



Rebecca Ivers Commences as New Head of School

On 6 August 2018, the School welcomed Professor Rebecca Ivers (MPH, PhD) as its new Head. Professor Ivers moved across from The George Institute for Global Health, where she was Director of the Injury Division for 12 years.

Professor Ivers is an injury epidemiologist and public health research leader who is recognised internationally for her expertise in injury prevention and trauma care. She designs and heads large observational studies and randomised trials focusing on injury, both in Australia and in low- and middle-income countries in Asia. At The George Institute she led a team of 30 research staff and students, including teams in the UK, India and China. She leads the only research group in Australia with a major focus on injury in Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander people. She has directed extensive work on the prevention of falls in older people and guides work on rehabilitation following trauma in resource-poor settings worldwide. She has current research projects underway focusing on burn and fracture care, drowning prevention in Bangladesh, fall prevention in older people, and on cultural safety in health care. With a passion for addressing inequity and the social determinants of health, Rebecca's research agenda is a perfect fit for SPHCM.

Her work has substantially improved the understanding relating to the burden of, and risk factors for, injury in many countries; and informed policies for improving safety and injury globally. With a commitment to research policy transfer, Professor Ivers has

written over 20 research reports for Government and other agencies, and written: multiple submissions to parliamentary enquiries, contributions to Government strategy and reports for the World Health Organization (WHO).
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We are excited that Professor Ivers has chosen to lead the School; and look forward to being guided by her expertise, as well as sharing parts of her future professional journey with her.

She holds many professional roles, including president of the peak body for injury practitioners in Australia, the Australian Injury Prevention Network; and has several WHO and United Nations (UN) advisory roles, including as member of the UN Road Safety Collaboration for the George Institute. On a community-engagement level, Professor Ivers has strong links with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations; and is regularly invited to speak at leading injury and epidemiology conferences.

In recognition of her professional success, Professor Ivers has had numerous accolades. She was recently awarded the 2017 NHMRC Elizabeth Blackburn Fellowship Public Health Award, which is given to the country's top-ranked female public health fellowship applicant, following on from her award of the 2007 NHMRC achievement award as a Career Development Fellow. She was awarded the 2014 NSW Public Health Associations' Public Health Impact Award, the Australian Injury Prevention Network 2013 Award for Sustained Achievement, and was a NSW Young Tall Poppy Award Recipient in 2008. Rebecca was also named Category Winner, Innovation, in the Australian Financial Review and Westpac list of Australia's Top 100 Women of Influence in 2014. Additionally, a personal profile of Ivers was published in the Lancet in 2011 and her work was featured in the Lancet in 2013.

NEW STAFF PROFILE

Dr Katie Harris

Hi, I'm Katie Harris. I started at SPHCM in June 2018, as a Lecturer convening the Advanced Epidemiology course. Originally from the UK, my academic career has been as a Biostatistician and Epidemiologist.

My passion in the area was ignited when I undertook a Summer placement between the second and final year of my undergraduate BSc Mathematics and Statistics degree at the University of Leeds, UK. After a rewarding summer placement in the Division of Biostatistics I was offered the opportunity to undertake a PhD. I successfully completed my PhD in 2010, entitled 'Assessment of Control and Performance of Biomedical Systems'. The project involved applying the statistical techniques of multilevel modelling and functional data analysis in a novel manner to repeated measures data from the clinical domains of Nephrology and Stroke.

I then gained postdoctoral experience in Cancer Epidemiology, at the University of Leeds. This enabled me to undertake a 3-month placement at the University of Sydney in 2012. It was from here that I developed a love for Sydney and Australia. I returned to Australia permanently in November 2014, taking a position in the National Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics Unit (NPESU) at UNSW Sydney. NPESU is a joint unit with the School of Women's and Children's Health and the Centre for Big Data Research in Health.

Through this role I gained extensive experience in managing and analysing large population-



based datasets, specifically the Australian and New Zealand Assisted Reproduction Database (ANZARD) and National Perinatal Data Collection (NPDC). My research has developed in the areas of Assisted Reproductive Technology and Maternal and Perinatal Health, publishing research papers and national surveillance reports.

It was within this role that my passion for teaching was heightened, through convening a course in Reproductive and Perinatal Epidemiology and Statistics, within the School of Women's and Children's Health Postgraduate Programs. I received two Postgraduate Teaching Awards from the School of Women's and Children's Health for my teaching of this course. The first after one year of convening the course in 2015 and most recently in December 2017.

Outside of UNSW my passion for teaching continues, where I teach (and train) Wing Chun Kung Fu at the International Wing Chun Academy.

I look forward to bringing my passion for teaching to SPHCM and working with colleagues in SPHCM on developing new research pursuits.

UNSW SEED GRANT: *Adolescent Health in Indonesia*

Dr Jerico Pardosi and Dr Christine Linhart were awarded a 2016-17 UNSW-Indonesia Seed Grant for their project on developing an integrated approach to the improvement of adolescent health in Indonesia focusing on vulnerable and most disadvantaged groups, in collaboration with Rachmalina Prasodjo and Dr Nunik Kusumawardani from the Centre for Public Health Research and Development, National Institute of Health Research and Development (NIHRD), Ministry of Health Indonesia.

