The department is situated on the fourth floor of the Monash Medical School at the Alfred Hospital, Commercial Road, Prahran. It is 5 kilometres south of the central business district of Melbourne and has ready access to the facilities of other clinical departments of the medical school and the Alfred Hospital. The university computer centre provides facilities via landline to the department.

The department's academic staff includes epidemiologists, biostatisticians and consultant physicians with specialty interests in cardiovascular medicine, respiratory medicine, infectious disease and public health.

The department has a strong involvement in public health research directed primarily toward the areas of cardiovascular and respiratory epidemiology, occupational and environmental toxicology and health services research. The department also has established a major role in providing consulting advice for various government departments and is well represented on a large variety of Commonwealth and state government committees.

The main office is located at Monash Medical School, Alfred Hospital, Commercial Road, Prahran, Victoria 3181. Telephone (03) 276 6166, Facsimile (03) 529 8580

Other staff are located at the Unit of Occupational and Environmental Health, Ashley Ricketson Centre, Caulfield General Medical Centre, 260-294 Kooyong Road, Caulfield, Victoria 3162. Telephone (03) 276 6166 (03) 276 6160
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  Profit From What Doctors Tell You
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DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE — ANNUAL REPORT 1993
MEMBERS OF DEPARTMENT — 1993

Head of Department and Professor
John James McNeil MBBS, MSc, PhD, FRACP, FAFPHM

Lecturers and Senior Lecturers
Michael John Abramson, MB BS, BMedSc, PhD, FRACP, FAFPHM, Deputy Head of Department
Rachelle Buchbinder, MB BS, MSc (Clin Epi) FRACP
[Joined 15/6/93 — Previously with Clinical Epidemiology Division, Wellesley Hospital Research Institute, Toronto, Canada.]
Robin Joan Burns, BA, DipEd, MSc, MPH, PhD
[Joined 4/2/93 on Secondment from School of Education, Latrobe University.]
Flavia Maria Cicuttini, MB BS, PhD, FRACP
[Joined 26/7/93 — Previously with Walter and Eliza Hall Institute]
Andrew Benjamin Forbes, BSc(Hons), PhD
Sandra Margaret Gifford, MA, MPH, PhD
[Left to become Principal Research Fellow, Centre for Sexually Transmissible Diseases, Latrobe University.]
David Gordon Goddard, BMedSc, MB BS, DOH, MFOM (RCP) FACOM
Catherine Hamilton, MB BS, BMus, MPH, FACOM
Stephen Brian Harrap, MB BS, PhD, FRACP
Susan Amanda May, BMedSc, BM BS, DRCPG, MRCGP
Sally Louise Paine, BSc(Hons), MPH
[Left for birth of child; now working in U.K.]
Tilman Alfred Ruff, MB BS, FRACP
Thomas Selwood, MB BS, MSc
[Transferred 31/12/93 to Dept of Psychological Medicine, Monash University]
Jennifer Anne Thomson, MB BS(Hons)
[Joined 1/3/93 — Previously studied at Walter and Eliza Hall Institute]

Senior Research Fellow
Kaye Robinson, BA, MSc

Research Fellows
Wendy Alison Fisher, MB BS
Martha Irvine Sinelair, BSc(Hons), PhD
Zilla Yin Har Wong, BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD

NHMRC Neil Hamilton Fairley Fellow
Susan Fay Hurley MPharm, PhC, GradDipHospPharm, PhD

NHMRC Public Health Fellows
Christopher Kincaid Fairley, MB BS, FRACP
Stephen Geoffrey Gourlay, MB BS FRACP
Malcolm Ross Sim, BMedSc, MB BS, MSc, DipOccHyg, PhD, FAFOM, MPOM, FAFPHM

Worksafe Postgraduate Scholar
Nomi Holmes, BSc(Hons), MEH Env Sc

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation Scholar
Jean Forsyth Meaklim BSc MAppSc
Monash Research Scholar
Amanda Thrift, BSc(Hons)

Research Officer
Anthony Marcello Ugioni, BSc(Hons)

Research Assistants
Janis Shirley Driver, BA
Belinda Jane Gourlay, BSc(Hons)
Priscilla Mary Robinson, BSc, RGN, RDN, RVH
Susan Jane Cross

Technical Assistant
Kim Suzanne Zammit, BSc(Hons)
[Joined 8/2/93 — previously studying]

Research Nurses
Katrina Campion, BA, GradDip AppSoc, MA, SRN
[Left 23/4/93 Currently Clinical Research Associate with Glaxo
Pharmaceuticals]
Sarah Gardiner, BSc, SRN
Tracey Marriner, BSc, SRN
Susan Irene Morton, SRN
[Left 30/3/93 for family reasons]
Evelyn Elizabeth O'Donnell, SRN
Virginia Parker, SRN
[Left 5/6/93 for family reasons]
Jane Lesley Pearson, BSc, SRN
[Left 31/12/93 — Currently Clinical Research Associate with Sandoz
Pharmaceuticals]
Judy Christine Snaddon, BA, SRN, SRM
Margaret Susanne Stebbing, DipAppSci(Nursing)
Fiona Mary Williams, SRN, RCCN
[Left 18/11/92 — Currently with Accident Research Centre, Monash Uni]
Janet Marie Wilson, SRN, SRM
Christine Mary Woodburn, SRN, SRM
Hilary Young, BSc(Hons), RGN

Computer Technician
Tom Parker, Assoc Dip Eng Elect (RMIT)

Administrative Staff
Hettie Joan Roberts, Administrative Officer
Carolyn May Barrie, Secretary
Karen Simone Bokser, Secretary
Angela Ganas, Secretary
Nuala Marie Neal, Senior Secretary
[Left 12/11/93 — to become Admin Officer, Department of Community
Medicine, Monash University]
Michelle Ursula Rimmer, Administration Secretary
[Left 31/12/93 Currently Admin Officer, Faculty of Medicine, Monash Uni]
Merril Ann Stanley, Administration Secretary
Lisa Nicole Gould, Secretary
This is the first annual report of the activities of the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine and covers the calendar year 1993. It has been produced in response to an increased requirement for information and accountability from university and faculty administrators and from outside bodies from which we receive funding. Hopefully it will also provide information useful to our broader constituency.

1993 was a successful year for the Department in its teaching, research and service roles. Our staff now includes a strong complement of epidemiologists, biostatisticians, occupational health physicians and consultant physicians with specialty interests in various aspects of public health, epidemiology and clinical research. The department has a strong involvement in research, particularly in the areas of occupational and environmental health, and in clinical epidemiology.

The main focus of the department’s post-graduate activities is the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree course. This is designed to provide comprehensive public-health training for individuals from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds. During the year considerable efforts were put into the planning of a new program to be offered jointly by this department together with the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Melbourne and similar departments at Deakin and Latrobe Universities. This program was awarded increased Commonwealth funding and will succeed the current Monash MPH from 1995.

This and other aspects of the department’s future were discussed at a retreat for senior staff held at Sorrento in June 1993. This two-day event was generously sponsored by ICI and conducted with the invaluable assistance of Mr John Bryan of Esprit Management Services in Sydney. The meeting generally endorsed the department’s present focus on developing its core areas of expertise in epidemiology (especially clinical epidemiology) and occupational / environmental health. In addition, the meeting emphasised the need for the department to support and develop the newer basic science techniques such as those of genetic epidemiology.

At this and other meetings, considerable thought has been given to the competing requirements for breadth versus depth in our education programs and in our overall staff structure. On the one hand we have had an obligation to provide to our students a broad-ranging program in diverse areas ranging from epidemiology to sociology. On the other hand we are unlikely to maintain competitiveness in attracting postgraduate students or research funding without a critical mass of highly trained individuals. Fortunately this dilemma has been helped by the willingness of many of our honorary staff to provide teaching and research supervision in the areas where the necessary expertise is lacking in the department. It will also be helped by the new MPH consortium which will allow four major Victorian Universities to share expertise to a greater extent than has been practised in the past.

