



Future Health Leaders Program 2015

Dr Siranda Torvaldsen (second right) with the 2015 cohort of FHLs outside the hospital at Q-Station, North Head, Manly

The SPHCM welcomes its third cohort of the Future Health Leaders (FHL) program. The selection panel had a difficult task selecting just 8 from a list of outstanding applicants.

A residential workshop was held in August where we welcomed the new cohort and welcomed back the 2013 and 2014 cohorts. The progress made by the 2013 and 2014 cohorts in the past 12 months is very impressive, and we are thrilled to be facilitating these candidates to achieve important contributions to public health, both in Australia and overseas.

The three 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. Other sessions during the week included empowerment, advocacy, risk and vulnerability, public health ethics, large health systems change, translation of research into policy

and challenges of applied research in the workplace. The contributions of all FHLs in these sessions made it a particularly valuable and engaging week. The UNSW Vice-Chancellor was so impressed with the FHLs that he came back for a second visit during the week.

The 2014 cohort led a brilliant session on a multidisciplinary health sector case study of a global disaster response. The hypothetical disaster was Super Typhoon Raina, which struck the Philippines on August 1. The group used their collective expertise, plus their previous experience with Hurricane Siranda, to provide an engaging, and sometimes hilarious, teaching session.

Here is some brief background on the 2015 cohort of Future Health Leaders.

1. Joel Aik

Joel is currently the Head of the North-East Regional Office, one of

five public health inspectorates of Singapore's National Environment Agency. He is responsible for ensuring the operational readiness and performance of its regulatory and advocacy services teams. He joined the Singapore public service in 2002 after completing his training as an environmental engineer. He spent the next 13 years in a variety of positions involving public health operations, policy and planning work. He also trained as an epidemiologist in 2011. Joel hopes to deepen his research skills and experience

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through the FHL program to drive public health policy change.

2. Karen Fisher

Karen is the Clinical Director of the Centre of Addiction Medicine, Nepean Hospital.

3. Jacquelyn Goss

Jackie is an Operations Project Manager with Allity, an Aged Care provider with 43 homes across Australia. Her current role includes leading teams to successful commissioning of new homes, ensuring integration of retirement living to aged care, and also taking the lead in operational projects ranging from IT processes to HR management. Her previous role at Allity was in Operations Support where she spent time as an acting general manager in both urban and rural facilities experiencing all facets of aged care management. Jackie is a registered nurse who initially worked in cardiothoracic intensive care at RPA Sydney after studying nursing as a mature age student. She then completed a combined Masters of Public Health/ Health Management at UNSW as well as a Certificate in Sexual & Reproductive Health at Family Planning prior to heading to a remote Aboriginal community.

4. Lynelle Hales

Lynelle Hales is an accomplished health executive with over 25 years' experience in healthcare planning, commissioning and delivery roles at local, state and national levels across two health systems (UK and Australia). Lynelle has been the chief executive officer of South Eastern Sydney Medicare Local since July 2012 and shortly will commence as the chief executive officer of the Sydney North Primary Health Network. She has led the establishment and successful growth

of a new organisation in the primary health care environment, building the vision and culture, and strengthened strategic partnerships to coordinate and connect primary health care providers and services to address community needs and optimise their health pathways.

5. Robyn Harper

Robyn's professional experience is broad, and spans surveying and town planning, senior administration and medical research at university, urban programs and regional development in the Commonwealth Public Service, and roles in the Victorian health department. Robyn's university studies have ranged from business, to arts (geography & biological anthropology) and public health. Robyn says: "To participate in the 'UNSW Future Health Leaders' Program' is an absolute joy – my area of interest is 'Clinical leadership in paediatric medicine' – which is very personal, as well as critical to my workplace. Clinical leadership is vital in the delivery of care – the experience recalled by patients and carers – the 'health' of the immediate professional environment and the healthcare organisation as a whole."

