



Health of asylum seekers in the spotlight

From Left: Prof Heather Worth, Michael Moore, Dr Michael Grewcock, Dr Ann Clarke, Dr John-Paul Sanggaran, Prof Mark Harris, A/Prof Karen Zwi

Hundreds of people converged on the John Niland Scientia Theatre on 27th May to hear researchers, advocates and frontline workers discuss the plight of asylum seekers held in offshore detention centres. Jointly hosted by the School of Public Health and Community Medicine (SPHCM) and Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA), the event featured a panel discussion chaired by Professor Heather Worth of the SPHCM.

Speakers included author Marc Isaacs, Law school academic Dr Michael Grewcock, Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, former Christmas Island healthcare worker Dr John Paul Sanggaran and Associate Professor Karen Zwi from the School of Women's and Children's Health at UNSW.

Professor Gillian Triggs spoke about the Commission's ongoing investigation into the offshore

detention of children, grounding the inquiry in an international human rights framework, and attesting to some of the harrowing stories that detainees have related directly.

Dr Michael Grewcock reminded those present that the right to seek asylum was a human right and that the health and well-being of asylum seekers engages many different interrelated rights.

Dr John-Paul Sanggaran, who co-authored a letter of concern after working with asylum seekers in detention on Christmas Island, spoke about the conditions that he witnessed, including access to healthcare.

Associate Professor Karen Zwi also explored the realities of life inside detention centres, using striking images that illustrate not only the desperation that exists inside the centres, but the profound developmental challenges these

conditions pose for children and young people held there.

The evening culminated in the presentation of a declaration calling for an end to the offshore detention of asylum seekers, as well as more timely access to comprehensive health assessments for those currently held in offshore detention in the interim.

A petition was subsequently launched and has garnered a

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

UNSW-WHO course	2
Internships experience	3
NHMRC Excellence Award	3
Future Health Leaders	4
OCHRE Forum	7
Getting it: Indigenous Peoples	7
Vaccines for the elderly	8

UNSW-WHO Communicable Diseases in Humanitarian Emergencies



Professor Gillian Triggs



Dr John-Paul Sanggaran



Dr Michael Grewcock



Associate Professor Karen Zwi

significant number of signatures. Following the symposium, the SPHCM has also written to the relevant Ministers, as well as Senators and Members of the House of Representatives across the political spectrum, to highlight the concerns of those present in relation to the offshore detention of asylum seekers and their health and well-being.

if you missed the symposium, you can view the speakers on YouTube. See: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/research/global-health/asylum-seeker-detention-symposium



SPHCM, in its endeavour to promote infectious disease training, will conduct a summer course on Communicable Diseases in Humanitarian Emergencies. This course will be delivered in collaboration with the World Health Organization and SPHCM is one of only four centres in the world which offers this program.

This course is designed for those working in public health or related disciplines, who have an interest and experience in the management and control of communicable diseases in humanitarian emergencies (conflict, disasters, food insecurity) and who would like to improve their skills, or bring their knowledge up-to-date to support implementation of infectious disease projects in emergency settings.

The course particularly targets health coordinators, planners, and medical advisers working in humanitarian emergencies for Ministries of Health, NGOs, UN agencies, international organisations, universities, technical institutions and donor agencies.

Lecturers and facilitators include experts in their field from technical and academic institutions as well as international humanitarian agencies. Teaching will be conducted through

a mixture of lectures, case studies, discussions, group exercises and experiential learning (including case studies from field outbreak investigations and program implementation).

The course content will include:

- Disease Risk Assessments
- Outbreak Investigation and Response
- Socio-political Issues in Emergencies
- Epidemiology and Control of Major Infectious diseases
- Design and Implementation of Early Warning Alert and Response Networks (EWARN)
- Infection Control in Emergency Settings

This intensive five day summer course will run from 24th November – 28th November 2014 and will be held at the Kensington Campus of the University of New South Wales, Sydney Australia.

For more details on the course fee and outline please contact: Dr Mohamud Sheikh: m.sheikh@unsw.edu.au or Dr Padmanesan Narasimhan: padmanesan@unsw.edu.au

Photos courtesy of Flickr: DFAT, DFID, AusAid, US Navy

Internships offer real world experience

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine (SPHCM) offers an internship course which provides a small number of high achieving students enrolled in the Master of Health Management, Master of Public Health or International Public Health degree programs at the University of New South Wales, with the opportunity to gain real-world experience in a relevant health organisation through a workplace internship of 6 to 12 weeks duration.

