Dr Joanne Enticott’s was the recipient of the Data Driven Healthcare Fellowship with Monash Partners Academic Health Science Centre, funded by the MRFF. The fellowship will involve the creation of virtual or actual health data research incubator hubs within Monash Partners to stimulate partnerships across academic, clinician and industry stakeholders.

Dr Joanne Enticott and Professor Grant Russell’s paper titled ‘Prevalence of psychological distress: how do Australia and Canada compare?’ was allocated as ‘Editor’s Choice’ in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry in March.

A/Professor Craig Hassed was an invited speaker at thirty-two national conferences in 2018 to present on his extensive research in mindfulness.

Clinical A/Professor Sanjiva Wijesinha was invited to attend the Chief of Army’s Land Forces Seminar as the Liaison Officer to the Sri Lankan Army Commander and his delegation.

Dr Xiaoping Lin received the Primary Care Collaborative Clinical Trials Group (PC4) Training Award for her project titled: ‘Managing cancer survivors with comorbidities: practice and view of (GPs).

Dr Xiaoping Lin and Dr Cathy Watson was awarded the 2018 School of Primary and Allied Health Care (SPAHC) Travel Grant.

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Emeritus Professor John Murtagh AM was invited to the Iran College of General Practitioners and Ministry of Health for the launch of the John Murtagh’s General Practice 6th Edition (Farsi translation).

Emeritus Prof John Murtagh AM was invited to the Ministry of Health Pakistan for the launch of the College of General Practitioners.

A/Professor Craig Hassed was an invited speaker at four international mindfulness and wellbeing conferences in the UK, New Zealand and Taiwan.

Dr Joanne Enticott’s research using national Medicare data was discussed in the New York Times opinion piece ‘How to Have a Better Conversation About Mental Illness’ (July 11, 2018).

Developed by A/Professor Craig Hassed, the Monash model for teaching mindfulness to medical and other students has been adopted by a number of universities around Australia and internationally including McGill, the University of Montreal, Dalhousie University (Canada), Showa (Japan), Harvard (US), the National University of Ireland Galway, University of Leicester, Buckingham, and Warwick University (UK).
The Australian Contraceptive Choice Project (ACCORD): results of a cluster randomised controlled trial aimed at increasing Long Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) uptake paper submitted to the 2018 North American Primary Care Research Conference was chosen as one of the conference’s ‘Distinguished Papers’ and was presented by Professor Danielle Mazza at the conference opening.

Dr Xiaoping Lin was awarded the Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care (AAAPC) Travelling Fellowship which entailed a two-week visit to Professor Eva Grunfield and her team at the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto, Canada.

**STUDENT SUCCESS**

**ACADEMIC REGISTRARS**

Dr Daniel Epstein was awarded the Victorian and National General Practice Registrar of the Year 2018.

Dr Pallavi Prathivadi was recognised by the EVGP as the inaugural joint recipient of the 2018 Registrar of the Year – General Pathway.

Dr Pallavi Prathivadi was awarded the 2018 RACGP Foundation Charles-Bridges-Webb Memorial Award for her study ‘Qualitative insights into the opioid prescribing practices of Victorian GP registrars’.

Dr Pallavi Prathivadi was selected to represent Australia in the prestigious Homeward Bound global leadership program for women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine (STEMM).

**HDR STUDENTS**

Dr Karyn Alexander was awarded the People’s Choice Poster Prize at the 2018 Primary Health Care Research Conference in August for her poster titled ‘Improving GP Assessment of Child Development: Results of a Quality-Improvement Intervention’.

Dr Karyn Alexander was awarded her Doctor of Philosophy for her work in preventative healthcare for young children.

Dr Karyn Alexander was recently awarded the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Foundation / Bank of Queensland (BOQ) Specialist Research Grant 2018 for her project ‘Parent’s Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) in general practice: a feasibility study of preventative health for young children’.

Ruby Biezen has received national attention through numerous appearances on major media sites including the Herald Sun (Saturday 24th Feb), ABC and 4MW radio, and Channel 7 and 9 news.

Dr Diana Murray was awarded her Doctor of Philosophy on bipolar disorder and the internet.

Sajal Saha was awarded the 2018 North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) Annual Meeting Travel Scholarship.
PARTNERSHIPS

In identifying, designing and implementing their organisational interventions, the Department’s IMPACT Centre of Research Excellence has used a participatory action research approach to forge strong partnerships with government, community groups, non-government organisations and health service providers in each of the three Australian study sites.

Through the recently awarded Centre of Research Excellence for sexual and reproductive health - SPHERE, the Department continues to strengthen its partnerships with key stakeholders including Family Planning Victoria, Family Planning New South Wales, Marie Stopes Australia and IBIS Reproductive Health Care.

The Department of General Practice along with 20 collaborators, known as the Monash Alfred Injury Network, was successful in a bid to the TAC as its preferred tenderer. The network will have access to $25 million in research funding over 5 years.

Professor Danielle Mazza is a board member of the South-Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network.

Professor Danielle Mazza is a member of Cancer Australia’s steering group for the development of Guidance for the Management of Early Breast Cancer in Women.

In 2018, the Department established a new collaboration with the North-West Melbourne Primary Health Network. This partnership will lead to a joint research and evaluations approach to build capacity, develop new initiative and foster translational research.

Professor Danielle Mazza is a member of the Implementation Group of the Victorian Government’s Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health Plan.

A/Professor Craig Hassed established a new productive collaboration with Monash University Accident Research Centre to look at the relationship between mindfulness and driving behaviours and safety.

Dr Nadida Kachkouche is a member of the Year 1 and 2A Assessment Working Group and Early Years Management Committee.

Dr Joanne Enticott is a member of two Monash Partner Academic Health Science Committees: Data-Driven healthcare and Informatics, and; Primary and Community Care.

Dr Joanne Enticott sits on the Advisory Committee for the Victorian State-wide evaluation of the place-based Suicide Prevention Programs.

Dr Chris Barton is a panel member of the National Health and Medical Research Council PhD Scholarships (Public Health and Health Services Research Panel Member).

Dr Chris Barton is a member of the RACGP National Research Evaluation and Ethics Committee. He was a member of the RACGP selection panel for Academic Post registrars and Chair of the Education Research Grant Selection Panel.

Dr Xiaooping Lin is a member of the local organising committee of the 2018 National Conferences of Emerging Researchers in Ageing.

Dr Xiaooping Lin is a member of the Conference Scientific Committee of the 2018 Primary Health Care (PHC) Research Conference.

Strategic partnerships focus on University and healthcare priorities and provide growth in research opportunities and education innovation.
RESEARCH

FOUR AREAS OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

- Prevention and Management of Chronic and Complex Conditions
- Vulnerable Populations
- Women’s Health
- General Practice Data and Linkage
PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC AND COMPLEX CONDITIONS

EQuIP-GP
EFFECTIVENESS OF QUALITY INCENTIVE PAYMENTS IN GENERAL PRACTICE

2018-2019
$2,000,000 funded by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

Professor Andrew Bonney
Professor Nick Zwar
A/Professor Judy Mullan
Professor Grant Russell
Professor Danielle Mazza
A/Professor Jan Radford
Professor Gregory Paterson

Research staff:
Ms Catriona Rowe
Ms Jenny Raymond

The EQuIP-GP study is a randomised controlled trial conducted at 36 general practices across the states of NSW, Victoria and Tasmania. The trial will investigate the effectiveness of quality incentive payments in general practice. The intervention is an outcome based funding and service delivery model, developed by the research team.

