



Celebration of 60 years of Health Management @UNSW

This year marks 60 years since the commencement of health management programs at UNSW. The UNSW health management program is the first and the largest health management program in Australia. Alumni from the health management programs – from the initial Bachelor of Health Administration (BHA) program to today’s Master of Health Management (MHM) program – have gone on to distinguish themselves in many senior management positions in Australia and overseas.

Academics from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine (SPHCM) have over the years been recognised as leaders in the field of

Photos: Top – Review of Educational Design and Innovation (REDI) team MHM; Right – Prof Mary-Lou McLaws & A/Prof David Heslop, Senior MHM Academics

health management research and have built the corpus of knowledge from their research and incorporated into their teaching to make the MHM program highly relevant to both current and future health managers.

The MHM at UNSW is accredited by both the Royal Australasian College of Health Administrators (RACMA) and the Australasian College of Health Services Management (ACHSM). It provides local and international students with the core capabilities required to respond to the complex challenges faced by health managers and leaders in diverse health settings.

The SPHCM and our large alumni network will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the UNSW Health Management program, in conjunction with the 2016 Asia Pacific Rim Universities (APRU)



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Global Health Program Workshop, on 28th September, 2016. The day will feature keynote speakers Prof Peter Baume AC who will provide insights into 'Health Systems Challenges: Past, Present and Future' and Prof Mary-Louise McLaws who will discuss 'Infection Control as a Patient-Safety Measure: its past and future'. Professors Baume and McLaws are distinguished academics within SPHCM, and will reflect upon their considerable experience leading and contributing to the Health Management program.

Whether you are a past, present or potential future faculty or student, we cordially invite you to join us for the 60th Anniversary Celebrations on Wednesday, 28th September 2016 at the Colombo Building, Kensington Campus, UNSW. Registration for the Health Management 60th Anniversary celebrations is available through the following website: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/news-events/celebration-60-years-health-management-unsw.

This will be an opportunity to re-connect with former students and meet others who are passionate about the importance of health management. As part of the celebrations we will be outlining several important recent developments in the Health Management program along with plans for further innovations in the future. The event will conclude with an awards ceremony, accompanied by drinks and canapés. It is sure to be a memorable event. For further information about the Celebration event and the Health Management program, please contact Dr Chinthaka Balasooriya, Director of the Health Management Program, at: c.balasooriya@unsw.edu.au.

The MHM @ UNSW: a unique blend of experience and innovation

The UNSW SPHCM Health Management program is built on the strong foundation developed over the last 60 years and has progressively introduced a range of innovations. The program is offered in face-to face or fully online mode to provide flexible, innovative, student centered learning. The program is flexible to accommodate the needs of emerging health leaders within Australia's local health care system and health care systems overseas.

Teaching in the MHM draws on contemporary case studies and encourages students to share their own experiences and health system contexts. This enables students to examine and reflect on the critical elements required to provide the most effective, efficient and equitable health services possible. It considers different social, economic and political settings that shape health service delivery and health management practices. Academics at SPHCM have a wide breadth of experience and networks that provide students with the opportunity to undertake workplace-focused projects to further enhance their capabilities. MHM students not only build their own personal repertoire of skills for being effective health managers but have reported to have a meaningful impact on their own health service contexts.

The Master of Health Management program can also be taken as part of a dual degree with other programs at SPHCM (Health Management/ Public Health, Health Management/ International Public Health) or as a specialisation – a Master of Public Health/Health Management in Economic Evaluation. We also



offer a joint program that combines the UNSW Master of Health Management (MHM) and the MBA program at SRM University in India. For health managers with an interest in the health sector in Asia, the MHM-MBA program provides first-hand experience and understanding of business management in India, combined with the health management skills provided in our MHM. UNSW is part of the Plus Alliance (a collaboration between UNSW Australia, King's College London and Arizona State University), and there will be opportunities in the near future to do our MHM with offerings from other universities within the Alliance.

Importantly, the Health Management program offers more than an internationally-reputed qualification. Students have the opportunity to engage with staff members, many of whom are leading experts in their fields. They also sustain these relationships into the future as alumni of UNSW. SPHCM also offers students a range of diverse and stimulating continuing education activities, and the opportunity to progress into PhD programs at UNSW.



Photos: Top – School staff 1960; Bottom – Students attending Melbourne Residential School 1968; Left – MHM Review team



APRU Global Health Program Workshop 2016

Double Burden of Disease: Practice, Teaching & Research

28 September - 1 October 2016

UNSW's standing as one of the region's leading research universities has been highlighted by its membership with the prestigious Association of Pacific Rim Universities network (APRU). Membership of this important network enables UNSW to engage with 44 leading research-intensive universities in the Asia-Pacific region, including Stanford, UCLA, University of Hong Kong, University of Tokyo, National University of Singapore and Seoul National University.