6. Miriam Lum On

Miriam is currently the project manager of the Australian Burden of Disease Study at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. She is a health information management specialist, with experience in the public and non-government sectors, which gives her insight into the analysis and use of data at many levels of the Australian health care system. She has led a number of projects at jurisdictional, national and international levels using her skills in evaluation, data and indicator development, stakeholder consultation and analysis of surveillance and administrative data sets.

7. Garry White

Garry was first drawn into the world of pre-hospital care in Maryland, USA, as a volunteer emergency medical technician; he continued this foray into paramedic practice by joining the London Ambulance Service when returning home. After moving to Melbourne with his future Australian wife in 1997, Garry gained employment with Ambulance Victoria and became qualified as an Intensive care paramedic. Since moving to Tasmania, he has continued his career in pre-hospital care, working with Ambulance Tasmania as a clinical support officer, medical priority dispatch system ('000' call taking system) instructor, helicopter rescue paramedic, project manager and most recently the coordinator for research and clinical practice. Garry has continued his studies throughout employment completing the Diploma of Ambulance Paramedic Studies, Graduate Diploma of Emergency Health (MICA Paramedic) and, most recently, the Master of Emergency Health.

8. Yi Zhang

Zhang Yi is from Beijing China. Yi has a Masters degree from Health Science Center of Peking University with a major in epidemiology and biostatistics. She is now working for Beijing Center for Diseases Prevention and Control, Institute of infectious diseases and endemic diseases control. Yi have been there for over 6 years as a public health doctor, and during this period has been to UNSW and Tulane University for short training. Now her work priority is seasonal flu surveillance and novel influenza virus response.

Left photo: Dr Michael Wang, UNSW Vice-Chancellor Ian Jacobs, Prof Raina MacIntyre, A/Prof Joanne Travaglia, Dr Siranda Torvaldsen; middle & right photos: FHLs

Recent Grant success . . .

Several staff members at SPHCM have had considerable success in being awarded grants to conduct significant health related research.



INTEGRATED SYSTEMS FOR Epidemic Response

Prof Raina MacIntyre, head of SPHCM, received \$2.49 million for Integrated Systems for Epidemic Response (ISER). The NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence, Integrated Systems for Epidemic Response will conduct applied systems research, enhance collaboration and build capacity in health systems research for epidemic control. They bring together experts in field epidemiology and epidemic response, military experts, international law and risk science experts, and government and non-government agencies involved in epidemic response: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/centres-units/centre-research-excellence-epidemic-response



Dr Angela Kelly-Hanku from SPHCM with Prof Heather Worth and Dr Asha Persson were awarded \$666,361.

This project aims to advance understanding of the constitutive effects of global biotechnologies in local contexts through a case study of couples with mixed HIV status in Papua New Guinea (PNG). The project also aims to contribute to scholarship and global debates on how biomedicine and local cultures co-exist and co-articulate in the making of social realities. By mapping the ways HIV treatment and prevention technologies intersect with the cultural, gendered and religious landscapes of PNG, the project is designed to produce new knowledge

of the promises and limits of global biotechnologies as their meanings and applications are created, negotiated and contested in the everyday practices of these couples.



A/Prof Andrew Hayen and David Warton (Mathematics and Statistics): 2016-2017. \$500,000 from UNSW Research Division.

To establish a UNSW Statistical Consulting Unit.



A/Prof Bette Liu received \$448,703 for an NHMRC grant on 'Quantifying the effectiveness of pertussis vaccine in older adults'.



A/Prof Virginia Wiseman has been awarded the following grant with collaborators from the Kirby Institute and from PNG.