Website: equipgp.uow.edu.au

LEAD
LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT PATHWAYS: A COMPARISON BETWEEN CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE (CALD) AND ANGLO-AUSTRALIAN PATIENTS

2016 – 2019
$433,300 funded by Cancer Council Australia

Professor Danielle Mazza
Professor John Emery
Dr Fiona Walter
Professor Jane Young
Professor David Barnes
Professor Paul Mitchell
Dr Bianca Brijnath

Research staff:
Dr Xiaoping Lin

This project aims to uncover the factors underlying the differences in lung cancer outcomes between Anglo-Australian patients and patients from CALD backgrounds. This study will be the first in Australia to provide comprehensive data on the diagnostic pathway for lung cancer in CALD and Anglo-Australian patients and will involve cancer services in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Website: monash.edu/medicine/spahc/general-practice/research-projects/lead-lung-cancer

NORTH-WEST MELBOURNE PRIMARY HEALTH NETWORK COLLABORATION

2018-2019
$146,647 funded by the North-West Melbourne Primary Health Network

Professor Grant Russell
Dr Riki Lane
Ms Mel Chisholm

Research staff:
Dr Debra Hopkins

In collaboration with the North-West Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN), the Department of General Practice’s will undertake a joint research and evaluations approach to:

- Build evaluation capacity within the NWMPHN
- Contribute to and evaluate new and ongoing initiatives within the NWMPHN, particularly pertaining to key issues such as mental health, alcohol and drug, chronic disease and health care homes approaches
- Explore the potential for securing external funding for translational research.

Website: nwmphn.org.au/health-priorities/
CLINICAL GUIDELINE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF WORK-RELATED MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

2016–2019
$935,300 funded by The Australian Government Department of Employment and Comcare, Office of Industrial Relations – Queensland, State Insurance Regulatory Authority (NSW), Return to Work SA, and Work Cover WA.

Professor Danielle Mazza
Professor Alex Collie

Research staff:
Dr Samantha Chakraborty
Ms Brooke Vandenberg

The development of clinical guideline for the diagnosis and management of work-related mental health conditions for general practitioners (GPs) project is a response to the call-to-action from GPs. This guideline will provide Australian GPs with the best available evidence to guide their diagnosis and management of patients with work-related mental health conditions.

The guideline is expected to be released in February 2019.

ACcORD, AN AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE IN RESEARCH IN DEMENTIA

2016 – 2021
$3,382,819 funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council

Professor Robert Sanson-Fisher
Professor Danielle Mazza
Professor Susan Koch
Professor Balakrishnan Nair AM
Professor Christopher Doran
A/Professor Craig Whitehead
Professor Sandra Eades
Professor Neil Rees

Research staff:
Dr Xiaoping Lin

The ACcORD study seeks to develop strategies to facilitate the provision of quality dementia care in general practice with the aim of improving quality of life for people with dementia and their carers by:

• developing valid and reliable measures for assessing unmet needs
• exploring barriers and enablers to optimal service delivery
• understanding legal and financial barriers faced by health care providers and caregivers when supporting a person with dementia
• testing the impact of innovative strategies to improving health outcomes for people with dementia and their caregivers.

Website: dementiaaccord.org.au

ACcORD STUDY 2.1
PRIORITISING THE NATIONAL DEMENTIA GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATIONS: A DELPHI APPROACH TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION IN GENERAL PRACTICE

2017 - 2018
$38,000 funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council

Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Elise Mansfield
Dr Jamie Bryant
Dr Amy Walker
Dr Xiaoping Lin
Professor Leon Piterman

Project staff:
Ms Edwina McCarthy

Building on ACcORD, the ACcORD 2.1 study seeks to prioritise recommendations from the guidelines that require implementation in general practice; and to identify recommendations where additional support is most required by GPs to implement into their practice.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEPRESSION IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS: A CLUSTER RCT

2017-2021
$818,724 funded by the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

A/Professor Mariko Carey
Laureate Professor Robert Sanson-Fisher
Professor Nicholas Zwar
Professor Danielle Mazza
Professor Graham Meadows
Doctor Amy Waller
Professor Leon Piterman
Professor Brian Kelly
Conjoint Associate Professor Frans Henskens

This study will test the effectiveness of providing GPs with education; as well as feedback about patients’ self-reported depressive scores using a standardised instrument and perceived need and preferences for help. This cluster RCT will be the first Australian trial of its kind.

REMAIN HOME REDUCING MEDICAL ADMISSIONS INTO HOSPITAL THROUGH OPTIMISING MEDICINES

May 2016-May 2019
$150,000 from HCF Research Foundation and additional funding from Brisbane South Primary Health Network and Brisbane North Primary Health Network.

Dr Christopher Freeman
Dr Neil Cortell
Dr Ian Williams
Dr Ian Coombes
Dr Carl Kirkpatrick
Dr Luke Connelly
Ms Caroline Nicholson
Professor Grant Russell
A/Professor Sue Kirsa
Dr Ian Scott
Dr Karla Hemming
Dr Jennifer Whitty
Dr Nancy Sturman

This project aims to investigate whether a clinical pharmacist integrated into the general practice team collaborating with GPs and other health professionals can reduce readmission to hospital.

Website: remainhomestudy.com

MANAGING CANCER SURVIVORS WITH COMORBIDITIES

2017-2018
$10,000 funded by the Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group

Dr Xiaoping Lin
Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Chris Barton

This project aims to explore current practice and views of General Practitioners (GPs) in managing cancer survivors with comorbidities.
**RADICALS**

**2014 - 2018**

$441,491 funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council

Professor Johnson George  
Professor Michael Abramson  
Professor Ajay Mahal  
Professor Grant Russell

The primary aim of this study is to determine the efficacy, for patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), of an interdisciplinary model of care compared to usual care on Health-related Quality of Life (HRQoL), measured at six months using the St George’s Respiratory Questionnaire (SGRQ).

The secondary aims are to determine the proportion of smokers with spirometry-confirmed COPD, and evaluate the efficacy of RADICALS© compared to usual care on smoking abstinence, nicotine dependence, lung function, symptom severity, health resource utilisation (unplanned general practitioner visits, hospitalisations and emergency department presentations), anxiety and depression scores, and medication adherence at six and twelve months.

**INFLUENCE OF CARE RECIPIENT COMMUNITY AND HEALTH SERVICES USE ON VICTORIAN INFORMAL CARERS’ HEALTH, QUALITY OF LIFE AND ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION**

**2018**

$4,914 funded by the School of Primary and Allied Health Care, seed grant scheme.

Dr Alana Hewitt  
A/Professor Helen Bourke-Taylor  
A/Professor Prue Morgan  
Dr Chris Barton

Informal carers of older adults with chronic and complex illness commonly experience poorer health and participation outcomes than non-carers. Currently, little is known about the relationship between carers’ health and care recipient and carer use of health and community services.

This study aims to fill this gap in knowledge by investigating the influence of health and community service use on carers’ health and will assist health professionals to provide targeted recommendations to support the role of informal family carers.
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

IMPACT
INNOVATIVE MODELS
PROMOTING ACCESS TO CARE
TRANSFORMATION

2013-2018
$5,000,000 funded by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute, and the Canadian Institute Recherche du Quebec-Santé, Centre of Research Excellence

Professor Grant Russell
Professor Mark Harris
Professor Jean-Frédéric Levesque
Professor Virginia Lewis
Professor Nigel Stocks
Dr Jenny Advocat
Professor Terrance Haines et al.