Pacific Rim economies face some common challenges including fast-paced economic growth and urbanisation, demographic changes and increasingly older populations and poverty. APRU's key collaborative research themes include global health; sustainability and climate change; multi-hazards; ageing in Asia; and brain and mind research – all research strengths of UNSW.

UNSW will host APRU Global Health program workshop from the 28th September to 1st October under the banner of 'Double Burden of Disease: Practice, Teaching & Research' at the Colombo Theatres, UNSW Kensington Campus, Sydney.

The program includes invited speakers from SPHCM: Prof Raina MacIntyre, who will talk on 'The changing landscape of emerging infections and Prof Richard Taylor, who will talk on 'Diversity of NCDs in Pacific Rim countries.'

Details of this workshop are available at:
apruglobalhealth.org/2016Workshop

Photos: Prof Raina MacIntyre, Head of School; Prof Richard Taylor

UNSW Medicine – 2016

Queen's Birthday Honours List



Please join us in congratulating Dr John Dewdney who has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to tertiary education as an academic, researcher and administrator, particularly in the field of public health development.

Joining the staff of the University's then School of Hospital Administration as a Senior Lecturer in 1967, he became an Associate Professor in the School of Health Administration in the 1970s and retired as Head of School in 1987. He then continued his association with UNSW as a Visiting Research Fellow in the School of Medical Education and the WHO/UNSW Regional Training Centre. Following the establishment in 2001 of the UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine John became a Visiting Senior Research Fellow and is currently an Honorary Associate Professor in the School.

John's more than forty years experience as a practitioner, consultant, researcher and trainer in health service development in general and human resource development in particular has included contractual engagement with the World Bank, WHO, DFID, ADB and AusAID with participation in health service development projects in more than thirty countries. His computer based health workforce planning model has been employed in the development of national health workforce plans in countries in Africa, Asia, Central America, Europe and Oceania.



Report on SPHCM Centres for Research Excellence

Stakeholder Roundtable on Epidemic Disaster Response

On the 23rd of May, the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) in Integrated Systems for Epidemic Response (ISER) held a stakeholder workshop at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. This event was the first of its kind for the ISER Academy; a think-tank and convener of dialogue between various stakeholders and sectors involved in capacity building and innovation in epidemic response and control.

The workshop brought together more than 40 national and international experts in public health, field epidemiology, defence, international law, and governance to discuss a hypothetical biological disaster with a focus on cross-sectorial collaboration. Stakeholders from the following organisations were in attendance: Local Public Health Units, Department of Health, South Australia Health,

NSW Health, NSW Ambulance, Australian Defence Force, NSW Police, Australian Federal Police, Médecins Sans Frontières, Department of Primary Industries, Animal Health, Architecture NSW, Arizona State University and the University of Texas Medical Branch Police Department.

ISER conducts applied systems research, with goals to enhance collaboration and build capacity in health systems research for epidemic control. More details are available at the School website: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/centres-units/centre-research-excellence-epidemic-response

Epi-Watch

Epi-Watch is an outbreak scanning and rapid analysis observatory within the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence (CRE), Integrated Systems in Epidemic Response (ISER). The



aims are to monitor global disease outbreaks, observe epidemic patterns, consider implications for Australia and provide rapid digestible content and critical analysis of important outbreaks for use by policy makers, governments and relevant stakeholders. The team comprises senior academics, epidemiologists and postgraduate students who work daily on Epi-Watch under the supervision of the CRE chief investigators. Within Epi-Watch, are three key outputs: (i) Epi-Alerts, a rapid intelligence service providing outbreak alerts of public health significance, (ii) Epi-Briefs, a critical analysis service of serious, persistent, or unusual outbreaks, and (iii) Epi-Digest, a regular newsletter including critical analysis available for policy makers, governments and stakeholders on current outbreaks. For more information please contact epiwatch-ISER@unsw.edu.au



Photos: Top – A/Prof David Heslop; Right – Prof Raina MacIntyre; CRE Team Elizabeth Kpozehouen, Chau Bui, Dillon Adam, Dr Abrar Chughtai



Sustainable Development Goals 2030:

Role of Politicians & Policy Makers in improving maternal and child health in Pakistan

The role of policy makers and politicians in driving the agenda for Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, particularly for Maternal and Neonatal Mortality is well recognised. Researchers from the SPHCM collaborated with the Women Medical College (Abbottabad), National Maternal Newborn and Child Health Program, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the World Health Organization (WHO) country office in Pakistan, and conducted a seminar on 28 May 2016 at the Women Medical College, Abbottabad, Pakistan.