Samantha Ghazi recently completed an internship with the Cancer Council NSW and provided some thoughts on her experience.

“While studying for my MPH degree, I was lucky enough to undertake a six-week internship at Cancer Council NSW. I considered this a great opportunity to integrate my academic coursework and theory to a public health work setting. I worked closely with the policy and advocacy team in the Health Strategies division and my assignment was to design an interview-based qualitative study exploring identified retailers in NSW that have recently made the decision to stop selling tobacco in their store. This study was proposed to examine the decision-making of

these retailers as a way of using the findings to create new opportunities for tobacco control advocacy.

Working on this project helped me consolidate my skills in reviewing large and complex databases as well as conducting literature reviews. It also helped me learn more about qualitative research methods as I was unfamiliar with this at the start. But I was well supported and had access to numerous resources to help me with my learning process. I was able to consult with internal stakeholders such as the director of Health Strategies Division, the tobacco control unit manager and the policy and advocacy unit manager who assisted me with my work to ensure my research proposal was both best practice and cost-effective. I had the opportunity to develop draft recruitment materials such as the invitation letter, telephone script and interview questions for the study. I also helped prepare an ethics application, which was a great opportunity to experience first-hand what is involved for any research to be undertaken.

Apart from working on the tobacco retail project, Cancer Council made me feel welcome by allowing me to take part in meetings and other fun



activities. I attended an orientation day where I was able to learn about the role and mission of the Cancer Council. I regularly sat in on the policy and advocacy team meetings and the tobacco retail campaign meetings. I took part in the Cancer Council pledge activity where I was involved in encouraging other staff members from different divisions to be part of a photo petition to limit the number of tobacco retailers. I found this very interactive and it gave me an opportunity to meet other people in the building.

Overall, the internship was very rewarding. I was able to work with very knowledgeable people within the policy and advocacy team and found this highly informative to my public health career.”

If your organisation is interested in becoming a partner with the SPHCM to offer internships for high-achieving students, both internationally and domestically, please contact Kevin Forde for further information – k.forde@unsw.edu.au

Dr Bette Liu wins top NHMRC Excellence award

Dr Bette Liu has been awarded one of the National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) top prizes for excellence for having the highest ranked Career Development Fellowship (Population Health Level 1) for 2013. Dr Liu's research focuses on two areas, specifically establishing and developing novel methods for collecting data in large open-access prospective cohort

studies, including the 45 and Up Study and using these kinds of 'big data' repositories to conduct research informing the prevention and control of infectious diseases and their longer term sequelae. Specific infections that will be investigated under her fellowship include vaccine preventable infections such as pertussis, influenza, human papillomavirus and some non-vaccine preventable infections such as chlamydia. Dr Bette Liu is a medically trained epidemiologist, senior lecturer at the SPHCM, UNSW and Senior Science Advisor at the Sax Institute.





Future Health Leaders Program

Photo: Dr Siranda Torvaldsen and Abela Mahimbo with the 2014 cohort of FHLs outside the hospital at Q-Station, North head, Manly

The SPHCM has welcomed its second cohort of Future Health Leaders and a brief background on each of these new candidates is provided below. Once again, the selection panel had a difficult task selecting just 13 from a list of outstanding applicants. The progress made by the 2013 cohort in the past 12 months is very impressive, and we are thrilled to be facilitating these candidates to achieve such contributions to public health, both in Australia and overseas.

A residential workshop was held from July 28 – August 1, where we welcomed the new cohort and welcomed back the 2013 cohort. To hear our future health leaders discuss why they joined the program, about their studies, and the value of the program to their professional development and careers, watch the video on the SPHCM website: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate-research/professional-doctorate.

The two cohorts spent four of the five days together as a group, with the new cohort spending one day off campus, at the Old Quarantine Station at North Head. This is always a great day, which combines an epidemiology workshop with a tour. As one candidate last year said, this 'made epidemiology come to

life'. Other sessions during the week included introduction to NVivo, scientific writing, health promotion, policy development and program design and evaluation. The 2013 cohort led a brilliant session on different perspectives in healthcare as they relate to mental health.

2014 cohort of Future Health Leaders

1. Anna Morell

Anna is a research analyst in the International Health Professionals work group at Health Workforce Australia (HWA), where she has worked for the past 3 years. She is currently transitioning to the Health Workforce Division, Australian Department of Health, following the government restructure announced in the 2014-15 Federal Budget. She has recently published on the early results of the HWA-funded Rural Health Professionals Program. Anna holds a Master of Health and International Development and previous work experience includes a year in Suva, Fiji, as a Project Officer at UNAIDS Pacific.