Research staff:
Dr Phillip Thompson
Dr Marina Kunin
Dr Jenny Advocat
Ms Sharon Clifford

IMPACT is a Canadian-Australian collaboration which brings together leading researchers in primary care. Health services research and implementation science along with communities of practice in six different regions in Australia and Canada. The program of research aims to identify, refine and trial ‘world’s best practice’ innovations to assist access, particularly for vulnerable populations.

Website: monash.edu/medicine/spahc/research/impact

ENDURE-GP
ESTABLISHING AND NORMALISING DURABLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH GPs

2017 - 2018
$207,469 funded by the Medical Research Future Fund

Professor Grant Russel
Professor Terry Haines
Professor Anthony Harris
Dr Marina Kunin
Dr Joanne Enticott

Research staff:
Ms Sharon Clifford

This project is an extension of the IMPACT CRE which aims to improve access to continuing, appropriate primary healthcare for vulnerable populations. Running alongside the IMPACT broker intervention evaluation, ENDURE GP will examine self-reported patient experiences of access to general practice care and explore the relationship between patient access to general practice care and healthcare utilisation – particularly use of the emergency department.

Website: monash.edu/medicine/spahc/general-practice/research-projects/optimize

THE OPTIMISE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

2016-2020
$1,022,383 funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council

Professor Grant Russell
Professor Mark Harris
Professor Virginia Lewis
Professor Helena Teede
A/Professor Kevin Pottie
Professor William Hogg
Professor Graham Meadows
Dr Joanne Enticott
Dr Jenny Advocat
Dr I-Hao Cheng

Research staff:
Ms Nilakshi Gunatillaka
Dr Shiva Vasi

The aim of this study is to generate a model of integrated refugee primary health care suitable for uptake throughout Australia. OPTIMISE will:

- implement collaborative, system-oriented approaches to increase access to primary care services;
- optimise systems for transferring people of a refugee like background between refugee focused health services and mainstream care;
- build primary care capacity to deliver high quality care to refugees; and
- improve coordination of care across the health and settlement sectors.

Website: monash.edu/medicine/spahc/general-practice/research-projects/optimize
BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE UPTAKE AND USE OF INTERPRETING SERVICES IN GENERAL PRACTICE CLINICS IN AUSTRALIA

2018 - 2019
$24,939 funded by the Monash University Arts-Medicine Interdisciplinary Seeding Grant

Dr Jim Hlavac
Professor Jan Coles
Dr Marc Orlando
Professor Grant Russell
Dr Shiva Vasi
Dr Chris Barton
A/Professor Claire Harrison
Dr I-Hao Cheng

The aims of the project are firstly to examine the factors that influence the uptake and use of interpreting services in General Practice clinics. Secondly, engage stakeholders as CIs and Partner Investigators to locate their interest and capacity to contribute as partner organisations in an application for a Monash Partners Advanced health research Translation Centre Rapid Applied Research Translation Grant.

PRIORITISING THE NATIONAL DEMENTIA GUIDELINE RECOMMENDATION IN GENERAL PRACTICE: THE VIEW OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA FROM CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE (CALD) BACKGROUNDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

2017 - 2018
$10,000 funded by the Australian Community of Practice in Research in Dementia

Dr Xiaoping Lin
Professor Danielle Mazza

This project compliments the ACcORD Study 2.1 by providing the views of people with dementia from CALD backgrounds and their family members in prioritising the recommendations from the guidelines for practice in the general practice setting.

Dr Shiva Vasi
Dr I-Hao Cheng
Ms Nilakshi Gunatilaka
WOMEN’S HEALTH

SPHERE

2018 - 2023
$2,500,000 funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, Centres of Research Excellence

Professor Danielle Mazza
Professor Jane Fisher
Professor Angela Taft
A/Professor Kirsten Black
Professor Jayne Lucke
Professor Marion Haas
Dr Safeera Hussainy
Dr Kevin McGeechan
Dr Wendy Norman

The aim of SPHERE is to improve the quality, safety and capacity of primary health care services to achieve better outcomes in women’s sexual and reproductive health.

EVALUATION OF TELEHEALTH ABORTION

2017 - 2019
$5,800 funded by IBIS Reproductive Health

Professor Danielle Mazza

This project aims to evaluate the impact, effectiveness, safety, and acceptability of Maria Stopes tele-abortion program in Australia, with the goal of creating information that can be used by other provider networks in Australia and globally.

TRANSLATING EVIDENCE INTO PRACTICE: OPTIMISING AND FACILITATING PREVENTION AND SCREENING IN WOMEN WITH A STRONG FAMILY HISTORY OF BREAST CANCER

2016-2019
$516,700 funded by Cancer Australia and National Breast Cancer Foundation as a priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme

A/Professor Louise Keogh
Professor Sandra Jones
Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Roger Milne
Professor Kelly Phillips
Professor Martha Hickey
Professor Christobel Saunders

This study examines the barriers that Australian women face, who have a high risk of breast cancer and/or ovarian cancer in engaging with the recommended cancer screening and prevention programs.
HARMONY

2017-2021
$595,289 funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council

Professor Angela Taft
Professor Alan Shiell
Professor Jane Yelland
Professor Danielle Mazza
Professor Gene Feder

Migrant and refugee victims of domestic violence (DV) are at grave risk of harm and murder and under-identified in primary care. The Harmony partnership builds on evidence-based models of DV response, to trial an innovative intervention of culturally competent and safe care in general practices with significant numbers of migrant patients. Harmony will result in data platforms that enhance assessment and care plans for DV victims, and safer outcomes for those from vulnerable populations.

ACCORd
THE AUSTRALIAN CONTRACEPTIVE CHOICE PROJECT

2015 - 2019
$701,800 funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council

Professor Danielle Mazza
A/Professor Kirsten Black
Professor Angela Taft
Professor Jayne Lucke
Dr Kevin McGeechan
Professor Marion Haas
Dr Kathleen McNamee
Professor Jeffrey Peipert

Research staff:
Dr Cathy Watson
Ms Jennie Raymond
Catriona Rowe (completed)
Catherine Savage (completed).

ACCORd is a cluster randomised trial investigating the effect of a complex intervention on the uptake of LARCs amongst women in metropolitan Melbourne. Adapted from the successful United States Contraceptive CHOICE study, the ACCORd intervention involves training GPs to provide ‘LARC First’ structured contraceptive counselling; and implementing rapid referral pathways to LARC insertion.

Website: monash.edu/medicine/spahc/general-practice/research-projects/accord

PREFER

2017 - 2018
$96,000 funded by Bayer

Professor Danielle Mazza

Research staff:
Edwina McCarthy

Building on the work of the ACCORd project and leveraging off it, this project aims to determine whether young Australian women’s preferences for and uptake of LARCS can be increased using an online ‘LARC First’ patient educational video. The intervention will provide a simple method of support to assist general practitioners in increasing the uptake of LARCS and thereby reducing the number of unplanned pregnancies.