Staff changes

1993 saw substantial changes to the staff of the department. At the beginning of the year Sandra Gifford, who joined the department in 1988, left to become Deputy Director and Principal Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases at Latrobe University. Sandy served as MPH Coordinator and her initiative and drive led to a very substantial improvement in the organisation and structure of the MPH program. Her contribution to many other areas of the department’s activities has also been missed. Late in 1992 we farewelled Sally Paine who had spent a year with us as a lecturer before leaving for the UK with her family. Sally made a very major contribution towards our undergraduate and post-graduate teaching in health promotion. In 1993 her position was taken by Dr Amanda May who spent one year in the department while on leave from her position in the UK. Amanda also made a very valuable contribution to our teaching.

During 1993, several of our research nurses and secretarial staff also left. Katrina Campion and Lesley Pearson took up positions as clinical research associates in the pharmaceutical industry, while Fiona Williams left to join the Monash Accident Research Centre. Sue Morton and Valerie Parker left for family reasons. Amongst the secretarial staff, Michelle Rimmer left to become an administrative officer in the Medical Faculty office whilst Nuala Neal left to become an administrative officer in the Department of Community Medicine. All had provided an outstanding contribution to our activities and we wish them well for the future.

During the year we also welcomed several new staff including two new senior lecturers, Rachelle Buchbinder and Flavia Ciucuttini. Rachelle had completed a Masters degree in Clinical
Epidemiology while Flavia had completed a PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. Both have already proven to be major assets to our research and teaching activities.

New Initiatives

The major new teaching initiative during 1993 was the development of a Distance Diploma in Occupational and Environmental Health. This has been coordinated by David Goddard with the assistance of a $100,000 grant from the Monash Development Fund and should be offered for the first time in 1996. Planning is also continuing for a new Diploma in Clinical Epidemiology.

Scholarships and Awards

1993 was a time of considerable achievement, particularly on the part of our PhD students. Steve Gourlay won the 1993 Ralph Reader Fellowship of the National Heart Foundation of Australia. This prestigious fellowship is awarded to the top ranked Australian applicant for an NHF overseas fellowship. NHMRC Neil Hamilton Fairley Fellowships were won by Kit Fairley and Flavia Cicuttini, whilst Malcolm Sim was awarded an extension to his PHRD Fellowship to undertake a year's training at the National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety in Cincinnati.

During the same period PHRDCC scholarships were awarded to Wendy Fisher and Omar Abdulwadud, a new PHRDC Fellowship was awarded to Jenny Thomson and Andrea Hinwood received an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Acknowledgements

An annual report provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the many staff whose contributions have made the department's research and teaching roles possible.

In particular, thanks must go to our administrative / secretarial staff. As the department's senior administrative officer, Joan Roberts's contribution has been of very special significance. Joan has been the backbone of the department and we are all very grateful for her dedication and commitment. The other secretarial staff including Merrill Stanley, Carolyn Barrie, Michelle Rimmer, Angela Ganas, Nuala Neal and Karen Bokser, have also made an outstanding contribution, working long hours and coping with unrealistic deadlines.

Thanks must also go to the department's research nurses and technical staff for their diligent work with our research activities. Their work is stressful and difficult and often conducted outside normal hours and in less than ideal circumstances. Their contribution is of fundamental importance to the department's research activities and is very much appreciated.

Our many colleagues at the Alfred Hospital have provided us with a stimulating environment and many opportunities for collaboration. We are also grateful to our friends in the Department of Medicine who share our cramped conditions and are most congenial neighbours.

Finally I must acknowledge the outstanding support provided by the senior teaching and research staff of the department. All have worked exceptionally hard to maintain the department's activities despite many hardships. The department is fortunate indeed to have people of their calibre.
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

During 1993, the principal activities of the Department have comprised teaching research and community service. In particular the Department has undertaken:

Teaching
- Teaching in first, second, third, fourth and sixth years of the undergraduate medical course;
- Master of Public Health; a program of coursework and minor thesis to be completed full-time or part-time over a period of two to four years;
- Diploma of Occupational Health; two years' part-time course work;
- Short courses in specialised areas of research methodology and occupational health;
- Establishment of distance learning courses;
- Contributions to the teaching programs of other Departments and Institutions;

Research
- Research across the broad spectrum of clinical epidemiology and public health including the areas of cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, toxicology, genetics, occupational and environmental health, public health services, health economics and preventive medicine;
- Supervision of candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy;
- Supervision of candidates for the degree of Master of Public Health;

Service
- Community service including participation in Federal, State and Local Government initiatives, membership of boards and committees, executive duties in professional associations and consultancies.
**FIRST YEAR: HEALTH, ILLNESS AND HUMAN BEHAVIOUR**

The Department of Social & Preventive Medicine makes a substantial contribution to this first year unit which is designed to provide the students with the basic vocabulary and concepts necessary to understand health, illness and human behaviour. Supplementing the core knowledge content, practical sessions develop clinical and communication skills and introduce the students to hospital and emergency departments, rehabilitation settings and first aid.

*Social and Preventive Medicine, Ashley Ricketson Centre, Caulfield General Medical Centre*

**SECOND YEAR: INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS AND EPIDEMIOLOGY**

This course is coordinated by the Department of Social & Preventive Medicine. At the completion of the unit, students will have been taught to:

- interpret statistical information in medical journal articles,
- understand the key aspects of descriptive and analytical epidemiology
- understand the strengths and weaknesses of different epidemiological study designs,
- conduct a small clinical trial, and
- perform simple statistical analyses with Minitab.

The core curriculum includes demography, descriptive and analytical epidemiology, epidemiological study designs, diagnostic and screening tests and statistical applications. The course comprises 18 lectures and 5 tutorials in the first semester of second year. The tutorials include an introduction to Minitab, conducting a small clinical trial and critical appraisal of medical literature.
THIRD YEAR: HEALTH
PROMOTION

The Department of Social and Preventive Medicine has a significant teaching and administrative input to this unit which also involves the Departments of Medicine, Psychological Medicine, Community Medicine, Paediatrics, Pharmacology and Physiology, together with some outside speakers. Lectures given by members of the department include health promotion methods, evaluation of health promotion programs, smoking cessation strategies and presentation of issues to workers in their working environment. In 1992 a new component was introduced to the unit whereby groups of students were asked to become involved in a health promotion project. Outside agencies with an interest in health promotion were asked to provide titles for projects and the work was presented in poster form with an accompanying report. The exercise offered some practical experience in health promotion.

FOURTH YEAR: EVIDENCE BASED MEDICINE, PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE

Evidence based medicine is introduced during the integrated clinical teaching program.

Preventive medicine is taught by lectures, tutorials and student projects. The core projects are: screening for cancer; control of infectious disease; prevention of chronic disease, and preventive aspects of child and maternal health.

Occupational Medicine is taught in a program in which involves a visit to a workplace (usually in manufacturing) and lectures and discussion sessions on WorkCover, work physiology, introductory toxicology and the practice of occupational medicine.

This teaching aims to develop —

• an abiding awareness that work influences health and vice versa;
• a perception of the various roles of doctors in modern occupational health and their interaction with other health professionals and the law;
• a knowledge of the principal broad influences on the practice of occupational health in Victoria;
• a recognition of the interaction of prevention, compensation and rehabilitation;
• an understanding of how to take an occupational history;
• a recognition of some of the more common hazards of workplaces;
• an awareness of the sources of information and misinformation in occupational health; a knowledge of the existence and functions of the Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine, and
• a new view of commonplace tasks and activities.

Assessment in fourth year is by Multiple Choice Questionnaire (MCQ) mid-year and by Objective Structured Clinical Assessment (OSCA) at the end of year.

SIXTH YEAR: PUBLIC HEALTH

This program is presented largely by the Department of Social & Preventive Medicine together with some invited speakers from the Health Department and the Alfred Group of Hospitals. The six week course comprises half day seminars with a short MCQ assessment and evaluation in the final week. The program has been designed to be of direct clinical relevance to final year students and they are encouraged to be interactive and participate in discussion throughout. Topics covered include: public health emergencies; infectious diseases; infectious disease control and notification; occupational risks for health care workers; drugs of abuse; Workcover and certification; working in developing communities and health care costs.
POSTGRADUATE TEACHING

DEGREE OF MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Degree of Master of Public Health was established in 1982, and expanded later in the 80s with Commonwealth (Kerr White) funding to accept candidates with non-medical degrees. The MPH was developed as a vocational degree to enable graduates to work in the broad domain of public health. The overall aim of the course is to assist students to develop an appropriate mix of quantitative, analytical and communicative skills for the practice of public health.