Virginia Wiseman will lead the economic evaluation component of the trial on 'Point-of-care testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections to improve pregnancy outcomes in resource-limited, high-burden settings' in Papua New Guinea. The principal research question to be addressed is to assess effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of novel point-of-care testing and treatment algorithms for curable sexually transmitted infections in pregnancy to reduce pre-term birth and low-birth weight compared to standard care. The study is supported by a major new research award worth \$A6.7 million, funded under the Joint Global Health Trials initiative, established by the UK Department for International Development, the Medical Research Council UK and the Wellcome Trust. The clinical trial will be led by Dr Andrew Vallely (Professorial Research Fellow jointly appointed to the PNGIMR and the

Kirby Institute, UNSW) and Dr William Pomat (Deputy Director, Science) at the PNGIMR. A/Prof Virginia Wiseman (SPHCM, UNSW and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). The study involves over 20 senior researchers and reproductive health experts based in PNG, Australia and in Europe, including Dr Grace Kariwiga (Alotau Provincial Hospital), Prof Glen Mola (University of PNG / Port Moresby General Hospital) and Prof Peter Siba (PNGIMR).



Prof Robyn Richmond from SPHCM is a chief investigator on a successful \$1.88 million NHMRC project grant.

Led from NDARC by Prof Michael Farrell on 'A non-inferiority trial of cytosine versus varenicline for smoking cessation'.



A/Prof Andrew Hayen: 2016-2019: \$314,000 for biostatistics for the Maintain Your Brain trial led by Prof Henry Brodaty (UNSW), NHMRC Dementia grant.

A randomised controlled trial of 18,000 people for dementia prevention.



Dr James Wood has been awarded a UNSW Goldstar of \$40,000 for 2016.

UNSW Goldstars are awarded annually to eligible UNSW research teams that achieved near misses in the ARC Discovery Projects, ARC Discovery Indigenous and NHMRC Project Grant funding rounds. The Goldstar funds are to enable strong researchers to proceed with initial research on the proposed research program, and to allow the investigators to further refine and improve their application for resubmission.





SPHCM contributes to UNSW's Climate Change Grand Challenge

Climate change has been referred to as the 'Greatest Global Health Threat and Opportunity' of our time. The current year has brought unprecedented urgency to broad collective action across the world on climate change. All eyes were fixed on Paris for COP21 (global meeting to address climate change) from November 30 to December 11, 2015. Rather than overshadowing, the recent terrorist activities in Paris are said to have heightened commitment among over 190 COP21 participating nations to ensure success on this urgent and complex challenge.

The voice of public health and medicine in claiming our space on the climate debates has risen rapidly. The UCL-Lancet Commission on Climate Change and Health urges us to see immediate action on energy transitions, health service preparedness and protection of environmental health assets for food and water security as a great public health opportunity.

All over the world; in Australia's major cities, including Sydney, People's Climate Marches were held over the weekend of 27 – 29 November. Well over 100,000 Australians took part. Sydney's health groups were coordinated by UNSW conjoint Prof Peter Sainsbury, and included Doctors for the Environment Australia, Public Health Association of Australia, Climate and Health Alliance, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, NSW Nurses and

Midwives Association and many others. These groups work vigorously to make a clear statement to the Australian government – that action on climate is a health priority of the highest order.

UNSW's incoming Vice-Chancellor Ian Jacobs began his tenure with an extensive consultation process with staff and students to formulate the UNSW Grand Challenges initiative. He quickly found out that staff all over campus shared resounding concern and aspirational will to contribute to climate action. Climate Change was named the first of UNSW's Grand Challenges. Activities began, bringing together representatives across campus and high level university administrators from Campus Life and UNSW Safety and Sustainability. A/ Prof Melissa Haswell, from SPHCM, represents UNSW Medicine on the Climate Change Expert Opinion Working Group and UNSW's Advisory Group on Climate Change.

SPHCM has led the Medicine Faculty in teaching and learning on climate change and health to medical and postgraduate public health students for years. Each year students taking PHCM9612 Environmental Health create an impressive trans-disciplinary report examining a real and topical issue, for example:

- 2013: Health risks and benefits associated with coal seam gas mining
- 2014: Threats to Sydney's Water Catchment Area

- 2015: Health implications of Australia's energy choices: wind, solar, coal and unconventional gas.

