



## *New, online* Bachelor of International Public Health

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine (SPHCM) is proud to be launching the first degree program under the groundbreaking PLoS Alliance partnership between UNSW Sydney, Arizona State University (ASU) and King's College London (King's). The Bachelor of International Public Health (BIPH) will launch in January 2018. It will be offered as a fully online degree embodying the principles of the PLoS Alliance – to better prepare individuals to join a workforce that increasingly operates across cultures and borders and develop solutions to global challenges.

The BIPH seeks to provide an innovative global degree for expanding public health education. Within a context of a projected shortfall of 18 million health workers worldwide by 2030, the BIPH aims to meet the needs of students

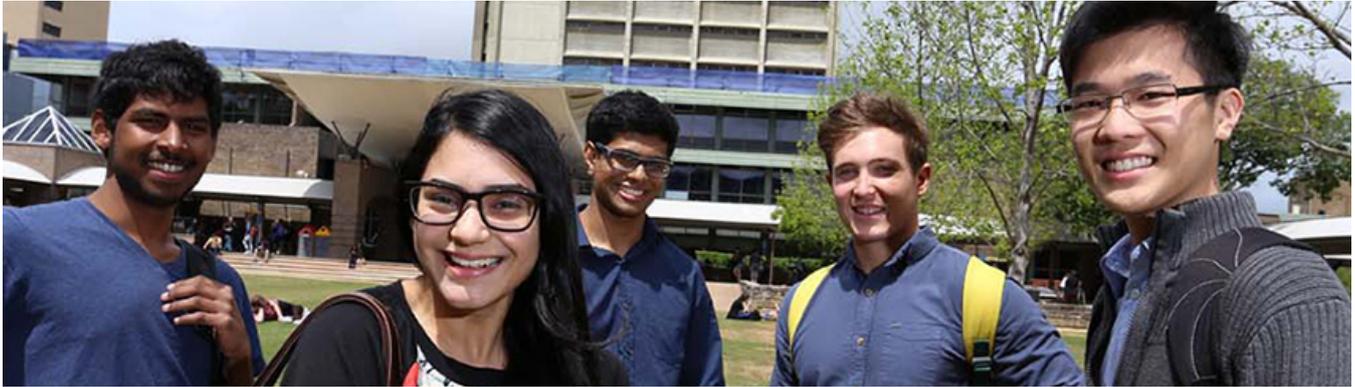
wherever they are based, and provide the capacities to work in health and development abroad – or in their own local communities. The option for undertaking a fully online program distinguishes it from other BPH programs in Australia and offers flexibility – while maintaining the delivery of high-quality education in a highly interactive and engaging format – and the opportunity for global student interaction and learning.

The BIPH was first forged through the leadership of Professor MacIntyre from SPHCM working closely with Professor Alison Essary from ASU in envisaging the degree as a shared initiative where students could engage in a global educational experience with shared coursework across the two universities. In early 2017, Dr Lois Meyer from SPHCM came on as Director of the BIPH, and was then joined

by Dr Jerico Pardosi as Assistant Director, to work on the curriculum development and steer the new program through the university accreditation processes. Given this is the first undergraduate program offered under the PLoS Alliance, successful stewardship of this new form of provision at UNSW Sydney has been a major achievement. As noted by Professor Merlyn Crossley, the BIPH has been at the forefront

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providing an innovative example that subsequent PLS Alliance programs could learn from.

BIPH is distinguished by its innovative international underpinning, both in provision of the program as a whole, and in affording global student interaction and learning through its digital delivery. Over the course of three years, students from across the globe will interact in a dynamic virtual classroom, studying UNSW Sydney courses and various ASU and King’s courses. They will learn about basic medical sciences, epidemiology, biostatistics, surveillance, disease prevention, health promotion, public health leadership, law and ethics, health policy and programs and health economics. Topics range from communicable disease and environmental health, to physical activity and nutrition, to mental health – all of which will incorporate current international perspectives.

A central feature of the program is the opportunity for students enrolled across UNSW Sydney, ASU and King’s to engage in collaborative exchange and cutting-edge synchronous and asynchronous online learning strategies. Students will explore a diverse range of case studies that span international contexts and population health issues and priorities. Equally, to support a coherent degree experience, all courses will be closely interconnected in drawing on a range of cross-cutting themes such as advocacy, community dynamics, critical thinking, cultural competence, research methods, systems thinking and teamwork. Students will complete a digitised portfolio

throughout their degree program, with a capstone experience in their area of interest in their final year.