The course can be undertaken in a minimum of 2 years full-time or 3—4 years part-time. Most students elect part-time study. It is also possible to take the course on an 'accelerated part time' basis which means that a student may enrol for more than 2 units per semester.

Each MPH subject comprises 28 hours of teaching over a 14 week semester. Each subject attracts 0.125 points and a total of 2 points are needed to complete the course.

The Monash MPH is recognised by the Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine (AFOM) as approved coursework for Associate Membership of the College. Medical graduates who wish to obtain this qualification must complete the subjects in the occupational health stream of the course.

Student Enrolments

A statistical summary is shown in the following table. In 1993 there were 32 applicants, 17 of whom were accepted into the course. Of the 17 successful applicants 2 opted to undertake full time study. There were 14 female and 3 male students from various professional backgrounds.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolment Categories</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of applicants for 1993 courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New enrolments for 1993 courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Background: Medicine</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other health</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total no. of students enrolled:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 1993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-1993 (inclusive)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Completed requirements for award:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>In 1993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-1993 (inclusive)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>47</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of students changing courses in 1993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MPH Subjects

In the first year, all students must enrol in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Principles and Practice of Public Health and Epidemiological Research Methods. After the first year, students may elect to enrol in the Occupational Health or Public Health streams each of which have both compulsory and core subjects and electives. Students usually undertake the MPH project in the fourth year (second year full-time). In the second and third years, part-time students follow one of two streams, General Public Health or Occupational Health.

Students enrolled in one stream may take, as an elective, a core subject from the other stream.

Units offered in 1993 were:

First Year

General Public Health Stream
Occupational Health Stream

Epidemiology and Biostatistics
Principles and Practice of Public Health
Epidemiological Research Methods

Co-ordinator
Dr A Forbes
Dr R Burns
Dr A Forbes

Second Year

General Public Health Stream
Public Health Administration
Environmental and Communicable Hazards
Elective
Elective

Co-ordinator
Dr T Selwood
Dr T Ruff

Occupational Health Stream

Legal and Management Aspects of Occupational Health
Ergonomics
Disease Prevention and Rehabilitation
Elective

Dr P Giles
Dr P Giles
Dr P Giles

Third Year

General Public Health Stream
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
Public Health Project Part A
Elective
Elective

Co-ordinator
Dr R Burns
Prof J McNeil

Occupational Health Stream
Toxicology I
Occupational Hygiene
Special Topics in Occupational Health
Elective

Co-ordinator
Dr D Fish
Dr D Fish
Dr D Fish

Fourth Year

General Public Health Stream
Occupational Health Stream

Public Health Project Part B

Elective Subjects

Economics of Health Care
Special Topics in Public Health
Medical Demography
Advanced Epidemiology
Public Health and Women's Health
Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Advanced Toxicology
Diseases of Occupation
International Health
THE MPH SOCIETY

The MPH Society was formed in 1988 to provide a forum for MPH students to meet socially and also to provide a structure for academic support and discussion. The Society has representatives on the MPH Advisory Board and MPH Staff meetings which allows for feedback from students on matters affecting the course. During 1993 the Society arranged several social functions with invited speakers in the public and occupational health fields.

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

The MPH Advisory Board comprised the following and met twice during 1993.

Professor R Porter
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Dr GF Cross,
Dept Microbiology,
Alfred Hospital

Dr R Marks
Dept of Medicine,
St Vincent's Hospital

Dr P Graves
Dept Paediatrics
Monash Medical Centre

Professor C Selby-Smith
Graduate School of Management
Monash University

Ms M Bowman
Dept Community Services and Health

Mr A Hughes
The Victorian Hospitals' Assoc Ltd

Professor M Wahlqvist
Dept of Medicine
Monash Medical Centre

Professor JJ McNeil,
Head Dept of Social & Preventive Medicine,
Monash University

Dr G Rouch
Health Department Victoria

Dr LN Walsh
Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators

Dr C Castle
Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine

Dr T Ruff
MPH Co-ordinator
Dept Social & Preventive Medicine

Dr A Laslett
Student Representative

Dr E M Willis
Dept Sociology & Anthropology
LaTrobe University

Dr T Selwood
Dept Social & Preventive Medicine
Monash University
# Student Projects — Master of Public Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANDREWS, Ross</td>
<td>Immunization rates: are they accurate?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASHTON, Vicki</td>
<td>5-year follow-up of a group of women diagnosed with occupational overuse syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARNARD, Dominique</td>
<td>Explaining caesarean section in terms of ethnic differences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYNES, Michael</td>
<td>Hand vibration injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOLTON, Jim</td>
<td>Prevalence of post traumatic stress disorder in Vietnam Veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRUTON, Joan</td>
<td>Opportunistic health promotion in general practice — myth or reality. Responses to five cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COCHRANE, Lisa</td>
<td>Use of bilingual skills in direct patient care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOPER, Monica</td>
<td>Pregnancy outcomes with normal conception vs. artificial donor insemination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROCKETT, Sue</td>
<td>The knowledge, attitude and practice of turkish men living in Victoria toward family planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRITCH, Neville</td>
<td>Cross-sectional survey of respiratory function measurements in medical students exposed to formaldehyde in a gross anatomy laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURTIS, Moyneen</td>
<td>A community health needs assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOBBIN, Malcolm</td>
<td>Smoking cessation intervention: attitudes and practices of Victorian general practitioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLYNN, Joanna</td>
<td>Patient management in general practice: responses to five case vignettes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHERARDIN, Tony</td>
<td>Coronary artery disease — risk factors amongst cocos malays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GILLIES, Ross</td>
<td>Medication and the various age groups post 60 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOSS, Lloyd</td>
<td>The significance of coliform organisms in the water supply of Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEAD, Carol</td>
<td>General practitioners and family violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITSIPOULOS, Catherine</td>
<td>Patient's perception of quality of care at Alfred Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEYS-BROWN, Janet</td>
<td>Maternal and child health visits in the first two years of life in Prahran, Victoria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LASLETT, Anne-Marie</td>
<td>Patient satisfaction amongst users of the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLETON, David</td>
<td>Comparison of accident rates and time loss of ergonomic redesign productivity between original products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILES, Gail</td>
<td>Characteristics of Royal District Nursing Service clients with diabetes and their use of the diabetic teaching program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONTGOMERY, Janice</td>
<td>Diet as a risk factor for non insulin dependent diabetes (niddm) in Papua New Guinea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MYLES, Paul</td>
<td>Cessation of smoking following audio tape suggestion during anaesthesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAGEL, Peter</td>
<td>Hospital discharge and continuity of care: a study of outcomes for parents of children with chronic illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIXON, Rosemary</td>
<td>Occupational skin disease from epoxy resin compounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O'TOOLE, Michael</td>
<td>Analysis of work injuries in a motor car manufacturing plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARNELL, Bruce</td>
<td>Why are some homosexually active men still practising unsafe sex?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAULSON, Therese</td>
<td>Vietnamese women and rubella: a seroprevalence study of immunity to rubella and a survey of knowledge and attitudes to rubella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POMEROY, Sylvia</td>
<td>Barriers to purchasing food in two Melbourne metropolitan areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPPENBEEK, Ralph</td>
<td>A statistical analysis of repetitive strain injuries to the upper limbs — with special attention to patient profile, diagnosis and treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RASSABY, Judith</td>
<td>Quality of life in adult asthma — A community based survey</td>
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<td>SARGEANT, Michael</td>
<td>Cardiovascular risk factors in Victoria police</td>
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<td>THOMPSON, Sandy</td>
<td>The role of sunscreens in the prevention and treatment of solar keratoses and non-melanocytic skin cancer — a community based study</td>
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<tr>
<td>TONUMA, Maie</td>
<td>Feasibility of a genital herpes surveillance program</td>
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<tr>
<td>VALLANCE, Deborah</td>
<td>Comprehensibility of material safety data sheets</td>
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<td>WARD-CURRAN, Margaret</td>
<td>Survey of migraine in medical students/nurses</td>
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<td>WATT, Graeme</td>
<td>An overview of injuries sustained by Victorian adolescent and young adults during the late 1980s</td>
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<td>WEBLEY, Carole</td>
<td>Obstetric care in rural Victoria</td>
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<td>WESTGARTH, Lorna</td>
<td>Genital chlamydial infections: A survey of the diagnosis and management practices of general practitioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOODRUFF, Ian</td>
<td>Client attitudes to HIV/AIDS services available at a major Melbourne teaching hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOODS, Rosalie</td>
<td>Assessment of asthma knowledge of Australian dietitians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
OTHER POST GRADUATE TEACHING