Commenting on her involvement in UNSW's Grand Challenge on Climate Change, Melissa Haswell states: "It is so inspiring to be in rooms with people all across UNSW who have such enormous potential contributions to make. These include the outstanding innovators in the School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy, ARC Centre for Sustainable Materials Research and Technology creating green steel and other waste recycling processes, to Faculty of the Built Environment designing buildings, enabling low carbon living and planning healthier cities."

Rich discussions with important human health implications occur between these innovators and colleagues in the Centre for Energy and Environmental Markets, UNSW Law, Climate Change Research Centre, Arts and School of Humanities and Languages, as well as student leaders.

"I think it's great that SPHCM UNSW Medicine proudly sits at this table to ensure that both the threats and the opportunities for human health are highlighted on this very Grand Challenge" Melissa said.

Photos Wikimedia Common by CSIRO: solar array at the CSIRO Energy Centre; Scotts Park, Tasmania Cool Temperate Rainforest



7th Global Social Business Summit 2015

The main venue for the Global Social Business Summit 2015 in the Tempelhof Airport, Berlin, Germany

The 7th Global Social Business Summit is the worldwide leading forum of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus's social business philosophy which aims to create non-loss, non-dividend companies with a social goal. It serves to spread awareness about social business, to foster discussion and collaboration between practitioners and stakeholders, and to develop best practices for social businesses.

This annual event is organised by the Grameen Creative Lab, Germany and the Yunus Centre, Bangladesh and gathers experts from the private sector, civil society, governments and academia over a few days of meetings, forums and workshops.

The main theme for the Global Social Business Summit 2015 was 'creating a world without poverty and unemployment'. There were 800 participants from 60 countries who discussed various topics such as social business, youth, poverty, unemployment, health care, micro finance, skills, education, terrorism, black money, women's empowerment, sustainability, war, inequality, conflict and the new United Nation Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved by 2030.

In the opening session, Professor Muhammad Yunus gave strategic directions for the social business movements by setting the objectives: zero poverty, zero unemployment and zero net carbon emission.

Professor Yunus and his associates have done a stupendous job of not only hosting these seven GSBS Summits but have also succeeded in sensitising the youth and civil society around the world.

Dr Mahfuz Ashraf outlined the UNSW Yunus Social Business Health Hub's on-going activities e.g. high school students work experience placement and university students' attachment and future plan on inter schools' social business plan/case competition in UNSW.

Prior to the summit, there was a two-day academic conference and Dr Mahfuz also presented three research papers on theoretical and educational aspects of social business, and the role of social business in disaster management responses.

The UNSW Yunus Social Business Health Hub (YSBHH) is located within the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW Medicine and aims to improve health outcomes for poor communities in Australia, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. The Hub is part of a global network of university-based Yunus research centres, with the UNSW Hub focused mainly on Health. Professor Siaw-Teng Liaw and Professor Richard Taylor are co-directors of the Hub, and Dr Bayzidur Rahman is the assistant director.



Dr Mahfuz Ashraf outlines the UNSW Yunus Social Business Health Hub's on-going activities



For more information on the UNSW Yunus Social Business Health Hub visit:

sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/yunus-social-business-health-hub

Sexual health and behaviour of men in New South Wales



The Australian Study of Health and Relationships (ASHR) team have released a report presenting findings on the sexual practices and health of a sample of over 4,000 men in New South Wales. The research encompassed men's sexual identity, sexual behaviour, protective actions such as condom use, experience of sexually transmissible infections and rates of testing. This will inform NSW Health policies, service delivery and health promotion activities, and assist in tracking the effectiveness of sexual health interventions over time.

The report is based on an analysis of data from the Second Australian Study of Health and Relationships 2012–2013 in which computer-assisted telephone interviews were completed with a representative sample of over 20,000 men and women aged 16–69 in Australia, and an oversample of 1,000 men in NSW conducted 2013–2014.