The funding received (\$10,000) has enabled Dr Pardosi and Dr Linhart to work closely with their Indonesian partners and WHO Indonesia Office to analyse data from the 2015 Indonesia Global School Health Survey (GSHS), and start developing health interventions to address the identified adolescent health issues.

In May 2017, Dr Pardosi and Dr Linhart travelled to Jakarta for meetings with key stakeholders from the Indonesian Ministry of Health (MOH), WHO Indonesia and NIHRD. These meetings were followed by 3 days of

data analysis and report writing workshops using the 2015 GSHS dataset with research collaborators from NIHRD. In July 2017, NIHRD researchers were invited to visit SPHCM to attend the qualitative research workshop conducted by the SPHCM Qualitative Research Hub, and to strengthen the qualitative data analysis and draft publications of the 2015 GSHS dataset. The current research is focussed on a wide range of adolescent health determinants and health outcomes including school canteen food options, obesity, injury, sexual behaviour and sexual health education in Indonesia's major islands such as Java, Sumatera and Kalimantan.

This UNSW Seed Grant has formed the basis for long term collaboration between SPHCM, the Indonesian MOH and WHO Indonesia; with particular focus on collaborative research that will increase our understanding of determinants of adolescent health in Indonesia and provide evidence to inform policy development. In the process of this collaborative research, strong friendships have been formed among the research team and many batik gifts have been shared.



Photo above: Dr Christine Linhart of SPHCM UNSW (left) wearing the traditional Javanese batik gifted to her by Anissa Rizkianti (right) and the team from the Indonesia Agency for Health Research and Development, Jakarta, Indonesia

Photo below: Dra Rachmalina Prasodjo, MSc.PH (co-lead investigator for the 2015 Indonesia GSHS) is providing an explanation relating to the survey questionnaire to the selected high school students





Strengthening prevention and control practices to reduce viral hepatitis infection in Vietnam

Chronic haemodialysis patients are at an increased risk of acquiring hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections. Although international prevention and control guidelines to reduce infection in chronic haemodialysis patients have been widely disseminated, such as those by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HBV and HCV infections are still a significant burden in this population worldwide – especially in developing countries where these international guidelines may not be implemented properly due to limited resources. Dr Minh Cuong Duong and Professor Mary-Louise McLaws (SPHCM, UNSW Sydney) have identified several suboptimal prevention and control practices that facilitate outbreaks of viral hepatitis

infections in chronic haemodialysis patients in Vietnam. Dr Duong first investigated this during his PhD which he completed in 2016 through UNSW Sydney. Findings from his PhD were used by the Vietnam MOH to highlight the need to systematically assess the infectious disease prevention and control practices at haemodialysis units nationwide. Dr Duong’s continued research on the epidemiology and prevention and control of viral hepatitis infections in low-resource settings has led to ongoing collaboration with the Vietnam MOH and WHO.

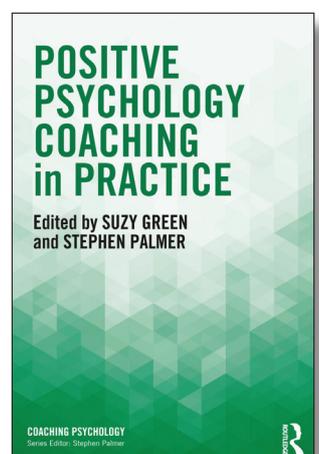
In response to the WHO’s recent call for the elimination of viral hepatitis by 2030, Dr Duong was invited by the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office to be part of a mission to

assess the national response to viral hepatitis in Vietnam. Dr Duong is specifically working on a systematic assessment of current HBV and HCV prevention and control practices in haemodialysis settings in Vietnam by conducting field assessments at district, provincial and national hemodialysis facilities. The findings from Dr Duong’s systematic assessment will be used to inform the development of national policies to facilitate the reduction in transmission of HBV and HCV in Vietnam and the region.

Photo: Dr Duong presenting preliminary findings from his research to stakeholders from WHO and the Vietnam MOH

Rebecca Reynolds co-authors a text book chapter on positive psychology coaching for health and wellbeing

Positive psychology focuses on the creation of positive behaviours to encourage a flourishing life. Positive psychology coaching (PPC) can be defined as, “evidence-based coaching practice informed by the theories and research of positive psychology for the enhancement of resilience, achievement and wellbeing” (Green S and Palmer S, 2014. Positive psychology coaching: Enhancing resilience, achievement and well-being. Workshop presented on 15 Nov 2014, at the 4th International Congress of Coaching Psychology, Melbourne, Australia). Rebecca co-authored Chapter 8 of the text book, Positive Psychology Coaching in Practice (2019, Eds Suzy Green and Stephen Palmer), alongside the book’s editors, Stephen Palmer and Suzy Green. The chapter focuses on how PPC can improve nutrition/diet and physical activity habits, as well as aspects of the body and mind that are associated with these lifestyle behaviours.