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

The Graduate Diploma in Occupational Health is a fee-paying postgraduate course open to medical and other graduates in the health sciences. It is designed to provide broad training in the principles and practice of occupational health, the co-ordinator is Dr David Goddard. GradDipOccH students who have completed the course may apply to upgrade to the Master of Public Health degree. This would require the completion of a further part-time year of the course and a research project. Students doing this would be required to relinquish their GradDipOccH. The Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine has endorsed the GradDipOccH as an approved course for the purposes of the College training program. The course is also endorsed by the RACGP Quality Assurance and Continuing Education Program. The course is usually completed part-time over two years but may be completed full-time (two afternoons per week) over one year. Epidemiology in Occupational Health is run as a 5 day short course.

First year units:
- Epidemiology in Occupational Health
- Legal and Management Aspects of Occupational Health
- Diseases of Occupation
- Ergonomics
- Rehabilitation and Disease Prevention

Second Year Units
- Toxicology I
- Advanced Toxicology
- Occupational Hygiene
- Current Topics in Occupational Health

Student Enrolments

A statistical summary of enrolments is shown in the following data:

Twenty applications were received for 1993, 14 of whom were accepted into the program. Twelve students enrolled on a part-time basis whilst 2 students opted for full-time studies. The 9 male and 5 female students attended the same teaching units as the MPH Occupational Health stream students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enrolment Categories</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Full-time</th>
<th>Part-time</th>
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<tr>
<td>No. of applicants for 1993 courses</td>
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<td>New enrolments for 1993 courses</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total no. of students enrolled:</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In 1993</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>1987-1983 (inclusive)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1987-1983 (inclusive)</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of students changing courses in 1993</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BY DISTANCE EDUCATION

In late 1992 the Department received a grant from the Monash Development Fund to establish the Graduate Diploma in Occupational and Environmental Health by Distance Education. A survey was undertaken to assess the need and demand for this type of course and approximately 200 'Expressions of Interest' were received. Throughout 1993 much preliminary work was done for the planned commencement date of 1995.

DIPLOMA IN EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS

This diploma, which will commence in 1994, is being established due to the demand for training by clinicians in epidemiological methods. It is being designed as a useful option for those who receive funding to undertake a one year full time course. As with the Graduate Diploma in Occupational Health, the teaching will involve the completion of 8 epidemiologically or statistically orientated units from amongst those provided for the MPH degree.
SHORT COURSES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AUSTRALIAN CERTIFICATE OF CIVIL AVIATION MEDICINE

The Department of Social and Preventive Medicine and the Department of Physiology presented the Australian Certificate of Civil Aviation Medicine course twice in 1993, one course being held in February and the other in June-July. This two-week course is designed as an introduction for medical practitioners to the medical aspects of civil aviation in Australia and satisfies the Australian Civil Aviation Authority's requirements for basic training of designated Aviation Medical Examiners. Demand for the course is high and no places are left unfilled.

The aim of each course is to provide a basic knowledge in civil aviation medicine. Medical practitioners successfully completing the course are eligible to apply to the Civil Aviation Authority for designation as an Aviation Medical Examiners (DAME). Each course is restricted to approximately 20 participants due to the number of practical external activities which include hypobaric experience at the Point Cook RAAF base, visits to the Air Traffic Service and airline simulators at Tullamarine and week-end cockpit observation flights with Ansett and Australian Airlines. In 1992 forty-three participants completed the requirements for the certificate. The examination consists of 65 Multiple Choice Questions covering all topics. The course concludes with the presentation of certificates on the final day.

This course was designed for occupational health and safety practitioners required to keep up-to-date with epidemiological research in the scientific literature.

PROFIT FROM WHAT DOCTORS TELL YOU

This three-day course held in May, 1993 was designed for non-medical staff employed to manage claims for accident compensation and related areas. The cost-effective management of accident compensation claims relies upon obtaining the right medical information and using it skilfully.

QUALITATIVE METHODS IN HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Twenty-seven participants attended this five-day course in June, 1993. It was designed for health professionals working in community health agencies, and for those responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating primary care and health promotion programmes.

EPIDEMIOLOGY IN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Twenty-eight participants attended this five-day course in February 1993. The course is shared with students in the first unit of the Graduate Diploma in Occupational Health. At the conclusion of the course, participants were expected to be competent and confident in epidemiological principles and basic statistics.

MANAGING NOISE AT WORK

The Department of Social and Preventive Medicine, in conjunction with the Department of Mechanical Engineering, presented this course in November, 1993 following the introduction of the Victorian Government's new Noise Regulations which came into effect on 1 July 1992. Twenty-eight participants involved in occupational health and safety from manufacturing industry and statutory authorities took part in this three-day course.
Malcolm Sim
Subject: Origin of organochlorine insecticides in the breast milk of Victorian women
Supervisor: Prof J McNeil

Christopher Fairley
Subject: Human Papilloma Virus and Cervical Cancer
Supervisors: Prof J McNeil
Dr M Abramson

Steve Gourlay
Subject: Assessment of pharmacological therapies for smoking cessation
Supervisor: Prof J McNeil

Noni Holmes
Subject: Perception of risk in different cultural groups
Supervisor: Dr S Gifford

Jean Meaklim
Subject: Risk assessment of fumigants used for insect control
Supervisor: Prof J McNeil

Chris Reid
Subject: Risk reduction in cardiovascular disease
Supervisors: Prof J McNeil
Prof G Jennings

Omar Abdulwadud
Subject: The efficacy of asthma education
Supervisor: Dr M Abramson
Prof E Walters

Amanda Thrift
Subject: Case-control study of risk factors for cerebral infarction
Supervisor: Prof J McNeil
Prof G Donnan
**Research in Progress**

**The efficacy of oral beta-carotene for human papillomavirus infection**

**NH&MRC PHRDC Research project grant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>CK Fairley</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>$52,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JJ McNeil</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>$50,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM Garland*</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>$50,257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Department of Microbiology, Royal Women's Hospital*

Cancer of the cervix is the sixth most common cancer in Australian women and is responsible for over 300 deaths annually. Many further women receive treatment for a precursor condition, cervical dysplasia. Evidence is accumulating that environmental agents may be extremely important in the aetiology of the disease. These agents include the human papillomavirus, smoking, low socioeconomic status and low dietary intakes of certain micronutrients, especially vitamin A and/or beta-carotene. This project plans to assess the effect of dietary beta-carotene on cervical HPV infection through a double-blind placebo-controlled trial, with a 12 month intervention phase and prolonged follow up of 3 years. Should this project show a beneficial effect of beta-carotene on this condition, it will allow a therapeutic intervention for the treatment of this condition. Should beta-carotene effect any of the secondary endpoints (e.g. DNA copy numbers) it will guide the direction and time frame of future research in the area.

**Cost-effectiveness analysis of selected aids prevention strategies**

**COMMONWEALTH AIDS RESEARCH GRANTS Research project grant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount ($)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S Hurley</td>
<td>1992</td>
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<tr>
<td>J Kaldor*</td>
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<tr>
<td>J Carlin**</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$14,807</td>
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<td>J Spicer***</td>
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<tr>
<td>D Spielman***</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>J Hey****</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research
** Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit, Royal Children's Hospital
*** Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Alfred Hospital
**** Clinical Research Department, Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital

The study aims to determine the treatment services used by adults with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection and estimate the lifetime direct costs of infection and to estimate the cost per case of HIV infection avoided and the cost per life-year saved associated with three prevention strategies, namely prenatal screening, needle-syringe exchange programmes for intravenous drug users and hospital infection control precautions.