Two jointly-developed courses – International Indigenous Health and Comparative Health Systems will give students critical insights into different health systems and the social, economic, cultural, and political forces shaping health disparities in different populations and contexts.

Dr Lois Meyer sees the BIPH as an exciting opportunity for aspiring public health practitioners and leaders who want to help develop sustainable solutions to international health challenges, “This program is ideal for students who want to make a difference. This program provides the extraordinary opportunity to learn about global public health while interacting with students and academics across the world”. Online mentoring and interactive webinars throughout the program will help students succeed and reach their potential.

In the final year, through the Public Health Capstone students will get the opportunity to apply what they have learnt and immerse themselves in a real-life experience within the field of public health research, policy or practice. Whether they are interested in a research project or internship working in a research centre, non-government organisation, multinational/development agency or community setting, students will be able to undertake projects within a public health organisation within a local or international setting.

Another key feature of the BIPH program is the digital portfolio. Students will be able to document and share their learnings, achievements, skills, and experience throughout the program to fellow peers around the world through their personalised digital portfolio. Core competencies aligned to the US accreditation standards in public health such as a global perspective, commitment to social justice and sustainable development, cultural sensitivity and skills in advocacy will be fostered within the BIPH and then tracked, evaluated and examples given within a student’s portfolio. Beyond the BIPH program, students can tailor their own digital portfolio to meet their own career goals and showcase their ongoing professional development of workplace relevant achievements to potential employers and interested others.

Dr Jerico Pardosi highlights the diverse benefits and rewarding opportunities the program can offer to students saying, “Whether you’re looking to work in your home country or internationally the BIPH is one degree with many possibilities”.

To apply or find out more about studying the PLS Alliance BIPH program at UNSW Sydney, visit: [sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/bachelor-international-public-health](https://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/bachelor-international-public-health)

Photo on front by Slava Bowman on Unsplash

## PLUS ALLIANCE

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

PHOENIX

KING’S COLLEGE LONDON

LONDON

UNSW SYDNEY

SYDNEY

## MJA best research article



### *Congratulations to Professor Mary-Louise McLaws!*

Professor McLaws' article, 'SEPSIS KILLS: early intervention saves lives', has won the 2016 best research article award from the prestigious journal, the Medical Journal of Australia. The paper was the journal's most highly-cited article in 2016. A \$10,000 prize was awarded to the authors, who also included Dr Anthony Burrell, Mary Fullick, Rosemary Sullivan and Dr Doungkamol Sindhusake from the NSW Clinical Excellence Commission, in May 2017 at the national Australian Medical Association conference in Melbourne.

The article details a 2011 quality-improvement program, SEPSIS KILLS, that was implemented in all NSW public hospitals for the early recognition and treatment of sepsis in emergency departments. Sepsis is an inflammatory response to infection that can lead to organ failure and death, and is one of the most common reasons for a patient's health to deteriorate in hospital. The program promoted the principles, 'recognise, resuscitate, refer' in 97 emergency departments, whereby staff were educated about the signs and symptoms of sepsis and how to intervene within 60 minutes of recognition. Interventions included taking blood cultures, measuring serum lactate levels, administration of intravenous antibiotics, fluid

resuscitation and referral to senior clinicians.

Data were collected for 13,567 patients and the proportion of patients receiving intravenous antibiotics within 60 minutes of triage increased from 29.3% in 2009-2011 to 52.2% in 2013. An immediate 27% reduction in death was achieved. With the continuation of the program since the publication, there has been a further 4% reduction in the risk of death. Equating these figures to lives saved, SEPSIS KILLS has saved an additional 150 lives each year by reducing the time before antibiotics are administered and fluid resuscitation is initiated.

The program has been further rolled out to 200 hospitals and was awarded the international Global Sepsis Alliance Award.

#### **Professor McLaws says:**

*"At a time when universities are under financial pressures and the cost of health is under scrutiny it's beneficial to our patients to work together to bring academic rigour and clinical expertise to the mission of patient safety. This award is testimony to the value of such cooperation."*



#### **NEW STAFF MEMBER**

### **Dr John Hall**

My name is John Hall and I commenced as Professor of Primary Care (General Practice) in the School at the start of May. I come from a combined general practice and public health background.