2. Camille Neyhouser

Camille is the learning and best practice coordinator in the

development effectiveness team at the Fred Hollows Foundation. Her portfolio involves fostering a culture of information sharing and continuous improvement across the Foundation's eye health programs. This includes actively capturing and transferring knowledge to ensure programs are designed and delivered effectively and their impact is maximised. Camille holds a double masters in international development and crises. Camille aspires to develop as a mixed-methods researcher and she would like to broaden her theoretical understanding of public health research methods.

3. Christine Cooper

For the past 17 years Christine has worked within the pharmaceutical industry. She has been employed by Pfizer Australia since 2004 and has been working as the national key account manager in vaccines, since January 2006. Christine is responsible for developing and maintaining State Government and national relationships for vaccines and for driving the awareness and understanding of the importance of immunisation and coverage in the paediatric and adult setting for Prevenar 13. Christine has built strong networks across the immunisation community in Australia.

She has a strong desire to develop an understanding of the apathy amongst healthcare professional toward adult preventative health measures, particularly immunisation.

4. Emma Field

Emma is an epidemiologist with Abt JTA, a health and social sector consulting company based in Brisbane. She works on several health programs in Papua New Guinea, including the CMCA Middle and South Fly Health Program and the North Fly Health Services Development Program. Emma's work involves monitoring and evaluation, including implementing surveys to inform evaluations in remote locations, and designing health programs. Prior to working at Abt JTA, Emma worked in the Philippines at the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office in the Division of Health Security and Emergencies. While there, she established a peer-reviewed journal for public health events called Western Pacific Surveillance and Response.

5. Erin Sparrow

Erin joined the World Health Organization in 2006 and is currently a technical officer for the department of Essential Medicines and Health Products. Her unit is dedicated to promoting access to health-related products through technology transfer, local production and innovative product development. Recently, Erin has been appointed to the WHO team working on accelerating the rational selection and use of experimental Ebola therapies and vaccines in response to the 2014 outbreak in West Africa. Before joining WHO, Erin worked as a proposal analyst at the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and as a laboratory technician for a private DNA testing company in Melbourne.

6. George Georgiadis

George is an Australian Army Officer with over thirty-two years in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, with extensive command, leadership and

management experience. Since 1982, he has served in a variety of health units from tactical level, unit based health facilities, through to strategic level health leadership positions within Army Headquarters. As a health leader in the Australian Army, he has extensive experience across a range of health and non-health appointments; including managing diverse and complex multi-level organisations, project managing multimillion-dollar programs and engagement with foreign military and non-government organisations. During the Pakistan floods in 2010, George held the position of Commander Defence Supplementation Staff, where he was the Australian representative for engagement with multiple international agencies, including the World Health Organization, International Committee of the Red Cross, UNHCR and Oxfam. George currently holds the position of Command Health Officer, where he is the principal health advisor to the Commander on all aspects of the health and wellbeing of all members of the Command.

7. Glenn Davies

Dr Glenn Davies is currently the executive director of medical services at Albury Wodonga Health which is Australia's first cross border regional health service. The service provides healthcare to northeast Victoria and Southern NSW, with the role specifically responsible for planning, medical services and clinical governance. Glenn has now worked in regional

Australia for over 10 years, with key interests include health care policy, particularly as it pertains to regional Australia, regional medical workforce development including primary care sustainability and public health interventions for chronic disease.

8. Katherine Hirono

Katie is a researcher at the Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation at UNSW Australia. Her research focuses on health impact assessment, health equity, and the social determinants of health. Before joining UNSW Australia, Katie worked at the Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, to increase the use of health impact assessment in the U.S. She has worked with over 15 organisations throughout the U.S. to conduct HIAs on various topics. Katie has also worked as a consultant to the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization in the department of Gender, Diversity and Human Rights.