**Health risk assessment of fumigants used for insect control in the grain industry**

**VICTORIAN HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION Research project grant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>J Meaklim</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>$26,287</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1994</td>
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The project aims to test the hypothesis that phosphine, a widely-used grain fumigant, is carcinogenic in users. Information is collected by questionnaire and interview from subjects occupationally exposed to phosphine in the Victorian stautory grain-handling authority and professional fumigation industry. Next of kin are interviewed for deceased subjects. Data include exposure to phosphine, other fumigants and other pesticides, other relevant chemicals, tobacco and alcohol exposure and medical history. Names of subjects will be searched against the Victorian Cancer Register (with consent) and the Victorian Death Register. Victorian grain farmers are surveyed to establish the population currently and previously using phosphine, and important confounding exposures. The pilot study aims to determine if the quality of information available justifies proceeding with a larger-scale study covering other sector fumigant-users, especially farmers.
Prevention of coronary heart disease: The Victorian family heart study

VICTORIAN HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION
Research program grant
SB Harrap 1991 : $233,000
ZYH Wong 1992 : $188,000
1993 : $197,000
1994 : $206,000
1995 : $214,000

The Victorian Family Heart Study is an investigation into the genetic causes of coronary heart disease. It is aimed at defining genetic markers associated with coronary risk factors such as blood pressure, cholesterol, fibrinogen and weight. We aim to recruit 2000 families from the general community in Victoria. Our project involves extracting and analysing DNA from blood obtained from these families. In total, about 6000 individual DNA samples will be collected and analysed. Molecular techniques being used are restriction enzyme digestion, gel electrophoresis and DNA hybridization. PCR-based genotyping methods are also used to define useful genetic markers for the fibrinogen, apolipoprotein B and glucocorticoid receptor genes. Markers for other candidate genes, including the angiotensin converting enzyme and angiotensinogen genes will be developed in the future. The availability of suitable genetic markers will allow tests of the role of these genes in cardiovascular risk in our population.

A study of risk factors for cerebral haemorrhage

VICTORIAN HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION
Research program grant (Administered through Austin Hospital)
G Donnan* 1992 : $85,000
JJ McNeil 1993 : $85,000

* Department of Neurology, Austin Hospital, Heidelberg

This case-control study involving 332 patients with CT-proven intracerebral haemorrhage (ICH) aims to determine (i) whether the intake of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and aspirin, and/or (ii) whether cigarette smoking, are associated with an increased risk of ICH. The US Physician's Health Study suggests that aspirin may be associated with increased haemorrhagic strokes. Although this finding was not statistically significant, in view of the widespread use of these drugs, the role of such agents as risk factor for ICH needs investigation. Smoking is thought to cause damage to small perforating vessels of the brain, and since the most common mechanism of ICH is possible hypertensive lipohyalinotic damage to these vessels, it is likely that smoking may predispose to cerebral haemorrhage. Ascertainment of prior risk exposure is made by administration of a questionnaire to the patient or next of kin, and an age and sex matched control containing validated questions related to smoking, alcohol consumption, physical activity, drug use and previous illnesses. Medication use is validated by reviewing prescribing records held by the subjects' doctors.

Effect of gender, age and ethnicity on the effectiveness of analgesic treatment

ALFRED HOSPITAL
Research grant
P Robinson 1993/94 : $22,000
A Ugoni
G Koutroulis

A body of literature exists which indicates that although men and women experience a new pain stimulus in the same way, analgesic treatment is not equally administered, even when allowing for the reduced amount of pain relief women are considered to need because of differences in body size and metabolism; women get less analgesia but more psychotropic drugs than men. In addition, other studies have noted less analgesic treatment for older people, and for people from non-English speaking backgrounds. This one-year study investigates the analgesic treatments prescribed and administered to matched pairs of women and men admitted to the Alfred Hospital (during 1990-92). The operative procedures of interest are appendectomy and coronary artery bypass graft (graft site matched).
Cost-effectiveness evaluation of recombinant and plasma derived Factor VIII for the treatment of haemophilia A

COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
Contract Grant
JJ McNeil 1992 : $52,804
MM Sinclair 1993 : $52,804

Haemophilia A results from a deficiency in the essential blood clotting protein, Factor VIII, and is inherited in a sex linked manner affecting 1 in 10,000 males. To date this disease has been treated with injections of Factor VIII protein extracted from human plasma, however the human Factor VIII gene has now been cloned into animal cell lines and the recombinant product has been approved for clinical use in the USA. This study is investigating aspects of the costs and benefits of the new product in comparison to other forms of therapy.

A pilot study to monitor incidents during endoscopic procedures in Australia

COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
Contract grant
JJ McNeil 1993 : $49,870
G Lockrey 1994 : $49,870
P Desmond
R Smallwood**
R King***

* Department of Gastroenterology, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne
** Department of Medicine, Repatriation Hospital, University of Melbourne
*** Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Endoscopic procedures, under sedation, are increasingly being used for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes in this country. Australian data on the incidence of adverse events is currently not available, and, given the differences in professional education and procedural methodology, it is not likely that international data can be applied to this country. Quality assurance activity has traditionally focused on adverse outcomes. This study is designed to look more at the processes behind adverse events to improve understanding of the reasons why such events occur. This study is a prospective, two year study of the incidence and nature of potential and adverse events during or after three common gastroenterological procedures: gastroscopy, colonoscopy, endoscopic cholangiopancreatography.

Determination of risk factors for the development of augmentin associated jaundice

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
Contract grant
J Thomson 1993 : $20,000
JJ McNeil
CK Fairley
A Forbes
P Purcell*
P Desmond**

* Adverse Drug Reaction Section, Department of Health, Housing and Community Services
** Department of Gastroenterology, St Vincent's Hospital

The aim of this study is to identify those risk factors predisposing to the development of augmentin associated jaundice using a case-control approach. Cases have been defined as patients developing jaundice within 8 weeks of ceasing Augmentin, with biochemical test results suggesting cholestasis, with normal calibre bile ducts and no exposure to other recognised hepatotoxic drugs. Cases will be identified by reports to the adverse drug reactions committee from Melbourne and Sydney, and through reports from gastroenterologists in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Controls for each case have been defined as patients prescribed Augmentin but who did not develop jaundice and these will be obtained by randomly selecting from the patient register of the prescribing doctor for an identified case. In order for the study to have sufficient power, 4 controls will be recruited for every identified case, at least 50 cases will be required. It is proposed to analyse the collected data, including demographic characteristics, medical history, indications for treatment with Augmentin, dose, route and duration of treatment, other drugs, smoking and previous drug allergies or use of Augmentin, to identify risk factors for the development of Augmentin jaundice.
A randomised clinical trial of transdermal nicotine in smokers

CIBA-GEIGY PTY LTD
Contract grant
S Gourlay 1992 : $290,000
JJ McNeil 1993 : $140,697
1994 : $65,889

This clinical trial is examining the efficacy of transdermal nicotine therapy to promote smoking cessation. Phase I (1500 smokers) is an open study of 12 weeks of decreasing nicotine doses (4 weeks 21 mg/day, 4 weeks 14 mg/day, 4 weeks 7 mg/day). Successful quitters are then followed for 3-4 months. It aims to provide the subject population for Phase II, a randomised, double-blind, placebo controlled study of an identical course of treatment for those who relapse to smoking during Phase I.

Phase I has several secondary aims including: safety and tolerability assessment; identification of the characteristics of smokers predicting “success” (response to therapy) or “failure”; development of a simple clinical tool for assessing nicotine dependence; nicotine and cotinine levels during transdermal nicotine therapy (the degree to which the patches replace prequit levels), and weight and blood pressure changes following smoking cessation. Phase II commenced in July 1992. 700 subjects commenced their second quit attempt and the six month follow-up will be complete in May 1994. The primary end-point is the difference in proportions of quitters between active and placebo treatment groups at 12 weeks (end of treatment). Week 26 results constitute a secondary end-point.