After completing my medical degree here at UNSW Sydney, I worked as a volunteer doctor in South Korea and Pakistan, which has resulted in a lifelong passion for the delivery of primary health care services in both Australia and globally. I then completed my GP qualifications and am a Fellow of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. Subsequently, I completed a Master of Tropical Health at the University of Queensland, before taking up the position of Principal Medical Officer, Community Health, in Vanuatu in the Pacific. On my return to Australia, I obtained my Public Health Medicine Fellowship and became Director of the Western NSW Public Health Unit in Dubbo.

My academic career commenced when I joined Richard Taylor at the

► John Hall Continued

University of Sydney in the Master of International Public Health. I then moved on to directing the Human Resources for Health Knowledge Hub during its first two years, here at the school. After that, and for the past seven years, I was at Newcastle University. There, I was the convenor of the Masters of Public Health program and for the past three years the Director of the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Additionally, for most of the past 23 years I have practiced as a GP providing primary care services in Maitland in regional NSW. I also completed a PhD on tuberculosis policy in Papua New Guinea at the University of Sydney.

My research interests are in the primary care workforce in regional and rural Australia, with a focus on international medical graduates, and the primary health care delivery of services in low- and middle-income countries.

Related to these interests are my previous consultancies for the: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, Asian Development Bank and United States Agency for International Development – in the Pacific (Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands), Asia (Pakistan, Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam) and Africa (Kenya, Botswana).

I bring a passion for the equitable delivery of primary care services to people in rural Australia and internationally and look forward to continuing this work with colleagues here at UNSW Sydney.

## Dr Michael Wang is our first Future Health Leader graduate



Lots has been happening in SPHCM's Future Health Leader's (FHL) program! This unique program is a 3-year professional doctorate that is completed in partnership with a candidate's workplace. It is for those identified by their workplace as future leaders.

Firstly, there are new staff to welcome to the program: Dr Lois Meyer as the new Director and Drs David Muscatello and Maria Agaliotis as Associate Directors.

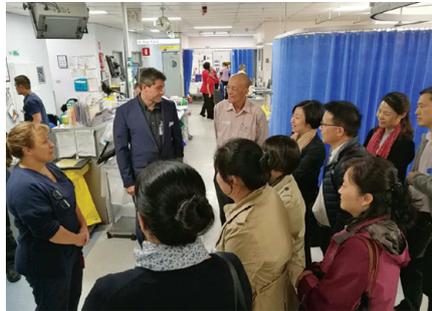
Secondly, we have our first FHL graduate, Dr Michael Wang! Dr Wang graduated on 9 November 2017. He is the Director of China's Shanghai Renji Hospital and of the President's Office (South Branch). He has worked in the following departments of the hospital: research and development, clinical management and risk and asset management; and has supervised and coordinated the hospital's general management under the direct lead of the president. He has completed five research programs as hospital program leader since 2007.

Through Dr Wang's FHL doctoral project, UNSW Sydney developed a memorandum of understanding with Renji Hospital, and this has opened up other collaborations. The memorandum was signed during a ceremony on 22 May 2017 after two years of preparation by Professor Li Weiping of Renji Hospital and Dr Reema Harrison from SPHCM at the hospital in Shanghai. Based on the agreement, the two parties planned to work closely to organise a tailored International Hospital Management Training Program (IHMTTP).

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Richard Coote (Deputy Consul-General of the Australian Consulate General in Shanghai and the Senior Trade Commissioner and National Manager for China of the Australian Trade and Investment Commission) highlighted that Renji Hospital had a strong vision for globalisation and had put in great effort to establish international collaborations, especially with UNSW Sydney. As part of the Torch Project launched by UNSW Sydney and the Ministry of Science and Technology China, the IHMTTP is going to support hospital managers and clinicians from China to train at SPHCM to enhance their skills, knowledge and global outlook.



## First delegation of the Renji Hospital-SPHCM International Hospital Management Training Program



Twenty people, who were selected from over 100 applicants, arrived in Sydney on the 3rd June 2017 for the first iteration of the International Hospital Management Training Program (IHMT) at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW Sydney.

Over a period of three weeks, these Chinese hospital managers and clinicians were involved in small group teaching sessions that covered health systems, leadership, quality improvement, patient safety, risk management, infection control, occupational health and safety, and professional development and accreditation.