Findings include the following:

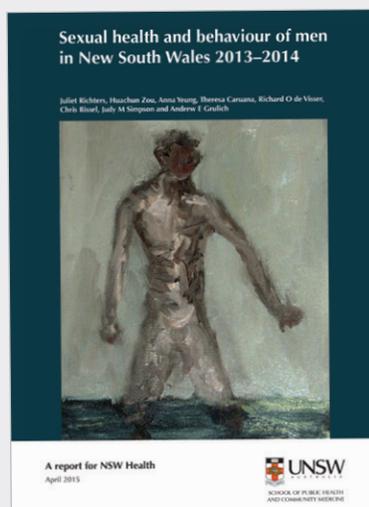
- 4% self-identified as gay, bisexual, queer or 'other', 8% had ever been sexually attracted to a man and 7% had had a sexual experience with a man
- 48% of those with a casual female partner in the last 6 months always used a condom and 60% with a casual male partner in the last 6 months always used a condom in anal intercourse
- 20% of men had ever paid for sex, with 2% paying for sex with a woman in the last year
- 60% of men who had had sex with a man in the previous year (MSM) and 11% of other men had been tested for sexually transmissible infections (STI) in

the last year, with MSM more likely to report ever having had a sexually transmissible infection

- Nearly 1 in 4 MSM and less than 1 in 20 of other men had experienced sexual coercion
- Nearly 70% of MSM and 13% of other men used the internet to look for partners in the past year, with 30% of MSM and 2% of other men having had sex with someone they met online
- MSM were nearly twice as likely to smoke as other men.

The researchers were Prof Juliet Richters, Anna Yeung and Theresa Caruana from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW; Dr Huachun Zou and Prof Andrew Grulich from the Kirby Institute, UNSW; Dr Richard de Visser, University of Sussex; Prof Chris Rissel and Prof Judy Simpson from the University of Sydney.

For further information or a copy of the report contact Theresa Caruana, t.caruana@unsw.edu.au or go to www.ashr.edu.au.



Professor Peter Baume honoured



Congratulations to Prof Peter Baume, who has been named a distinguished fellow of the Royal Society of NSW. Prof Baume was head of Community Medicine at UNSW from 1991 to 2000 and has a distinguished career including being a federal cabinet minister in the Fraser government, and Chancellor of ANU. Prof Baume remained actively involved in teaching medical and postgraduate students at SPHCM. Prof Baume said: "More and more, medical practitioners and members of the public are demanding attention to things that we do – to ethics and to communication and evidence-based practice. So the School is likely to have an ever more central role in educating health professionals – after all, problems are about people first and their diseases second.

My work continues with fine young students doing first and second years. Twice weekly they meet for tutorial-sized scenario groups which introduce them to some clinical problems. I teach about the doctor-patient relationship and the philosophy of science – my students learn a little of Popper and Kuhn, for example. The scenario groups are taken when the students are immersed in medical science and add a valuable gloss to what they are doing. The scenario groups remind young potential medical practitioners that there is purpose to the important science they have to learn."

Congratulations also to Prof Baume for the publication of his book 'Dissident Liberal' (2015, ANU Press). In 2016 Prof Baume will reflect on his extensive career in health and lessons learned, as the keynote speaker at the 60th Anniversary of the UNSW Master of Health Management. Stay tuned for details.



Recent workshops

Several workshops have been held recently at SPHCM on topical health issues.

Current challenges in measles control

The UNSW SPHCM and the Australian Response MAE network (ARM) recently conducted a workshop on maintaining measles elimination in Australia.

Measles remains a global problem, particularly in Asia, with travel being a major vector for importation into Australia. Movement of people between Australia and New Zealand also appears to contribute to measles epidemics. The larger and longer than usual measles outbreaks in recent years in Australia have heightened the need to close the immunity gaps; with young adults, unimmunised children and selected culturally and linguistically diverse groups being the main risk groups.

The workshop brought together more than 100 stakeholders in measles immunisation to discuss current challenges in measles control and issues around measles elimination status in Australia.