Website: monash.edu/medicine/spahc/general-practice/research-projects/prefer
GENERAL PRACTICE DATA AND LINKAGE

ULTRA GP
USING LINKAGE TO REDUCE AVOIDABLE HOSPITALISATION

2018
$179,905 funded by the Medical Research Future Fund

Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Lyle Turner
Mr Chris Wood
Dr Rona Weerasuriya
Dr Paul Weldon
Adj Clin Professor Erwin Loh

Statistician:
Dr Joanne Enticott

The aim of this study is to develop a data linkage between general practice and acute care data to:

• Identify patients in primary care at risk of avoidable hospitalisation
• Identify strategies aimed at improving chronic disease management and integration of care between primary and acute care thereby reducing avoidable emergency department and hospital utilisation
• Better understand the primary health care drivers of avoidable hospitalisation.

UNDERSTANDING THE CANCER PATIENT’S PRIMARY CARE JOURNEY: A DATA LINKAGE STUDY

2017 - 2019
$45,800 funded by the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University

Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Lyle Turner
Dr Nicole Black
Professor Stephen Fox
Ms Amanda Eddy
Ms Cheryl Russell

This project aims to:

• Link data from general practices within the South-Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network region to the Cancer 2015 cohort study, thus providing new and innovative data linkage between primary care and cancer datasets
• Examine patient’s primary health care utilisation along the cancer journey including the types of services they receive
• Examine general practice management of patients along the cancer journey including the clinical content of consultations.
Summer and Winter Scholarships

The Summer and Winter Scholarship program at the Department of General Practice enables undergraduate and postgraduate students the opportunity to undertake a research project over the semester break, working alongside the research team, as a team member.

In 2018, the Department was delighted to host 11 winter and 11 summer scholars who contributed to the following projects:

- The Australian Contraceptive Choice Project (ACCORd)
- OPTIMISE Partnership Project for better primary healthcare for refugees
- Give Respect project
- Experiences of sexual harassment among international medical women
- Guideline for the diagnosis and management of work-related mental health conditions in general practice
- Innovative Models Promoting Access to Care Transformation (IMPACT)

McGill University Internship

Following the success of the McGill University Internship program in 2017, the Department welcomed the opportunity to host another intern in 2018.

Anna de Waal joined the Innovative Models Promoting Access to Care Transformation (IMPACT) project for three months in 2018 working closely with the research team to improve access to primary health care services for some of Melbourne’s most vulnerable populations.

Working with the Department of General Practice as a summer scholar was an incredibly worthwhile and rewarding opportunity.

Hermine
HONOURS STUDENTS

The Department attracts honours students from two degree programs, the Bachelor of Medical Science (Hons) and the Bachelor of Biomedical Science (BMS) (Hons)

Eishitha Bandara

**Supervisors:**
Dr Riki Lane
Dr Chris Barton

**Project:** Areas of improvement in primary care for trans and gender diverse people: Patient and stakeholder perspectives

**Aim:** To compile experiences of trans and gender (TGD) people in the health care system in Victoria – specifically focusing on suggestions for improvement and education of health professionals, particularly general practitioners.

Through interviews with both TGD patients and stakeholders such as health professionals experienced with TGD clients, key strategies will be formulated for future use in university curriculums and educational tools. As the population of people identifying as trans and gender diverse (TGD) increases, so too does the need for comprehensive and respectful health care. To develop such skills, it is imperative that TGD patient experience of healthcare is analysed and evaluated, to guide future learning tools and care pathways. Resources such as Health Pathways guidelines, online training modules, and medical curricula are currently in early stages of development.

Elodie Bernard

**Supervisors:**
Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Cathy Watson

**Project:** How do Australian general practitioners provide interconception care?

**Aim:** To explore GPs experience and views in the delivery of interconception care.

There is growing recognition that many adverse pregnancy outcomes are caused by maternal risk factors which exist prior to conception.

Interconception care refers to interventions aimed to identify, prevent and manage medical and social risks to a woman’s health and birth outcomes between pregnancies. In particular, the interconception period provides an opportunity to modify risk factors which affected prior pregnancies and may have resulted in complications such as preterm birth. General practitioners are ideally positioned to provide care to women between their pregnancies yet very little is known about its implementation in practice.

Isabell Claxton

**Supervisors:**
Professor Grant Russell
Dr Joanne Enticott

**Project:** Factors associated with resilience among refugees in Australia

**Aim:** To understand the construct of resilience with the focus on the predictors and associations for maintaining good mental health and wellbeing over 4-5 years.

Refugees in Australia are a particularly vulnerable population at risk of mental health issues. The rates of mental illnesses among refugee populations are higher than among non-refugee populations, as a result of their experiences in their home country and the issues faced after their arrival in Australia. This project will examine the first 3-4 annual waves from the “Building a New Life in Australia” survey – a longitudinal, nationally representative cohort study involving 2,399 recently resettled humanitarian migrants.
Shay Manchanda

The BBiomed (Hons) degree

Supervisors:
Dr Shiva Vasi
Dr Joanne Enticott

Project: What are the factors impacting access to mental health care for refugees and asylum seeking in general practice settings?

Aim: Identify factors impacting access to mental health care for refugees and asylum seekers in general practice and primary care settings.

The project is aligned with the aims of the OPTIMISE project, namely improving quality of care, access and transition of primary health care services to refugees and asylum seekers. However, unlike the OPTIMISE project, Shay will focus on mental health in primary care. He will be using Penchansky and Thomas (1981) seminal paper on improving access to healthcare as his theoretical framework.

Greasha Rathnasekara

Supervisors:
Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Cathy Watson

Project: Understanding LARC counselling in high-risk areas for teenage pregnancy by GPs

Aim: To qualitatively explore how GPs in high-risk areas for teenage pregnancy approach the contraceptive consultation and what practitioner factors impact the uptake of LARCs by teenage women.

In Australia, GPs are the first line in the delivery of contraception to women and the management of sexual and reproductive health concerns. There are a number of safe contraceptive methods currently available to women and long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) are the most effective reversible modes of contraception for preventing pregnancy. The uptake of LARCs in Australia has been poor, particularly with young women who are at the highest risk of unintended pregnancy.

Dr Bianca Perera

Supervisors:
Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Cathy Watson

Project: What can data tell us about interception care?

Dr James Berryman

Supervisor:
Dr Chris Barton

Project: Ambulance utilisation in rural regions: is health literacy a factor?
NEW AND CONTINUING PhD STUDENTS

Alison Dowling
Supervisors:
Professor Grant Russell,
Dr Joanne Enticott
Dr Marina Kunin

An investigation into the association of pre- and post-migration experiences on the self-rated health status among new resettled adult humanitarian refugees to Australia.

Ruby Biezen
Supervisors:
Dr Bianca Brijanth,
Dr Danilla Grando
Professor Danielle Mazza

Knowledge, attitude and practice of parents and primary care providers in the prevention and management of respiratory tract infections in young children.

Dr Daniel Epstein
Supervisors:
Dr Chris Barton
Dr Joanne Enticott
Professor Danielle Mazza

Evaluation of a Pragmatic Cluster Randomised Control Trial of Vaxcards: A tool for education and reward for vaccination.

Alison Fiehr
Supervisors:
Professor Jan Coles
Professor John Dixon

Mindbody: an investigation into persistent pain from a psychological perspective.

Dr Karen Price
Supervisors:
Professor Grant Russell
Dr Chris Barton

The role of peer connection in general practice.

Devon Stoliker
Supervisors:
Dr Joanne Enticott
Professor Ellie Fossey

Delivery of effective mental health care to general practitioners using non-coercive strategies.

Sajal Kumar Saha
Supervisors:
Professor Danielle Mazza
Professor Karin Thursky
Dr David Kong

The pharmacist’s role in improving antibiotic stewardship in general practice.