In addition, these delegates visited five health sites; including public, private, primary and secondary care institutions. For example, one week was spent in Bankstown Hospital under the supervision of UNSW conjoint, Professor Daniel Chan.

The delegation also engaged in a within-group collaborative research project mapping the competencies needed amongst health managers in China.

This first iteration of the IHMT finished on the 23rd June 2017, marked by a closing ceremony attended by the Vice-Chancellor of UNSW, Professor Ian Jacobs, and the President of Renji Hospital, Professor Li Weiping.

## FOOTBALL FOR PEACE IN MYANMAR



Dr Tun Aung Shwe has been chosen to be among 10 professionals in the Myanmar UEHRD: Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine, chaired by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice-Chair is Dr Win Myat Ay, to work as national trainer for youth volunteering program for provision of humanitarian aids to the people in the conflict area. [rakhine.unionenterprise.org](http://rakhine.unionenterprise.org)

The three tasks will be performed in the UEHRD plan.

1. Effective provision of proper repatriation of the refugees from Myanmar.
2. Relief and resettlement.
3. Sustainable development of the region that is free from conflicts.

This is a huge honour and recognition of the work Tun is leading in Myanmar through his doctoral study on football for peace and reconciliation.

The photo is of Tun awarding a medal in one of the Football for Peace tournaments as part of our Football United work.

## ISER ACTIVITIES

### World Congress of Public Health and Epi-Watch workshop



Representatives from the NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence, Integrated Systems for Epidemic Response (ISER), took part in this year's 15th World Congress of Public Health in Melbourne over 3rd - 7th April. During the World Leadership Dialogues symposium on Tuesday 4th April 4 – 6 pm, ISER gave a presentation of a hypothetical pandemic disaster experience titled, 'A global pandemic experience – cross sectoral lessons'. The presentation was well attended and the audience gained an appreciation of the urgency and unpredictability of emerging infectious diseases and the overwhelming challenges faced at systems levels internationally.

ISER also conducted a workshop for Epi-Watch stakeholders on 9th October 2017 at UNSW Sydney. Epi-Watch is ISER's epidemic observatory. The purpose of the stakeholder workshop was to

discuss and explore end-user issues, such as those surrounding their global epidemic intelligence needs and how these can be addressed through the observatory.

The workshop comprised of presentations and facilitated group discussions on global epidemic alert services. Themes determined from the Epi-Watch survey were explored during the workshop. Fifty attending participants included Australian, New Zealand, Indonesian, Malaysian and Pacific Island government and non-government health professionals; who rely on epidemic intelligence and outbreak alert services in their occupations. During the workshop, participants were introduced to two new tools for epidemic intelligence, Flu cast and EpiRisk. The workshop was an excellent opportunity to demonstrate and discuss the real-world utility of these tools directly with end-users.



**VALE**

### Peter Trebilco

FACHPER, OAM ED

We were very sad to have to say goodbye to the lovely Peter Trebilco in October. Peter was born on 15 December 1927 in Hawthorne, Victoria; and would have turned 90 later this year. He was an academic at UNSW from 1972 to 1980, and has been an honorary Visiting Fellow at the School since 1981. He was a chirpy and positive presence to have in the school.

He was actively involved in teaching and academic life, with a focus on the social determinants of health and illness; mental health and its prevention and promotion; and diversity, particularly in relation to LBGTQI matters.

He was a life member and past Treasurer and Vice President of the Public Health Association of Australia and previously treasurer, Australasian Bioethics Association. He was also the Chairman of the Mental Health Association NSW, a Life Member of Way Ahead Mental Health Association NSW; a Life Member, Counsellor emeritus, Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW and a member of the International Symposium on Ethics of Environmental Health.

We will miss him.



# Qualitative Research Network Hub launches!

Earlier this year the Qualitative Research Network (QRN) Hub was founded at UNSW Sydney with funding from a UNSW Research Infrastructure Grant. While physically based in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, the QRN Hub is open to staff and students across UNSW Sydney and to people outside of the University, promoting the goals of Research Quality and Educational Experience as set out in the 2025 Strategy.

This initiative is the first of its kind; offering a range of workshops, seminars, and other events relating to qualitative research that anyone can take part in. These events

are all aimed at helping people learn more about how to conduct qualitative research, how to do it in a rigorous way and to learn from experienced qualitative researchers in the process.