The main objective of this seminar was to create awareness among public representatives and policy makers regarding current programs and initiatives in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and to share activities of a research project on Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Surveillance being undertaken by a PhD candidate from the SPHCM, Dr Jasim Anwar. The seminar was attended by politicians, Members of the Parliament, Health Secretary, Government of Pakistan, Provincial Coordinators of National Maternal Newborn and Child Health Program and National Program for Family Planning and Primary health care, District Administrators and District Health Authorities and academia. Approximately 300 people participated in this first ever event in Pakistan convened by SPHCM.

Discussions were generated between politicians and policy makers in addressing gaps, with a focus on community engagements and partnership thus driving the SDGs agenda for 2030 in the correct direction towards achieving targets of reducing maternal and neonatal mortality.



Dr Jasim Anwar graduated with a MBBS from Pakistan in 2002. In 2004 he joined the WHO as a national officer. In 2010, he completed a Master by research at the University of Sydney. He re-joined the WHO as Provincial Hospital Coordinator for Disease Early Warning System (DEWS) and in 2012, transferred to the Mother, newborn, Child and Adolescence Health (MnCAH) department as Provincial MnCAH Officer. Dr Anwar is currently conducting PhD research in MnCAH and health information systems funded by an International Post Graduate Award from UNSW.

POSTER AWARD

PHAA 15th National Immunisation Conference



Research conducted at the SPHCM has been awarded 'the best poster award' at the PHAA 15th National Immunisation Conference, held in Brisbane from 7-9 June 2016. The research showed that influenza vaccine coverage in adults aged 65 years and older may be up to 17% lower in migrants compared to Australian-born adults. In addition, those who spoke a language other than English at home also had lower vaccination coverage; and lower vaccine coverage was found even amongst those who had first migrated over 50 years ago.

The research was led by Dr Surendra Karki at the SPHCM, in collaboration with researchers from the Australian National University and the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance.

The study is a part of broader NHMRC funded research project using the Sax Institute's 45 and Up Study and led by Associate Professor Bette Liu in the SPHCM.



Dr Chinthaka Balasooriya recently attended the MoU signing by Prof Ian Jacobs (President and Vice Chancellor, UNSW) and Professor Li Weiping (President of Renji Hospital). This was followed by a round table discussion on future opportunities for collaboration between the universities.

SPHCM Collaboration with Shanghai Jiao Tong University / Renji Hospital, China

SJTU-UNSW Collaborative Research Fund

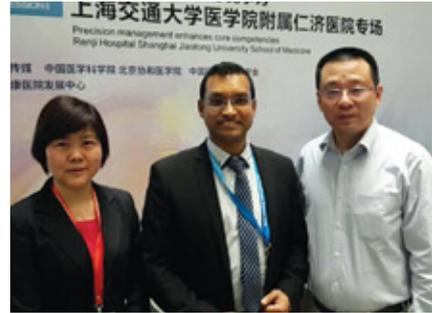
UNSW and China's prestigious Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) have established a collaborative research fund. The fund will be used to promote and encourage collaborative research and development in areas of common interest, provide facilities for this purpose and enhance the activities of each institution.

A research team from SPHCM (Dr Chinthaka Balasooriya, Professor Raina McIntyre and Associate Professor Joanne Travaglia) was successful in receiving a seed grant to foster research collaborations with SJTU; this

funding is being used to bring together findings of two doctoral projects completed at the school.

The first is the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) project currently being undertaken by Dr Michael Wang of SJTU/Renji Hospital (Supervised by Prof Raina MacIntyre, Dr Chinthaka Balasooriya and A/Prof Joanne Travaglia), which investigates the significant problem of burnout in medical students.

The second is the doctoral project of Dr Asela Olupeliyawa (supervised by Dr Chinthaka Balasooriya, A/Prof Chris Hughes and Prof Tony O'Sullivan) which led to the development of an



Meeting with President, Professor Li Weiping: Hospital CEO summit- Renji conference, Shanghai



Meeting with Head of Renji Clinical School, Prof. Zheng Qing: Ottawa Shanghai Joint Medical School

Presentation to staff at SJTU by Dr Chinthaka Balasooriya, SPHCM, UNSW Australia: Adapting scenario-based learning approaches to the Chinese medical education context



educational instrument, the TMEX, that has gained wide international recognition.