Véronique Roussy
Supervisors:
Dr Charles Livingstone
Dr Therese Ailes
Professor Grant Russell

Can the Victorian community health sector continue to provide a good primary health service response for disadvantaged communities?
PhD AWARDED IN 2018

Lesley Hawes
Supervisors:
Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Kirtsy Buising
Dr Lyle Turner
Antibiotic stewardship in general practice

Natasha Lakaev
Supervisors:
A/Professor Craig Hassed
Dr Chris Barton
Academic stress among Monash University students

Annette Peart
Supervisors:
Dr Grant Russell
Dr Chris Barton
A/Professor Virginia Lewis
The patient-centred care in a hospital avoidance program.

Dr Pallavi Prathivadi
Supervisors:
Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Chris Barton
Qualitative insights into the opioid prescribing practices of Victorian GPs

Nathanael Wells
Supervisors:
Professor Jan Coles
Dr Riki Lane
The use of antiretroviral drug Truvada as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for the prevention of HIV infection

Ping Wong
Supervisors:
A/Professor Craig Hassed
Professor Jan Coles
Mindfulness for mild cognitive impairment patients

Dr Karyn Alexander
Supervisors:
Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Bianca Brijnath
Preventative healthcare for young children in general practice

Diana Murray
Supervisors:
Dr Bianca Brijnath
Dr David Holmes
Bipolar disorder and the internet
Dr Pallavi Prathivadi

Supervisors:
Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Chris Barton

Project: Qualitative insights into the opioid prescribing practices of Victorian GPs

Aim: To explore Victorian established GP behaviours, knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding opioid prescribing.

Being an academic GP registrar at the Department of General Practice (DGP) has been so rewarding and enjoyable. I have loved being in an office with Alison and Dan and very thankful to have such nice friends with whom I can share the research journey. Dr Chris Barton is a phenomenally supportive and encouraging supervisor and seems to offer 24/7 ‘office hours’ and mentoring. Dan and I are especially appreciative of this! Prof Mazza, similarly, is involved and up to date with all our endeavours and progress; we are very grateful to have her as our supervisor!

The team culture at DGP is actually my most favourite part of being an academic GP registrar. There is joy in our learning and research, although recruiting can be difficult and grant writing is frequently exhausting and intimidating. I believe our efforts are valuable and important for career progression. I am really looking forward to being with this team for many more years.

Dr Alison Brown

Supervisors:
Professor Grant Russell
Dr Joanne Enticott

Project: How to Australian GPs spend their time?

Aim: To determine the amount of time that Australian GPs spend on administrative tasks or indirect patient care, the practice and practitioner factors associated with more of this work the effect on professional job satisfaction, and if allocation of practitioner time is changing in the last decade.

As an academic registrar, I have had the opportunity to work in the department for 12 months part time, undertaking a supervised research project and teaching 4th year medical students.

The position has exposed me to quantitative research methods, and has included self-directed learning, collaboration and feedback with experienced researchers as supervisors, the analysis and reporting of data, and participation in the early career research group and departmental meetings. I have developed teaching skills through leading small group tutorials, attending tutor training sessions and meetings, and undertaking other professional development activities.

Dr Daniel Epstein

Supervisors:
Professor Danielle Mazza
Dr Chris Barton

Project: Pay what you want: exploratory qualitative study into a novel payment in general practice

Aim: Further explore patients and GP’s attitudes and behaviours in a payment system for general practice where the patient chose the value of their gap fee.

My time as an academic registrar in the Department has been such a great experience I have decided to stay around in the form of a PhD. The Department is full of passionate, hardworking but welcoming primary care clinicians, teachers and researchers and my days are filled with interesting discussions. It has been such a great feeling working on a research project and contributing a small piece of knowledge to the field of primary care.

I consider myself lucky to have this position and hope that my role in the Department can continue. It is a space that motivates me and a culture that I want to be a part of my career. I have been treated like a senior member of the team and have been given a great balance of responsibility and guidance.
UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

BACHELOR OF MEDICINE AND BACHELOR OF SURGERY (MBBS)

TEACHING STAFF

The Department’s undergraduate teaching program focuses on the integration of problem-solving, communication, and clinical skills, to enable holistic, evidence-based care of patients and their families within the community.

The philosophy of the Department is to foster an enthusiastic and caring approach to teaching students, with well-structured, flexible programs, transparent assessment, feedback and pastoral care.

**YEAR 1 & 2**

**Program Coordinators**
Dr Cathy Grech  
Dr Nadida Kachkouche

**Administrator**
Ms Marion Daniels

**Tutors**
Dr Angela Spencer  
Dr Annelise Willems  
Dr Buddy Reid  
Dr Caitlin Harrison  
Dr Cathy Grech  
Dr Jacqui Wise  
Dr Julie Brennan-Smith  
Dr Julie Guerin  
Dr Harrison Thammarajah  
Dr Jacinta Mogg  
Dr Katie Douglas  
Dr Danielle Downman  
De Michael Gu  
Dr Michelle Fernandez  
Dr Katherine Wallace  
Dr Leila Byrne  
Dr Nadica Kachkouche  
Dr Natasha Thomson  
De Peter Lyall  
Dr Phil Perlstein  
Dr Robyn Ridgeway  
Dr Ron Schweitzer  
Dr Sally Middleton  
Dr Simon Wong  
Dr Tony Lucarelli

**YEAR 4**

**Program Coordinator**
A/Prof Claire Harrison

**Administrator**
Mrs Claudette Gerrey

**Professors**
Prof Danielle Mazza  
Emeritus Prof John Murtagh  
Prof Leon Piterman  
Prof Grant Russell

**Associate Professors**
A/Prof Claire Harrison  
A/Prof Craig Hassed  
Clinical A/Prof Sanjiva Wijesinha

**Senior Lecturers**
Dr Andy Morgan  
Dr Ian Chenworth  
Dr Philippa Colby  
Dr Cathy Grech  
Dr David Oberklaud  
Dr Nadida Kachkouche

**Lecturers / Tutors**
Dr Ann Drillich  
Dr Cicily Nesbit  
Dr Jennifer Neil  
Dr Paki Rizakis  
Dr Phillip Feren  
Dr Ron Schweitzer  
Dr Michael Mrozinski  
Dr Emily Chen

**Guest Lecturers**
Dr Philip Perlstein  
Dr Les Segal  
Dr Erica Schmidt  
Dr Karyn Alexander  
Dr Jane Tracy  
Dr Sandra MacGibbon  
Dr Donna Henderson  
Dr Sheridan Foster  
A/Prof Robert Davis  
A/Prof Greg Goodman  
A/Prof Geoff Sussman  
Dr Abi Tenen  
Mr Paul Adams  
Ms Annette Peart  
Mr Mick Storr

**Year 1 Students** 317  
**Year 2 Students** 299  
**Year 4 Students** 271  
**Year 5 Students** 12
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE – ANNUAL REPORT 2018

DEVELOPING CLINICAL COMPETENCIES AND SELF-CARE

Year 1 and 2 clinical skills’ teaching by the Department constitutes 25 per cent of the teaching load in the first two years of the MBBS. Students learn the basics of history-taking, examination skills, and simple procedural skills in the first year and more advanced clinical and procedural skills in Year 2.

YEAR 1 TEACHING CONTENT

The focus is on personal attributes and qualities they require as a medical student and, ultimately, a medical practitioner.