Dose response characteristics of Ro 40-5967 in the presence of Hydrochlorothiazide in patients with mild to moderate hypertension

L HOFFMAN LA ROCHE LTD
Contract grant
J McNeil 1993 : $30,000
M Sinclair 1994 : $30,000

This is a double blind, randomised, placebo controlled trial of a new calcium antagonist for the treatment of mild to moderate hypertension. The trial was designed to assess the efficacy of the new agent (Ro 40-5967) alone and in combination with a commonly used diuretic drug. This department was one of 20 centres taking part in this international multi-centre study. The project commenced in April 1993 and the trial will be completed in August 1994.
**NEW RESEARCH PROJECTS FUNDED IN 1993**

**Prevention of cataract in the elderly with low dose aspirin and vitamin E**

**NH&MRC PHRDC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT**

<table>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Department of Ophthalmology, Royal Eye and Ear Hospital, University of Melbourne  
** Department of General Practice, Flinders University, South Australia

Cataract accounts for half of all blindness worldwide and more than one million operations (for cataract removal) each year in the United States at a cost of more than 5 billion dollars. Recent studies in animals have suggested that the formation of cataracts may reflect the oxidation of components of the lens. The present study will involve the randomisation of approximately one thousand persons with evidence of early cataract development. Half of these will receive daily treatment with vitamin E and the other half will receive placebo. The condition of the lens in all participants will be documented at enrollment and at yearly intervals during the study using specialized photographic techniques. After four years, the progress of lens damage in both groups will be compared. It is anticipated that this study will indicate whether or not vitamin E can slow cataract development.

**Comparison of lead levels in the breast milk of rural and urban women**

**NH&MRC PHRDC SMALL GRANT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR Sim</td>
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The question of magnitude and source of lead exposure in early childhood is becoming more pressing as evidence accumulates that current community exposure is associated with a deficit in neurobehavioural development. Effective action to reduce lead levels requires identification of the sources of lead to children. Recent studies have shown the lead content of breast milk from women living in city areas to be significantly elevated compared with that of women living in rural areas, with elevated levels correlating with regional traffic rates. Thus, monitoring to determine breast milk lead levels presents an important indicator of total infant lead exposure. This study aims to compare lead levels in the breast milk of a group of rural and urban women and to correlate this with environmental lead levels.

**The effect of vitamin E on the progression of carotid atheroma in smokers**

**NH&MRC Project grant**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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*Department of Medicine, Monash Medical Centre

A substantial body of evidence suggests that the progression of atherosclerosis may be related to the oxidation of low density lipoprotein (LDL-cholesterol). Animal evidence suggesting that antioxidant administration slows the progression of atheroma in small animals has recently been supported by epidemiological evidence correlating low plasma levels of antioxidants with the risk of coronary heart disease. This study is a double-blind randomised controlled clinical trial in current smokers aged 55 or older who will be followed for four years. A parallel group design will be used to determine the effects of prophylactic treatment with vitamin E (500 mg/day of alpha-tocopherol) in reducing the progression of carotid atheroma.
Feasibility study for a cohort study to investigate respiratory morbidity and cancer incidence among employees in the aluminium industry

ALCOA OF AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Contract grant
KL Robinson 1994 : $566,000
JJ McNeil 1995 : $566,000
M Abramson 1996 : $566,000
W Musk*

The Department of Social & Preventive Medicine, Monash University and the Department of Respiratory Medicine, University of Western Australia, are about to commence a major occupational health cohort study in employees of Alcoa of Australia Ltd. Those eligible to participate will have been employed on 1.1.1983 or later at bauxite mines, alumina refineries, aluminium smelters, power stations or shipping terminals. The study will monitor site-specific cancer incidence, cause-specific mortality and respiratory disease morbidity. The study incorporates an historical component (1983 to present) and a prospective component which is expected to be of at least ten years’ duration. Following a pilot study in late 1994, the baseline survey will be carried out in 1995. Information obtained at survey will include demographic information, job history, previous illnesses and lifestyle factors. Tests of respiratory function will also be carried out. Names of participants will subsequently be checked against State Cancer and Death Registries and some sub-groups will be monitored annually for respiratory function. The study will be advised by a committee consisting of representatives of Alcoa, the ACTU and Monash as well as independent scientific experts in relevant fields.

Asthma is a major public health problem in Victoria affecting both children and adults. Asthma is a multifactorial condition characterised by two related underlying traits atopy and bronchial hyper-reactivity (BHR). Family and twin studies show that atopy and BHR are determined by genetic factors which presumably interact with environmental agents. Subjects are recruited as an adjunct to the International Study of Lung Health. Sib pairs identified from responses to questionnaire are tested for atopy and BHR.

Atopic status is established by the measurement of skin sensitivity to specific allergens and affected status by BHR determined by methacholine challenge. Primers of the Simple Sequence Repeat (SSR) genetic markers comprising the human genomic map will be used to amplify small segments of DNA by standard polymerase chain reactions. After amplification, polymorphic fragments will be separated and visualised on a polyacrylamide gel. At each locus, affected siblings will be scored according to concordance or discordance for particular polymorphisms. A test statistic will be derived and used to determine which loci in the genome show significant linkage to the phenotype of interest. In the future, it may be possible to prevent asthma by targeting infants who possess the genetic markers identified in this study.

Sib-pair analysis of the inheritance of bronchial hyper-reactivity and atopy using genetic markers

ALFRED HOSPITAL
Research grant
MJ Abramson 1994 : $20,000
SB Harrap
ZH Wong
EH Walters

Asthma management and mortality from asthma

NH&MRC PHRDC
Research project grant
MJ Abramson 1994 : $65,526
OH Drummer* 1995 : $65,526
JJ McNeil 1996 : $65,526
EH Walters**

* Department of Forensic Medicine, Monash University
** Department of Respiratory Medicine, Alfred Hospital, Monash University

A case-control study to define the role of asthma management in mortality from asthma. It is proposed to recruit cases of asthma deaths between the ages of 10 and 50 years in Victoria. The control group comprises a sample of patients presenting in the Emergency Department of the Alfred and other hospitals with severe attacks of asthma. Interviews of controls, medical attendants and relatives of cases will be conducted using previously validated questionnaires. Blood levels of beta-agonists, propellants, theophylline and synthetic steroids will be measured by standard techniques.
A study of the risk factors of the development of tiaprofenic acid (Surgam) associated cystitis

ROUSSELL PHARMACEUTICALS

R Buchbinder 1994 : $37,000
JJ McNeil
R Snow

Tiaprofenic acid (Surgam) is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug that is used for symptomatic relief of painful inflammatory conditions. Recently tiaprofenic acid has been associated with inflammation of the bladder, referred to as "tiaprofenic acid associated cystitis". This is characterised by increased frequency and pain on passing urine. It is not known if all people who take tiaprofenic acid are at the same risk of developing this reaction or whether there are certain groups who may be at less risk of this side effect. Should this be the case, then the use of this drug could be restricted in these patients where the risk benefit ratio is likely to be more favourable.

This study aims to determine whether there are any identifiable risk factors that predispose to the development of cystitis amongst recipients of tiaprofenic acid. This will be achieved by comparing a group of people who develop this condition after taking the drug (cases) to a group of people who did not develop this condition after taking this drug (controls). This information may be useful in reducing the incidence of this side effect.

Re-evaluation of the acceptable daily intake (ADI) of fenitrothion

SUMITOMO (JAPAN) PTY LTD

JJ McNeil 1994 : $93,000
J Meaklim
A McLean
D Goddard
O Drummer

* Department of Clinical Pharmacology, Alfred Hospital
** Department of Forensic Pathology, Monash University

Fenitrothion is a commonly-used contact grain pesticide which leaves residues in some grain products. The aim of this study is to establish data on the effects of fenitrothion in humans. Small scale clinical trials are to be conducted on the effects of ingestion of low doses of fenitrothion in human volunteers.
NEW FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

AUSTRALIAN POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

A Hinwood 1994 — 1996
Title: The environmental significance of arsenic

The broad aim of this project is to study the environmental health significance of arsenic in Victoria. The project aims to measure the degree of arsenic absorption in areas with high environmental inorganic arsenic concentrations. An evaluation of biomarkers will be completed and an epidemiological investigation will be undertaken to investigate associations between environmental sources of arsenic and cancer in several body sites.

With this scholarship, Ms Hinwood will collect data which can be generalised for use in environmental health risk assessment and to assist in determining intervention criteria and appropriate control measures where high arsenic concentrations in environmental media are found.