The TMEX is an instrument that is designed to develop clinical collaborative competencies in graduating medical students, so that interns are better prepared to function within healthcare teams. The proposed collaborative research project will investigate the role of the TMEX in reducing the levels of burnout in medical students. The first stage of the project will involve adapting the TMEX to suit the Chinese medical education context. The collaborative research project is a testimony to the translational value of the doctoral work conducted at SPHCM.

Chinthaka subsequently visited SJTU and Renji hospital, Shanghai in June 2016, where he was able to strengthen the collaboration and establish some important links. SJTU and Renji hospital have strong interests in forging links for student exchange and research collaboration. Reciprocal visits by the collaborators from SJTU will take place later this year, and will provide an opportunity for UNSW staff to further explore opportunities for collaboration. Michael Wang (Director, Exchange & Cooperation Office, Renji Hospital, Shanghai, China) will visit UNSW in October 2016.

Please feel free to contact Chinthaka for more information on this project. Details of the UNSW-SJTU collaboration are available at: research.unsw.edu.au/sjtu-unsw-collaborative-research-fund



Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) . . .

The Government has announced the development of an Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) to cover all ages, to be implemented in stages from 2016. This provides one of the most important opportunities to advance immunisation in Australia's history.

The NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Population Health Research (CRE) – “Immunisation in Understudied and Special Risk Populations” has a keen interest in the potential of the AIR for all Australians. Research in our areas of focus – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, mothers and infants, the frail elderly, and migrants, refugees and travellers – shows that the absence of an immunisation registration has been a major barrier to identifying people at risk of under-vaccination. The creation of the AIR has enormous potential to improve uptake of recommended vaccines in adults.

The CRE will host as its final event, a one-day workshop on 26 August 2016 in Sydney to discuss the functionality of an AIR that will be needed to best support the National Immunisation Program and related activities. The primary aim is to bring together all stakeholders and to make a constructive contribution to informing the development and future utility of the AIR. The CRE is in its 5th and final year, and the AIR as a subject for our final event is timely, topical and highly relevant to our work. The workshop will also be a celebration of the CRE and its achievements.

REGISTER online HERE
creimmunisation.com.au
(Free entry)

For further information, please contact Elizabeth Kpozehouen at e.kpozehouen@unsw.edu.au, +61 (2) 9385 1192



UNSW medical student's ILP research focuses on the impact of drugs on Indigenous communities



UNSW medical student, Thomas Barlow, has been awarded the ILP Balnaves scholarship so he can spend the year researching an important area of Indigenous healthcare. Thomas will look at the impact of alcohol and drug abuse on Indigenous communities. The Wagga Wagga Rural Clinical School student took some time out to talk about his research.

Working with A/Prof Melissa Haswell-Elkins – based at UNSW's School of Public Health and Community Medicine – Thomas' ILP will focus on data collected at Oolong House, an Aboriginal community-controlled alcohol and substance abuse residential rehabilitation facility in Nowra, NSW.

Thomas will explore the trends and characteristics in the use of methamphetamine in Indigenous communities. He will be looking at how empowerment, drug use and mental health are related to the way amphetamines are used and treated.

"My experience with remote Indigenous communities, as well as those in regional NSW, has exposed me to some of the health challenges that Indigenous communities often face," Thomas says. "Since Oolong House is run by the Aboriginal community, it provides a unique environment where Indigenous people have control over their own health."

Rates of methamphetamine use within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is 1.6 times higher than their non-Indigenous counterparts, says Thomas, so this is a critical area of Indigenous healthcare that needs urgent attention.

UNSW's School of Public Health and Community Medicine have worked closely with Oolong House for many years to assist them in evaluating the impact and outcome of their program.

Thomas' time at the John Flynn Placement Program (JFPP) was a real catalyst to spark his interest in Indigenous healthcare, and he's

"I believe empowerment is a fundamental step in improving health outcomes – and by doing this research I can gain an insight into the complexities of Indigenous culture and be involved in a grass roots program that arises from Aboriginal way of life."

already been on two three-week placements in Ramingining, a small Indigenous community 560km east of Darwin in the Northern Territory. "From my experience in Ramingining, I've become more aware of the need for doctors to be committed to remote communities for the long term," he says.

"Once I graduate, I'd like to work as a GP in northern rural Australia, focusing on Indigenous health. I'd love to work with local communities, working with the people to improve health literacy and access. I want to work in and be a part of vibrant and culturally impressive communities such as Ramingining!"

See full news article Rural Clinical School: rcs.med.unsw.edu.au

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 Dr Rohan Jayasuriya: r.jayasuriya@unsw.edu.au. Layout and design by Christine Rousselis: c.rousselis@unsw.edu.au.

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