The Department teaches clinical skills in the ears of the medical interview, including:

- History taking
- Building patient relationships
- Responding to emotion
- Cross-cultural communication skills
- Vital signs
- Musculoskeletal systems history and examination
- Cardiovascular system history and examination
- Neurological history and examination of the peripheral nervous system of the upper and lower limbs
- Electrocardiography interpretation
- Subcutaneous and intramuscular injection practical skills
- Hand hygiene practical skills
- Real patient interaction opportunities

YEAR 2 TEACHING CONTENT

Students receive extensive education on body systems, including:

- Respiratory system
- Reproductive system
- Haematological system
- Clinical skills for undifferentiated presentations
- Central nervous system (cranial nerves)
- Mental state examinations
- Gastrointestinal system
- Genitourinary system
- Endocrine system
- Eye and ear
- Sensitive examination (breast)
- Basic life support
- Real patient interaction

TEACHING INNOVATIONS

In 2018, the Department changed the delivery of some of the three Year 1 lectures, including the electrocardiography interpretation, introduction to clinical examination and medical interview tutorials, to an active learning workshop format using the active learning space.

Indigenous Health

Dr Cicily Nesbit is a General Practitioner and a medical educator working in the Monash University Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and the Monash Department of General Practice. As the Indigenous Health Curriculum and Assessment Lead, she has been working with the Gukwonderuk Unit to enhance Indigenous health curriculum delivery and assessment in the medical teaching program. This work has been commended by the Australian Medical Council and has led to nominations for Dean’s and Vice Chancellor’s awards for educational excellence.
A major project undertaken by Dr Nesbit in 2017-18, was the creation of a program to support educators to teach Indigenous Health to our students. In response to an identified lack of educator confidence, she designed an online short course to support educators to effectively teach Indigenous health curriculum effectively, regardless of their background and previous experience.

This course comprises three modules: What do Indigenous patients want? Desirable professional attributes for working with Indigenous people, and Teaching tips in Indigenous health. It takes about 3 hours to complete and went live in April 2018. Dozens of educators from across the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences have completed the course, and have evaluated it very favourably, leading to improved knowledge and teaching confidence. The course is open to any educators of Indigenous Health in tertiary educational institutions or clinical settings.
Year 4C

Year 4C is the penultimate year of the medical program. It is also where the main exposure to General Practice occurs, being 1 of the 4 specialty blocks in this year. At the Department of General Practice, we have oversight of the curriculum in General Practice and its assessment across all teaching sites in Victoria and Malaysia. We also directly teach circa 275 students each year (271 in 2018). This cohort is distributed over 4, 9-week rotations.

During each rotation, we deliver interactive face-to-face, large and small group teaching on Mondays and Wednesdays. It continues to be informed and enhanced by best practice in medical education and feedback from both students and staff.

There is an emphasis on clinical reasoning, patient-centeredness and holistic care. We provide a breadth of practical experience, as students put their skills into action assessing, diagnosing and managing patients in case-based scenarios and simulated sessions.

Content areas include:

- Acute and serious consultations
- Chronic disease
- Dermatology
- Developmental disability health
- Difficult consultations
- ENT
- Family violence
- Health care in older people
- Medicolegal dilemmas
- Men’s health
- Mental health
- Musculoskeletal medicine
- Palliative care
- Prescribing
- Preventative health
- Ophthalmology
- Respiratory medicine
- Women’s health

The teaching and mentorship of students is provided by highly skilled and passionate General Practitioners and simulated patients, in collaboration with colleagues in Dermatology, Developmental Disability Health, Ophthalmology, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy.

When not in the Department, students are provided with the invaluable opportunity of one-on-one supervision with their General Practice clinical supervisors as well as clinical time in Dermatology and Drug and Alcohol Clinics. The feedback on the clinical placements continues year-on-year to be outstanding.

Feedback on General Practice placements 2018:

- There is an emphasis on clinical reasoning, patient-centeredness and holistic care.
- We provide a breadth of practical experience, as students put their skills into action.
- There is an emphasis on clinical reasoning, patient-centeredness and holistic care. We provide a breadth of practical experience, as students put their skills into action assessing, diagnosing and managing patients in case-based scenarios and simulated sessions.

- Acute and serious consultations
- Chronic disease
- Dermatology
- Developmental disability health
- Difficult consultations
- ENT
- Family violence
- Health care in older people
- Medicolegal dilemmas
- Men’s health
- Mental health
- Musculoskeletal medicine
- Palliative care
- Prescribing
- Preventative health
- Ophthalmology
- Respiratory medicine
- Women’s health
SIMULATED PATIENTS

The teaching program in the Department of General Practice is extremely fortunate to be able to draw on the expertise of a dedicated group of simulated patients for both teaching and assessment. Over the course of the year, this gives the students precious experience role-playing consultations including those with sensitive topic areas, breaking bad news, dealing with conflict and dealing with patients in acute distress with potential medical emergencies.

Student feedback has included:

• “They were fantastic”
• “Gave good feedback about communication skills”
• “Kind in their constructive criticism”
• “Fantastic help”
• “It really helps you to practice being in role. I feel like a learn a lot from this opportunity”

On behalf of our teaching staff and students, we would like to acknowledge the professionalism, performances and quality of feedback given to our students by the simulated patients in the Year 4C Program:

• Kinloch Anstiss
• Ron Brooker
• Jill Cheah
• Alex Haberman
• Hilary Henshaw
• Ezra Kowaldo
• Danielle Paulusz
• Clare Sheehan
• Lindsay Bennett
• Shayden Bryce
• Geoff Everet
• Rohana Griffith
• Glenn Hunt
• Kevin Lawrence
• George Presnell
• Diana Stathis
• Dot Brooker
• Heather Cook
• Ron Gocs
• Christine Heffernan
• Jennie Honey
• Peter Noble
• Julia Reichstein

VISITORS TO THE YEAR 4C TEACHING PROGRAM

Imam Abdulrahman Bin-Faisal University

Imam Abdulrahman Bin-Faisal University (IABFU) (previously known as University of Dammam) is a higher education institution in the city of Dammam in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In June 2013, IABFU and Monash University (Clayton, Australia) signed an agreement to modernise the IABFU medical curriculum. In 2018, the Year 4C cohort with their teaching team, were joined by students from IABFU who participated in both large and small group teaching sessions.

The program was enhanced by the appointment of several Monash students who served as ambassadors to the Saudi visits ensuring a rich academic and cultural experience, in addition to the provision of peer support and friendship during the teaching sessions.

General Practitioners from Shenzhen

2018 was also the year when our teaching team was joined by colleagues in General Practice from Shenzhen, China who also came to observe and participate in our teaching program.
YEAR 5D

For the first time, General Practice has been included as a placement choice for students either as an Elective or a Specialty block. This change allows students to experience a further 6 weeks in the specialty with increasing responsibility, in preparation for their role as junior doctors.

Dr. Floyd Gomes, Dr Clement Lau and colleagues at Atticus Health supervised the students 4 days each week, when on placement. The teaching team in the Department mentored the students on the remaining day to assist them to develop skills in medical education. Feedback has been positive with a further trial planned for 2019.

STUDENT ORGANISATIONS

The Department of General Practice strongly supports student-led organisations, contributing to their events during the year.

The Monash University branch of the General Practice Student Network (GPSN) club has enjoyed fantastic success in 2018. This is an organisation which promotes and nurtures awareness and interest of the specialty of General Practice amongst the student cohort. The following are a selection of events involving collaboration between GPSN and the Department of General Practice.