NH&MRC NEIL HAMILTON FAIRLEY FELLOWSHIP

Christopher Fairley 1994 — 1997
Title: Experience in infectious diseases

Dr Fairley completed his PhD in studies on the human papillomavirus and its influence on the risk of cervical cancer. With this fellowship, Dr Fairley will continue his work in infectious disease epidemiology at the Colindale Public Health Laboratories north of London.

NH&MRC NEIL HAMILTON FAIRLEY FELLOWSHIP

Dr F Cicuttini 1994 — 1997
Title: A twin study of osteoarthritis

Dr Cicuttini, a rheumatologist, completed her PhD at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. With this fellowship, Dr Cicuttini will spend two years in the UK where she will gain further experience in the epidemiology of rheumatic diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

NHF OVERSEAS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (Ralph Reader Fellowship)

Dr S Gourlay 1994 — 1997
Title: Smoking, nicotine replacement therapies and individual differences in nicotine metabolism and tolerance

Dr Gourlay has recently completed his PhD on clinical and public health strategies to assist smoking cessation. With this fellowship he will be working with Professor Neil Benowitz in San Francisco, a world leader in issues concerning nicotine and drug dependency.

NH&MRC PHRDC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Dr JA Thomson 1994 — 1997
Title: Prevention of cataract in the elderly with lowdose aspirin and vitamin E

Dr Thompson gained her PhD from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute. With this fellowship, Dr Thompson will be a chief investigator in the newly funded study of antioxidant effects in cataract prevention. She will also undertake a series of related studies.

NH&MRC PHRDC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

Mr O Abdulwadud 1993 — 1996
Title: Evaluation of asthma management strategies in the hospital and community

Mr Abdulwadud will use this scholarship to undertake a PhD under the supervision of Dr Michael Abramson. He will be evaluating the effectiveness of asthma education programs.

NH&MRC PHRDC RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

Dr WA Fisher 1993 — 1996
Title: The effects of prophylactic treatment with Vitamin E on the progression of carotid atheroma

Dr Fisher will use this scholarship to undertake epidemiological studies leading to a PhD.
DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES
AWARDED – 1993

Doctor of Philosophy
Dr. Christopher Silagy

Master of Public Health
Clare Helen Gallagher
Priscilla Robinson
Margaret Anne Ward Curran
Ian William Woodruff
Catherine Itsiopoulos
Sandra Clare Thompson
Lorna Westgarth

Graduate Diploma in Occupational Health
Claudio Baldi
Michael Baynes
Joanne Booth
Michael Dimock
Martin Hodgson
David Piekaraki
Andrew Schohn
Louise Van Geyzel
Andrew Bayliss
Terry Bisas
Peter Brett
Geoffrey Gidley
Andrew Newman-Morris
Ranjani Ratnam
Kevin Sleigh

Certificate of Aviation Medicine
R Alterator
A Chelvanathan
G Edelsten
C Gilford
M Harris
G Irvine
G Macaulay
R Moffit
I Price
S Rosenbaum
R Sellens
R Tomkins
J Weinrich
R Brownfield
S Chua
L Garrard
D Greening
J Hoare
D Kleinig
P Marendy
V Meiklejohn
F O'rielly
L Sandor
R Stone
S Webb
D Westerman
M Buckland
P Carter
M Dawson
A Gherardin
N Hanna
S Homolka
J McKeon
V Pepper
D Rockman
A Schneweiss
B Thorpe
C Webber
M Wong
CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS OF MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT

Dr Michael Abramson  Respiratory and environmental epidemiologist. Interests: occupational lung disease, bronchial reactivity, asthma self management, asthma questionnaires, air pollution, biometeorology; aerobiology, asthma mortality, asthma genetics.

Dr Christopher Fairley  Human papillomavirus epidemiology. Fluocoxacin associated jaundice.

Dr Andrew Forbes  Misclassification and measurement error in epidemiological models; regression analysis of categorical response data; group sequential methods in clinical trials; analysis of survival data.

Dr David Goddard  Pesticides; worker’s compensation statistics. Cardiovascular medicine; smoking control strategies including population approaches; smoking cessation methods.

Dr Catherine Hamilton  Occupational health nursing education, continuing education for occupational health professionals.

Dr Stephen Harrap  The genetics of coronary heart disease.

Ms Noni Holmes  Risk perceptions; occupational health and safety and industrial relations culture; painting industry and prevention measures; risk communication.

Prof John McNeil  Drug epidemiology; public health toxicology; cardiovascular drug therapy.

Ms Jean Meaklim  Environmental and public health toxicology; agricultural chemicals especially pesticides.

Ms Kaye Robinson  Occupational health, occupational cancer, cohort studies.

Dr Tillman Ruff  International health especially immunisation (particularly hepatitis B); health of overseas development workers; medical aspects of war and its prevention; health and environmental effects of nuclear testing; ciguatera fish poisoning.

Dr Tom Selwood  Sterilization operations sequelae: chlamydial infections and contraception; contraceptive efficacy and complications; review of gynaecological operations.

Dr Martha Sinclair  Toxicology and cost effectiveness evaluation.

Ms Mandy Thrift  Epidemiology of stroke; interaction of exercise and low dietary salt on blood pressure and haemodynamics.

Mr Antony Ugoni  Comparison of receiver operating characteristic curves; asthma and environmental factors; the bootstrap; survival data analysis; cadaveric organ donor rates; prejudice in analgesic/sedative administration.

Dr Zilla Wong  The contribution of genetics to coronary heart disease.
OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS

Dr Susan Hurley commenced a two-year NH&MRC Neil Hamilton Fairley Fellowship in the Department of Biostatistics, University of Washington, Seattle, USA in September, 1992. She is currently undertaking a masters degree in biostatistics. Susan is also developing a research program for assessment of the benefits, risks and costs of disease prevention and medical interventions. Her current work in this area relates to mammographic screening and AIDS. The AIDS project comprises a set of studies of the costs of HIV infection and the cost-effectiveness of AIDS prevention strategies, which are being conducted in collaboration with colleagues in Australia and Seattle. Susan is also analysing data from a case-control study of glioma, which she co-ordinated in Australia.

Dr Malcolm Sim, having completed his PhD thesis, had his NH&MRC Public Health Research Fellowship extended to allow him to spend a year working at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the USA. He was working in the Health Evaluation and Technical Assistance Branch of NIOSH, based in Cincinnati, Ohio. This work involved epidemiological investigations of outbreaks of disease within industry and the general community, throughout the USA. Examples of his projects include a cluster of miscarriages amongst hospital nurses, neurological effects in long-term aluminium smelter workers and respiratory effects in a plant manufacturing urea-formaldehyde foam. Malcolm is due to return to Australia in January, 1994.

Dr Chris Silagy was Visiting Fellow in the Department of Public Health & Primary Care, University of Oxford, UK. His research activities in the UK included the establishment of an international register of controlled trials and a database of systematic reviews in primary care under the auspices of the Cochrane Centre. Chris was also providing statistical and management support to a number of projects related to the OXCHECK trial which is investigating the role of a primary care team approach in reducing cardiovascular risk factors. A further development of this study has been an examination of the relationship between smoking cessation, passive smoking and anti-oxidants. He also completed a meta-analysis of the effectiveness of different methods of smoking cessation. Chris was the Co-ordinator of this project and established an international group to establish a prospective registry of trials of smoking cessation interventions. A further research interest of Chris' is the development of a large scale study to examine the relationship between ambulatory and clinic blood pressure and subsequent cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. This study has been undertaken in collaboration with the Clinical Trials Service Unit, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine (John Radcliffe Hospital) and Department of Cardiac Medicine (National Heart and Lung Institute, Royal Brompton Hospital). At the end of 1993, Chris returned to take up his position as Professor and Head of the Department of General Practice, School of Medicine, Flinders Medical Centre, Flinders University of South Australia.

Dr. Michael Abramson undertook an Outside Studies Program in the Department of Epidemiology & Health Services Evaluation, Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-sheva, Israel. Michael worked with Professor John Goldsmith on a number of problems in environmental epidemiology, particularly the health effects of air pollution.
Senior medical staff of the department have made clinical and administrative contributions to several major teaching hospitals.