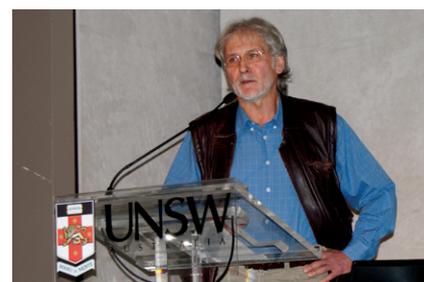
ARM is a network dedicated to facilitating the deployment of qualified Australian field epidemiologists and other public health specialists in the event of global, regional, and cross-jurisdictional infectious disease emergencies.

CRE Immunisation advocacy workshop

This workshop focused on advocacy for increasing immunisation rates of existing NIP vaccines across the age spectrum. The PHAA participated in planning the workshop with significant in-kind contribution of committee membership, advice, Michael Moore as guest speaker, and advertising. Its focus was informed by previous SAB discussions and a draft plan was refined through feedback from the 2014 SAB meeting. In the workshop, advocacy strategies were discussed such as media advocacy, community advocacy, policy advocacy, engaging with or within government departments and grass roots citizen advocacy. The workshop took Moore's definition "persuading decision makers of the need for change through identifying desired public health outcomes and effective and feasible methods of achieving that change."

The workshop attracted more than 200 immunisation researchers, practitioners, program managers, policy makers, organisations in health, consumers and others with a stake in improving immunisation programs.

Images: Top - Participants at the Neonatal vaccines workshop; Right - Prof Raina MacIntyre at the Immunisation advocacy workshop; Key note speaker Prof Tomasz Kiedrzyński at Current challenges in measles control workshop



Neonatal Vaccines Workshop

Following the successful workshop in Melbourne in 2014 to explore the issue of induction of allergy by early vaccination, an invitee only workshop on "Neonatal vaccination – current and future role in Australia and the region a research and policy seminar" was successfully conducted on October 21st and October 22nd 2015. The workshop was attended by 19 researchers in neonatal vaccines from across the country. The workshop discussed topics around evidence needed to progress neonatal immunisation, connection between neonatal vaccinations and maternal vaccinations; possible contribution by Australian research, collaborative opportunities and midterm to long term follow up of those infected by flu and pertussis.

Football United's new partnerships and honours

Dr Anne Bunde-Birouste, Football United's founder and SPHCM staff member, was recently honoured by being nominated as a state finalist for the 2016 Australian of the Year award.

Internationally-respected for her expertise in social change, Dr Anne Bunde-Birouste has created a life-changing program for refugee youth as they transition into Australian society. While undertaking her PhD, Anne created Football United – a program that uses the magic of the 'World Game' together with other strategies to inspire young people, foster their educational engagement and promote social justice and cross-cultural harmony. Since 2006, Anne has helped thousands of young people throughout Sydney, with many now taking on roles as youth leaders, project coordinators and mentors.

Anne is the convener of health promotion at SPHCM, and a world



Premier Mike Baird MP with the NSW state finalists and recipients for 2016 Australian of the Year – Dr Anne Bunde-Birouste third from right

leader in using sport for social development. She demonstrates how sport can help young people adjust to their new lives, build self-esteem and forge strong community bonds. Representing the Australian values of acceptance and multiculturalism, Anne has found a new way to welcome the nation's newest citizens.

The Football United program was also chosen along with Australia for UNHCR as recipients of the nationally launched Football Cares campaign by the Australian Football Federation. The campaign is designed to mobilise support to enable them to increase their capacity to support the new influx of more than 12,000 Syrian refugees who will be settling in Australia from December 2015.

Football United staff also engaged with the YUNUS Centre running

a series of workshops for the Centre's high school work study student program in November 2015. Opportunities continue to grow for SPHCM students to contribute to social causes through their work with Football United in the SPHCM internship program, in independent study and research projects, as well as volunteers.



Yunus Centre high school work study students 2015

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

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