GP CAREER’S EVENING

This event was combined with the Department of General Practice’s summer research scholarship presentation. Everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed it, and there was great feedback on the speakers who generously gave up their time that evening to attend. Both the fascinating research done by the students and the many anecdotes told by the GPs ignited the passion for general practice in many of the students. Special thanks to Dr Karyn Alexander, Dr Alison Brown, Dr Pallavi Prathivadi and Dr Floyd Gomes for making the career’s section of the night so memorable.

GP PROCEDURAL SKILLS EVENING

Another event supported by the Department of General Practice was the GPSN Monash procedural skills evening – a definite highlight for the 60 clinical students who attended. With the help of final year students, three stations were conducted on the night, giving students a taste of skills in ophthalmology, otology, wound care and suturing. The GPSN thanks the Department for providing ophthalmoscopes, otoscopes, suture kits and sutures, as well as Dr Alison Brown who helped to supervise the event.
OUR TEACHING STAFF

Top Row (L-R)
- Professor Danielle Mazza
- Emeritus Prof John Murtagh AM
- A/Professor Claire Harrison
- Ms Claudette Gerreyn
- Ms Marion Daniels
- Dr Nadida Kachkouche

Second Row (L-R)
- Dr Cathy Grech
- A/Professor Craig Hassed
- Clin. A/Prof Sanjiva Wijesinha
- Dr Andy Morgan
- Dr Ian Chenoworth
- Dr Ann Drillich

Third Row (L-R)
- Dr Cicily Nesbit
- Dr Jennifer Neil
- Professor Grant Russell
- Dr Phillip Feren
- Dr Ron Schweitzer
- Professor Leon Piterman

Bottom Row (L-R)
- Dr Philippa Corby
- Dr Michael Mrozinski
- Dr David Oberklaid
- Dr Paki Rizakis
- Dr Emily Chen
This annual event is held to celebrate the achievements of the academic and clinical teaching staff over the preceding year and to recognise the importance of our partnerships within the community and hospital sector, in the education of our future doctors.

A highlight of the night was the opportunity to listen to our guest speaker, Dr Bastian Seidel, President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

A presentation from Ms Sheree Deng from the General Practice Students Network was also well received as was a video from the student cohort, expressing appreciation for their clinical supervisors.

AWARDS

GP PRACTICE TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Top Row (L-R)
Dr Dan Jeyaseelan
Monbulk Clinic
Dr Praba Ratnarajah
Blackburn Clinic
Dr Anthony Chiu
Sheehans Medical Centre
Dr Mrin Nayagam
Village Clinic, Mount Eliza

Bottom Row (L-R)
Dr Frank Kabourakis
Dovecare Medical Centre
Dr Tony Atkins
Berwick Healthcare
Dr Irmgard Chia
Select Medical Group
Ms Angela Irving
(Award accepted by Dr Hilton in Ms Irving’s absence)
Bay Street Family Medical Centre
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Dr Les Segal
Department of General Practice
Monash University

STUDENT AWARDS

Mr Julian Nithuanandan (left)
Eastern Victorian GP Training Prize
and Mr Sarthak Tandon (right)
Belinda Farrell Community Medicine Prize
The Department of General Practice in collaboration with the Monash Institute for Health and Clinical Education were honoured to present the 40th anniversary of the John Murtagh Update Course for general practitioners. This significant milestone was marked with stellar program and, as always, a wonderful opportunity for general practitioners to gather together to learn from topic experts on issues central to the practice of medicine.

Emeritus Professor John Murtagh AM guided the planning for this year’s special course with a speaker list derived from past participant recommendations, as well as from our Update Course Committee.

**TOPICS AND PRESENTERS**

**Professor Danielle Mazza**  
A potpourri of topical women’s health issues

**A/Professor Claire Harrison**  
Learning and teaching common eye and ENT conditions

**Dr Alex Voskoboinik**  
Update in management of common arrhythmias

**Emeritus Professor John Murtagh**  
40 years of highlights and clinical pearls

**A/Professor Carolyn Arnold**  
Pain management update. Safe prescribing of opioids?

**Dr Marcus Robertson**  
Gastroenterology update: hepatitis A, B and C

**Dr Sharon Marks**  
A practical approach to the management of obesity

**Professor Peter Ebeling**  
Update in management of osteoporosis

**Adj Clin Professor Simon Craig**  
Management of childhood emergencies

**Dr Johnathan Cohen**  
Travel health update

**Professor Alan Cheng**  
Update in infectious diseases: emerging infections

**A/Professor Geoff Sussman**  
The skin: management of wounds: new developments in skin ulcers

**Dr Stella Heley**  
The new national cervical screening program: how are you travelling?

**Dr Melanie Walker**  
Clinical approach to breast lumps: update in breast cancer
The China GP Leadership Training Program, conducted through the Monash Institute of Health and Clinical Education (MIHCE) and the Department of General Practice is now in its eighth year. The Program grew in 2018 with an intake of 33 GPs, 20 attending for 3 months from June-September and 13 attending from September-December. Most of the GPs come from Shenzhen with an intake of 10 doctors from the Longhua District of Shenzhen. The reputation of the program is growing so there is now interest from other provinces in China. We conducted workshops in Shenzhen (March 2018) and in Wenzhou (October 2018).

As China transitions from a hospital driven health system to a primary care driven system, Monash’s role training GP leaders is considered pivotal. So far, over 220 GPs have participated in the program which includes seminars, workshops, clinical placements in 15 GP practices, visits to hospitals, aged care and community health facilities, the RACGP and GP Training Program (EVGPTP) and, Monash’s Centre for Rural Health in Bendigo.

There is a strong emphasis on chronic disease management in the program as this is emerging as a major contributor to the burden of disease in China as their community ages. A special feature of the program since it has grown from a 7-week to a 13-week placement is training in research methods with each GP developing a research project which they can implement in their clinic. In keeping with the academic objectives of the program, we were guest editors of the February edition of the Chinese Journal of Family Medicine and Community Health which included an editorial as well as 5 other papers (referenced in the Publications section). Most recently, Dr Hui Yang has been appointed editor of the Chinese Journal of General Practice.

We are grateful to all the staff in the Department of General Practice who have contributed to the program, in particular:

- Joanna Han and Mary Fisher
- staff from Monash Health
- RACGP, and other agencies
- GPs in private practice including A/ Professor Grant Blashki who have hosted our Chinese colleagues
- Professors Shane Thomas and Colette Browning who laid the foundations and continue to teach in the program.

Professor Leon Piterman AM,
Dr Hui Yang, China GP Training Program
Director, China GP Training Manager
ACADEMIC SEMINAR SERIES

Each week the Department hosts an academic seminar series featuring leaders in research and education innovation. The seminar series are held every Wednesday at the Department of General Practice Notting Hill Campus and are open to all staff, students and stakeholders to attend.

The series covers a variety of topics pertaining to primary care, general practice and intersections between health care and other fields. In 2018, we hosted 20 seminar series with local, interstate and international presenters. Some of the visiting academics included:

A/Professor Christopher Carter  
Northwest Melbourne Primary Health Network  
Presented on challenges and opportunities in a changing environment.