9. Louise Livingstone

Louise is a primary health care specialist with experience in evaluation, community engagement, capacity building, and managing health services in Australia, Asia, and the Pacific. Louise has a range of nursing qualifications as well as a Masters in Evaluation. Louise is currently working with Apunipima Cape York Health Council around embedding social and emotional wellbeing as the foundation platform





Photo: Prof George Rubin, Emeritus Prof Peter Baume AC, Conjoint A/Prof Sarah Thackway, Prof Raina MacIntyre, A/Prof Dea Delaney-Thiele welcomed the new cohort of future leaders

for primary health care services in remote Indigenous communities in Cape York. Louise has a strong background in working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health in North Queensland. Her experiences also range from working in post-conflict re-establishment and rehabilitation of basic health services to the people of the Solomon Islands, facilitating training and reconstruction of health services in Banda Aceh, through to re-orientating health services in remote areas of PNG and short-term evaluations and health service planning in Vanuatu, Fiji and Indonesia.

10. Renee Iannotti

Renee is currently a senior performance analyst within the NSW Ministry of Health. In 2013 Renee completed the NSW Health Biostatistical Officer Training Program and has since been employed in the health system information and performance reporting branch. Her current interests are in the use of linked data to monitor and report on health system performance and the use of health system performance indicators to drive policy change.

11. Sally Fitzpatrick

Sally is a lecturer with Muru Marri, the Indigenous unit in the SPHCM. Sally joined Muru Marri first as a research associate whilst completing her MPH with SPHCM, and won an ongoing position in

2009. She has experience in mixed methods program evaluation in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community settings and has contributed to the unit's research into social and emotional wellbeing. Sally currently teaches in the faculty's undergraduate medicine and Master of Public Health programs and achieved a Graduate Certificate in University Learning and Teaching in 2014. Sally has leadership experience in community organisations and peak bodies at the national, state and community levels, particularly focussed on Australia's First Peoples' rights and justice. She currently serves on the board of the Lillian Howell Project and the Filling the Gap Indigenous Dental Program, and is also active in the Close the Gap Campaign for Health Equality.

12. Scott Avery

Scott has had a long and varied career in the not-for-profit sector, working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, health, disability, justice, education and human services sectors. Scott has always been at the fringes of research and describes himself as a 'para-demic' (ie. para-academic). His most recent post was as senior policy officer with the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, a representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, where he worked on projects such as the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan and a national justice policy. Scott is

just about to commence a position with the First Peoples Disability Network, a community controlled representative organisation for Aboriginal people with disability, as their national policy manager. Away from the books, Scott is married and an avid watcher of kids sports as a dad with two daughters. He also does a bit of ocean swimming, which lets him travel the countryside and get in an odd trip or two overseas.

13. Sonya Nicholl

Sonya was a registered nurse in ICU for many years in Northern Ireland, then immigrated to Australia in 1998 where she continued to work as a nurse in ICU. She moved into the public health arena in 2003 when the Meningococcal C Vaccination Program commenced in NSW high schools. Sonya was employed in the NSW Department of Health immunisation unit from 2003 - 2008 where she completed an MPH and was responsible for a range of initiatives such as the NSW school-based vaccination program, pandemic planning, clinical advice and policy development. She is currently employed as a senior policy analyst responsible for a wide range of issues including health care worker vaccination, the measles vaccination program, policy development, workforce issues and campaigns. On a personal note, Sonya is married and a mother of two girls aged 19 and 14 and she plays/coaches hockey in her spare time.



Research translation, Muru Marri style

On the 23rd July, government, academia and community organisations took some time together to learn about healing and what a powerful force it can be in rebuilding Aboriginal identity and culture. The OCHRE Forum, “Mapu Yaan Gurri, Mapu Marrungjirr – Healing Our Way” in the language of the Thangatti people from the mid north coast of New South Wales, means “Put forward – that each and every Aboriginal person, should become healthy – well and happy.”

The Forum involved Aboriginal people who have experienced trauma talking to policy makers and service providers about healing, and marked a crucial step in advancing the dialogue about trauma and healing and developing best practice policy responses.

The Forum was jointly hosted by the NSW Government and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation and organised by a reference group which included Muru Marri, among other key stakeholders. Participants included Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello, NSW Mental Health Commissioner John Feneley and NSW/ACT Stolen Generation Council Chairperson Matilda House. In total 66 organisations were represented.

As well as being an active member of the reference group, Muru Marri

had a display table in the foyer, with a lot of interest shown from visitors towards the Critical Success Factors for Social and Emotional Wellbeing of Indigenous Youth and the Growth and Empowerment Measure, as well as postgraduate opportunities at SPHCM. The Forum gave Muru Marri a unique opportunity to discuss its research with policy makers and program providers across NSW Government departments, and non-government organisations. Promising connections started on that day have opened the avenue for sharing the findings from research reports, future collaboration for the development of evaluation tools, teaching, and potentially funding opportunities.