Taking part in the informal monthly discussion group (held both in-person and online) can be a way of: getting a snapshot on different topics and issues relating to doing qualitative research, giving people a chance to talk about their own work, and getting support from other researchers who are conducting qualitative projects.

Both beginners and expert qualitative researchers have frequently commented on how much they

have gained from taking part in the various events and training.

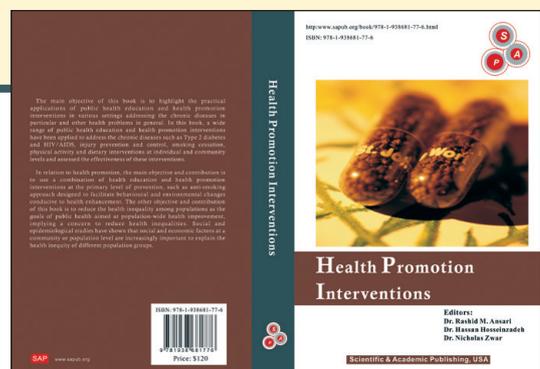
The QRN Hub also runs a Qualitative Research Clinic, which offers one-on-one consultation with an experienced qualitative researcher, tailored to the issues that someone may want to cover in designing or conducting their study. This is a paid service, but PhD and Masters students are entitled to an initial 1.5 hours free.

Please see the website for further details of services and how to sign up to the mailing list: [sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/centres-units/qualitative-research-network-hub](http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/centres-units/qualitative-research-network-hub)

## Health Promotion Interventions

Dr Hassan Hosseinzadeh has recently published a book in the area of health promotion, co-editing the publication, 'Health Promotion Interventions'. This book covers a wide range of public health education and health promotion interventions that address chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, and HIV/AIDS; and look at injury prevention and control, smoking cessation and physical activity and diet behaviours.

The overall approach is based on the principles used in conducting a health promotion intervention, beginning with assessing the needs of communities and individuals, planning, implementing and evaluating; with case studies from communities in developed and developing countries.



# Use of mobile health to promote healthy ageing and delivery of elder-friendly health services

The proportion of people aged over 60 years is increasing globally, and is expected to double by the year 2050. This is due to a longer life expectancy, which can be attributed to advancement in healthcare, as well as improved access to health services worldwide. The increase in longevity is especially rapid in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), which is a major public health concern. As of 2010, there were 240 million people aged 60 years and above in the Western Pacific Region (WPR), of which 78% were from LMICs.

Healthy ageing can be considered as the development and maintenance of optimal mental, social and physical wellbeing and function in older people. This is most likely achieved when communities are: safe, promote health and wellbeing and use health services and community programs to prevent or minimise disease. Ensuring that older people have equitable access to necessary healthcare services of adequate quality is an important part of the World Health Organization (WHO) global agenda towards promoting universal health coverage.

At the WHO WPR meeting on ageing and health in Manila in July 2017, Member States recommended the incorporation of a systems approach towards healthy ageing. Healthcare innovations for ageing, including mobile health (mHealth) interventions, is an important strategy to enhance the access and equity of health service delivery to the elderly in LMICs.

The WHO Collaborating Centre for eHealth at UNSW Sydney has been commissioned to undertake a literature review of how mHealth is being used to promote healthy ageing and elder-friendly health services. The key objectives of this review are to establish the need for effective models towards implementing an mHealth



approach to facilitate ageing and support the delivery of long-term aged care services. Implementation of prior mHealth interventions and evidence about their impact in the past decade will be assessed using the RE-AIM framework for evaluating healthcare services.

Led by Professor Siaw-Teng Liaw, this project is currently in progress and due for completion in early 2018. The review team includes: Ms Sameera Ansari, Dr Padmanesan Narasimhan, Dr Md Mahfuz Ashraf, Mr Jitendra Jonnagaddala, Associate Professor Christopher Poulos, Associate Professor Ben Harris-Roxas and Professor Mark Harris.

More about the UNSW Sydney WHO Collaborating Centre for eHealth can be found here: [sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/centres-units/who-collaborating-centre-ehealth](http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/centres-units/who-collaborating-centre-ehealth)

## 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 Rebecca Reynolds: [rebecca.reynolds@unsw.edu.au](mailto:rebecca.reynolds@unsw.edu.au). Layout and design by Christine Rousselis: [c.rousselis@unsw.edu.au](mailto:c.rousselis@unsw.edu.au).

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