JOHN McNEIL FRACP
Alfred Hospital
Visiting Physician, Acute Geriatric Medical Unit
Member: Board of Management
Management Executive Committee
Medical Committee Executive
Ethics Committee
Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee
Research Advisory Committee

Monash Medical Centre
Visiting Physician, Hypertension & Vascular Unit

Repatriation Hospital
Visiting Specialist, Clinical Pharmacology

MICHAEL ABRAMSON FRACP
Alfred Hospital
Visiting Physician, Acute Geriatric Medical Unit
Visiting Physician, Respiratory Unit

Monash Medical Centre
Member, Ethics Committee

CHRISTOPHER FAIRLEY FRACP
Alfred Hospital
Visiting Physician, Infectious Diseases Unit

STEVE GOURLAY FRACP
Alfred Hospital
Visiting Clinician Assistant Physician, Respiratory Unit

RACHELLE BUCHBINDER FRACP
Mornington Peninsular Hospital
Member, Ethics Committee
Members of the department were represented on the following bodies:

**John J McNeil**
- Academic Board, Monash University
- Honorary Degrees Committee, Monash University
- Board of Management of the Alfred Group of Hospitals
- Board of the Australian Institute of Health
- Board of the National Heart Foundation — Victorian Division
- Board of Censors of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine
- RACP, Victorian State Committee
- NH&MRC Public Health Committee
- NH&MRC Public Health Research and Development Committee
- NH&MRC PHRDC Public Health Awards Subcommittee
- NH&MRC Food and Health Standing Committee
- NH&MRC Standing Committee on Toxicology
- NH&MRC Drugs and Poisons Schedule Committee
- NH&MRC Clinical Trials Centre, Scientific Advisory Committee
- NH&MRC Environmental Toxicology Research Unit, Scientific Advisory Committee
- DCS&H Adverse Drug Reactions Advisory Committee
- DVA Dapson Study Scientific Advisory Committee
- Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation Advisory Committee
- Alfred Group of Hospitals — Ethics Committee (Chair)

**David Goddard**
- Agricultural and Domestic Chemicals Review Committee
- Coordinating Committee for Diploma in Occupational Health at Lincoln School of Latrobe University

**Stephen B Harrap**
- Consultant Physician, Austin Hospital
- Chairman, Biological Research Laboratories, Austin Hospital
- Member, Organising Committee, 15th Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Hypertension
- Program Secretary, 15th Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Hypertension, Melbourne 1994
- Member, Executive Council, High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia
- Member, Ethics Review Committee, Alfred Hospital
- Member, Animal Welfare Committee, Austin Hospital
- Member, Animal Experimentation Advisory Committee to Victorian Medical Research Institutions
- Honours Studies Co-ordinator (Academic): Department of Medicine, Austin Hospital
- Member, Student Advisory Committee, Department of Medicine, Austin Hospital
- Member, Heart Week Committee, National Heart Foundation of Australia
- Member, Organising Committee, Austin Hospital Research Week
- Program Secretary, Austin Hospital Research Week
- Member, Scientific Program Committee, 3rd International Symposium on ACE inhibition
- Member, Scientific Program Committee, 8th International Symposium on SHR and Related Studies
- Member, Scientific Program Committee, 9th International Symposium on SHR and Related Studies
- Member, Editorial Board of Journal of Hypertension
- Member, Editorial Board of Clinical and Experimental Hypertension
- Member, Editorial Board of Clinical Science

**Michael J Abramson**
- Alfred Hospital Asthma Educator’s Course Planning Group
- National Asthma Campaign, Evaluation Committee
- Asthma Foundation Victoria, Medical & Scientific Advisory Committee
- Australian Association of Asthma Foundations, Workshop Committee
Susan F Hurley
- NHMRC Panel of Independent Assessors
- Referee, Medical Journal of Australia
- Australian Cancer Society, Panel of grant assessors

Kaye L Robinson
- President, Victorian Branch, Public Health Association of Australia

Tilman Ruff
- International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Vice President for South-East Asia and the South Pacific
- Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia), Vice President
- Fairfield Travel Health, member
- Melbourne International Travel Health Interest Group, Co-ordinator
- South-Pacific Hepatitis Advisory Group, member
- Medical Advisor, Overseas Service Bureau
- Director of Travel Health, Fairfield Hospital
- Physician, Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research
- Principal Investigator, HAV 050 Hepatitis A Vaccine Trial (funding: SmithKline Beecham)
- Principal Investigator, Australian case-control study of adverse events associated with Japanese encephalitis vaccine (funding: CSL Limited)
- Team Leader, Healthy start for child survival in Lombok and Bali Project, 1993-1995, a collaborative project of the International Task Force on Hepatitis B Immunisation, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health, Indonesian Ministry of Health, Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research (funding: Australian International Development Assistance Bureau)
- Chair, XI World Congress, Scientific Program Committee, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Mexico City, 30 September — 3 October 1993.
- Locum Member, Monash Medical Centre Clayton Ethics Committee B.

Malcolm R Sim
- Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine, Victorian Regional Committee
- Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine, member Board of Examiners and chair of Fellowship Examination Sub-Committee.
- Accident Compensation Commission, Medical Panels
- Worksafe Australia, member of the Expert Working Group on Health Surveillance
- Worksafe Australia, member of the Steering Committee for Core Curriculum in Occupational Health and Safety


Gourlay, S.G. How can you be sure that once-daily antihypertensive drugs are effective? ACE Therapy Issue 2:1993.


Holmes, N. Occupational infections: AIDS, hepatitis.


Honorary Members of Department – 1993

Associates

J E Aldred, MB BS, Dip Pharm, PhC, FPSA
G D Johnstone, BJuris, LLB
P Wilkinson, BSc, MD, FRACP, FRCP

Honorary Research Associate

D Ktenas, MB BS

Honorary Senior Lecturers

D Barton, MB BS, MSc, FACOM, MFOM
J A Bisby, MB BS, MSc, DIH, MFO, MRCP
R Borland, BSc, MSc
A Browning, BSc, PhD
L Dzuikas, MB BS, FRACP
S Gifford, PhD, MPH, BA, MA
G Giles, CertEd, MSc, PhD
M L Grayson, MB BS, MD, FRACP
R W Hart, MB BS, FRACS, DIH, FGFOM, FACOM
T J Jackson, BA, MA
E Knight, MB BS, FRACGP, FACOM
J C Lane, MB BS, MPH
V K Lin, BA, MPH, PhD, Dr PHP MacDonald, BCom, PhD
J Milne, MB BS, MSc
H Mitchell, DipMedRad, MB BS, MSc, MD, FRACP
D G Robertson, MB BS, FRACP

Honorary Lecturers

N Crofts, MB BS, MPH
C Iatiopoulos, MSc, BSc(Nutrit), GDipDiet, MPH
D Jolley, BSc, Dip Ed, MSc(Stats), MSc(Epi)
K MacDonald, BMedSc, MB BS, FACOMR
G Oliver, BA, MB BS, BSc, PhD
S Silberberg, MB BS, FRACP
J McK Stearne, BSc, PhD
L Stewart, MB BS, BSc, PhD
B Strauss, MB BS, PhD, FRACP
R Taylor, BA, MB BS, DiplObs, MEnvSc, GDipEpi
C Tunner, MD
I Woodruff BScm BSc(Food Chem), GDipDiet, MPH

Honorary Research Assistant

G Koutroulis, BSc(AdvNurs)
## ENQUIRIES

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<tr>
<th><strong>General Matters</strong></th>
<th><strong>Telephone</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Prof J McNeil</td>
<td>276 2646</td>
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<td>Ms J Roberts</td>
<td>276 2650</td>
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<td><strong>Master of Public Health</strong></td>
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<td>Ms M Stanley</td>
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<th><strong>Diploma in Occupational Health &amp; Safety</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr M Sim</td>
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<td>Dr D Goddard</td>
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<td>Ms M Cowie</td>
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<td>Ms M Cowie</td>
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<td>Dr A Forbes</td>
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<td>Mr A Ugoni</td>
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<td>Dr M Abramson</td>
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<td>Dr R Buchbinder</td>
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