Richard Weston, CEO of the Healing Foundation said this is the first time a conversation about healing has been opened up between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across any state or territory. “Through connecting to culture we can strengthen our identity and take action to have a better future,” he said.

OCHRE stands for opportunity, choice, healing, responsibility, and empowerment and is symbolic of Aboriginal communities’ deep connection with Country.

More information about the event on: www.healingourway.com.au/photo-gallery

Photo courtesy of Aboriginal Affairs NSW, taken by GJC Communication

‘Getting it’ – Empowerment and International Day of World’s Indigenous Peoples



At SPHCM, we are not only proud of the program we deliver, we are also proud of our students – their efforts, insights, life experiences and the growth they demonstrate as they engage in our courses.

In the spirit of the International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples, 9 August, our students reflected on the immense richness and value Indigenous Peoples contribute to our lives and the deep sadness of the losses they are experiencing globally, including in Australia, as the pressure and pace of environmental, social and cultural change and loss accelerates.

Evidence of the deeply insightful lens developed by students of *PHCM9632 Indigenous Health and Wellbeing across the Lifespan* can be viewed on the Bulletin Board near Muru Marri. The display, created to share their on-line postings, aims to raise awareness by the students of the plight of Indigenous Peoples’ globally as part of the International Day of World’s Indigenous Peoples.

Amidst this background, there are signs of tremendous empowerment and resilience among Indigenous Peoples globally as they protect the places they love and their ways of living. We can all do much more to support their voice, self-determination and human rights, from Africa to the Amazon to Australia. It is extremely urgent.

Don’t miss the opportunity to read through the insightful statements our students made on the Bulletin Board near Muru Marri on Third Floor, Samuels Building.

Vaccines for the elderly



The PHAA National Immunisation Achievement Award being presented by Peter McIntyre to C Raina MacIntyre



Mr Max Walker, AM and Professor David Goldblatt at the workshop Equity in disease prevention: vaccines for the elderly



Panellists at the workshop 'Equity in disease prevention: vaccines for the elderly'

The NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence (Immunisation in under Studied and Special Risk Populations), with the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) held a workshop "Equity in disease prevention: vaccines for the elderly" on 20 June as a post conference event of the 14th PHAA National Immunisation Conference. The workshop featured cutting edge presentations on the latest scientific developments in elderly immunisation, issues and barriers for prevention of infection in the elderly, and thought-provoking discussions in ageism in health care.

The workshop brought together national and international stakeholders in immunisation, ageing and health, primary care, health services providers for the elderly group, insurance, researchers, government and non-government organisations, community representatives, federal

and state government policy makers and advocacy groups.

Keynote speaker was Max Walker AM, former Australian test cricketer and AFL player, who spoke about the importance of healthy ageing in society. Other keynote speakers included Professor David Goldblatt, Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology and Head of the Immunobiology Unit at the Institute of Child Health, University College London (UCL), and the Director of Clinical Research and Development and Director of the National Institute for Health Research GOSH/UCL Biomedical Research Centre. He is also Director of the WHO Pneumococcal Reference Laboratory. Professor Goldblatt gave a presentation about the future of elderly pneumococcal vaccination.

The highlight of the day was the panel discussion: "How good is good enough for the elderly?" This session focused on ethical issues,

value judgements and ageism in healthcare and how this may impact adversely on older people.

At the end of the 14th PHAA immunisation conference, the PHAA awarded Professor Raina MacIntyre, Head of the SPHCM, the National Immunisation Achievement Award to honour and recognise her outstanding research in the field of immunisation/vaccine preventable diseases. This Award is the Association's pre-eminent prize in the field of immunisation and vaccine preventable diseases.



SPHCM booth at the 14th PHAA National Immunisation Conference

Let's hear from you

We would like to keep in touch with former staff and students of the School. Please send your contributions to the editor Kevin Forde: k.forde@unsw.edu.au or Assistant Editor Ravit Danieli-Vlandis r.danieli-vlandis@unsw.edu.au

Published by the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales.

Opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the University of New South Wales. Information was correct at the time of publication but is liable to change. Please visit the School website for the latest information: www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine
UNSW Australia
Sydney NSW 2052, Australia
Tel: +61 (2) 9385 2517 Fax: +61 (2) 9313 6185
Website: www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au

CRICOS Provider No: 00098C