Professor Nellie Georgiou-Karistianis  
Associate Dean of Graduate Research  
Presented on graduate research vision, strategies, initiatives and completion metrics across the Faculty Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

Professor Graham Meadows  
Department of Psychiatry, Monash University  
Presented on the PULSAR (Principles Unite Local Services Assisting Recovery) project.

A/Professor Duncan Mortimer  
Centre for Health Economics, Monash Business School  
Presented on the effect of ‘smart’ financial incentives on driving behaviour of novice drivers.

Cathy Wilmott  
Monash Institute Cognitive & Clinical Neurosciences  
Presented on head impacts biomechanics in detection and management of concussion in Australian football.

Danny Vadasz  
Health Issues Centre  
Presented on the work of the Health Issues Centre and capacity to engage with consumers.

Prof Colin Bradley  
University College Cork  
Presented on problematic prescribing in general practice: research on reasons and devising responses.

Dr Kevin McGeechan  
Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney  
Presented on three descriptive studies: heavy menstrual bleeding, abortion law reform and obesity.
INTERNATIONAL

European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health, Budapest, Hungary, May

Mazza D, McCarthy E and Singh N. Barriers and facilitators to the delivery and uptake of long acting reversible contraception: what are the views of GPs? Poster.

2018 Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research Conference, Montreal, Canada, May

Russell G, on behalf of the OPTIMISE Partnership Team. OPTIMISE: early findings from an intervention designed to improve the accessibility and quality of primary care delivered to refugees in Australia. Oral paper presentation.

The Society for Academic Primary Care 47th Annual Scientific Meeting, London, United Kingdom, July


Mazza D, McCarthy E, Singh N, Carey M, Turner L and Harris M. “90% of the time it’s not just weight.” Oral paper presentation

Russell G, on behalf of the OPTIMISE Partnership Team. Can a practice facilitation intervention improve primary care delivery to refugees in Australia? Early findings from the OPTIMISE project. Oral paper presentation.

17th World Congress on Pain, Boston, United States, September

Flehr A, Gibson S, Barton C, Dixon J. #MindinBody: investigating persistent pain levels from a psychobiological perspective. Poster.

Flehr A, Gibson S, Barton C, Dixon J. #Mindinbody: an RCT of persistent pain from a psychobiological perspective, using vigorous exercise to improve persistent pain in women with a history of trauma. Poster.

North American Forum on Family Planning, New Orleans, United States, October


5th International Conference on Family Planning, Kigali, Rwanda, November


Kunin M, Dionne E, Scott C, Lewis V, Li Z, Gunatilleka N and Russell G. Family physicians’ (FPs) perception of vulnerable patients’ barriers to access primary care and on the way these barriers are addressed in family practice. Oral paper presentation.


Spooner C, Levesque J-F, Lewis V, Russell G, Stocks N and Harris M. Properties of a provider questionnaire of access to primary health care by vulnerable groups. Poster
4th International Healthcare Reform Conference, Sydney Australia, March

North Queensland General Practice Return to Work Workshop, Townsville, April

General Practitioners Down Under Conference, Gold Coast, Australia, May/June

Australian and New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators. Hobart, July


Harrison C and Hlavac J. How do we prepare learners to better communicate with patients of limited English proficiency? An inter-professional pilot involving medical and interpreting students. Poster.

Primary Health Care Research Conference, Melbourne, August


Mazza D and McCarthy E. Cost and effectiveness of Facebook recruitment. Oral paper presentation.


Mazza D, McCarthy E, Mansfield E, Bryant J, Waller A, Lin X and Piterman L. Prioritising the national dementia guideline recommendations to facilitate implementation in general practice. Poster.


Epstein D, Mazza D and Barton C. A qualitative evaluation of a novel blended payment system for general practice. Poster.


Perera B Watson C, Mazza D. What can data tell us about GP interconception care?

Watson C and Mazza D. Condom use among women attending general practice. Poster.


Hawes L, Mazza D, Buising K and Turner L. Reasons for antibiotic prescriptions are needed for antimicrobial stewardship in general practice. Poster.

Joint International Society for Clinical Biostatistics and Australian Statistical Conference 2018, Melbourne, August


Interdepartmental Forum on Workplace Mental Health, Melbourne, September


14th Australian Disease Management Association National Conference, Melbourne, September


The Australian and New Zealand Society of Occupational Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting 2018, Melbourne, October


Global Evidence and Implementation Summit, Melbourne, Australia, October


GP18, Gold Coast, Australia, October


Prathivadi P. Qualitative insights into opioid prescribing practices of Victorian GPs. Oral paper presentation.

7th Annual National Health and Medical Research Council Symposium on Research Translation, Melbourne, Australia, November


17th National Conference of Emerging Researchers in Ageing, Melbourne, November

PUBLICATIONS

Books


Book Chapters


Peer-reviewed Publications


van Weel, Renehan Ervin, and Enticott “Home care service utilisation by people with dementia - a retrospective cohort study of community nursing data in Australia” In: Health and Social Care in the Community. IN PRESS


Other publications


FAREWELLS

Dr Ian Chenoweth
Professor Jan Coles
Dr I-Hao Cheng

Dr David Chen
Dr William Kinsella
Dr Brad Frew

Dr Nourulhuda Obaidallah
Ms Brooke Vandenberg
Mrs Pearl Noronha

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to all the staff and students of the Department of General Practice who contributed to the 2018 Annual Report.
REFLECTION ON A CAREER

DR IAN CHENOWETH

My relationship with Monash University’s medical school (and in particular the Department of General Practice) is one of my longest. Now as I bring this relationship to an end, it is natural to reflect on how we shaped each other, and how we changed over that time.

Initially, as an undergraduate student (1971 – 1976), it was about Monash offering me the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes I needed as a medical professional. I think we both performed adequately but not outstandingly. For we were both in transitions – mine to complete my adolescence, and Monash to adjust to student demands and world-wide changes to the pedagogy of medical training.

Next came a period of separation while I completed my post-graduate training (Family Medicine Program, FRACGP) and established myself in general practice. This was soon followed by immersion in the developing HIV epidemic amongst my patients – itself a story of rapid changes in health policy and pharmaceutical research.

It wasn’t long before my relationship with Monash was rekindled, and I enrolled in the first intake of our Department’s Master of Family Medicine. This opened my eyes to the intellectual basis and the vital role of primary medical care. It re-energised me, made me a better GP, and has driven my subsequent involvement in RACGP work and in the Department’s teaching.

Along the way I have enjoyed the collegiality and friendship of so many inspiring members of our Department. I particularly want to acknowledge the mentorship of Professor Leon Piterman, Emeritus Professor John Murtagh, and the current governance and support of Professor Danielle Mazza.

Over more than 20 years, under their watch, I have seen the Department grow and become a diverse organisation of committed and successful professionals.

I would hope I have contributed to the success of our Year 4 program. I am quietly satisfied with the breadth of the materials that I have written or had a hand in developing and delivering. Naturally these are (and will be) refined, changed, and re-imagined by others. Meanwhile our students consistently give us wonderful feedback.

The postgraduate area was challenging and ultimately less successful. The Department is now far less active in this space. But there were many doctors who undertook our units of study, and who expressed their gratitude for that experience. Certainly I, and the postgraduate team raised the standards of our online units, and the knowledge and skills learnt have contributed to the remaining programs.

Finally, I hope that our separation allows us both to go on changing and learning. Both are necessary, and both must be embraced. My deepest thanks go to my teaching colleagues, to Claudette Gerreyn and to Associate Professor Claire Harrison for their friendship and support.