SPHCM INTERNSHIP STUDENTS ARE BETTER EQUIPPED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICE ROLES

Our internship program was established in 2013 and functions as an optional, highly competitive, capstone course in our Masters degrees. Students who are accepted into the internship program undertake a work placement, equivalent to 6 weeks full-time (168 hours), in a selected organisation within Australia or overseas. The activities and focus of the internship placement are relevant to the organisation and to the student, and can be either project-focused or involve typical operations-based activities. If you are interested in undertaking the course or hosting a student intern, please have a look at our website: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/course/phcm9143 – Dr Holly Seale.

Let's check in with two past SPHCM interns!

Kathleen McKenzie

Where are you now?

Completing the last two courses for my Master of Infectious Disease Intelligence/ Master of Public Health dual degree. I recently finished off a temporary appointment with the Public Health Unit in South Western Sydney Local Health District as their Public Health Epidemiologist. This gave me a very good insight into what it would be like doing that type of work and I loved it.



What did you do for your SPHCM internship, and why?

I did my internship with Health Protection NSW in the Communicable Diseases Branch. My passion is with infectious disease epidemiology, so this placement suited me very well. I completed an analysis report of legionella longbeachae cases in NSW over the last eight years. This internship really cemented to me that this is the career path I want to take, and even the organisation I want to work for in the long-run.

How did the SPHCM internship help you get to where you are now?

I made a lot of great contacts during my internship and through that I was able to get the temporary position in South Western Sydney Local Health District. Without it I wouldn't have had the experience or contacts within NSW Health that ultimately gave me the opportunity to gain even more experience to add to future job applications. I am now more confident in applying for positions I wouldn't have considered myself eligible for before, and I am extremely grateful for that.

Joshua Karras

Where are you now?

Completing an articulation to Doctorate/third Masters of Public Health in Infectious Disease Control. I am also with the United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) as a marketing and communications coordinator.



What did you do for your SPHCM internship, and why?

I interned in the Knowledge and Innovation Division at the Fred Hollows Foundation. I primarily spent my time heading the conceptualisation and development of gender-related reports, including:

1. a thematic analysis of the barriers that women in developing countries face in accessing eye care, including referral services and eye hospitals, with recommendations for future research;
2. an analysis and standardisation of the Foundations protocols when conducting a gender analysis;
3. amalgamation of various case studies and production of an instructional rough guide; and
4. delivery of a multinational presentation of my report findings in a live broadcast to 40 people in six countries.

How did the SPHCM internship help you get to where you are now?

If it were not for the professional skills gained during the internship, I would not have been able to successfully represent myself during the various forms of applications required for my current position within the UNAA.

NEW STAFF PROFILE

Dr Zhixian Sui

My name is Zhixian Sui (preferred name is Sui). I started at the SPHCM in June 2018 as a Lecturer in the Master of Health Management team.

After completing my undergraduate degree in human nutrition, I worked for clinical trials in the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide. This role provided me with the opportunity to work with many different health professionals including doctors, midwives, social workers, dietitians, physiologists, psychologists and researchers. The work environment was a vivid demonstration of the holistic framework of the healthcare system in Australia.

My PhD was about primary care among pregnant women who were overweight or obese. I conducted prospective cohort investigations to track changes in dietary quality and physical activity among overweight/obese women throughout pregnancy and after birth; randomised controlled trials to test the effectiveness of a group exercise approach among this particular population; and mixed methods investigations to examine the barriers and enablers in making healthy changes during this life stage.

Since then, my research has focussed on obesity and its treatment, from primary care to intensive pharmacotherapy, and endoscopic or surgical bariatric procedures, in both high and low socioeconomic groups.

When I moved to Sydney in 2014, I worked for the University of Sydney and conducted secondary analysis projects using data from the Australian Health Survey from



the 1990s to 2011/12. I worked with epidemiologists, ecologists, policy researchers, and public health nutritionists to track changes in the food environment and diet quality in the Australian population. I also worked in a research coordination and clinical project management role for private hospitals/clinics conducting clinical trials, from initiation through to closeout. The exciting part about my research is that I have had the opportunity to be a part of health service delivery from all different levels including national epidemiological investigations, patient-initiated community care plans, large hospital trials, and innovative technologies in private specialised clinics. I am also currently involved in a project in Qinghai Province, China, to study the double burden of malnutrition and overweight/obesity after Tibetan nomadic communities settled in the urban areas in Western China.

I bring a passion for incorporating all parts of the health care system to work together on identifying health problems and delivery of health service. I look forward to working with colleagues at the SPHCM more broadly.



Woman of Influence

We would like to congratulate Dr Anne Bunde-Birouste, a senior lecturer at SPHCM, for receiving the top award in the Arts, Culture and Sport category in the Australian Financial Review 2018's 100 Women of Influence Awards!

Dr Anne Bunde-Birouste, Director of the UNSW Yunus Social Business for Health Hub, is recognised both nationally and internationally for her expertise in Health Promotion, Sport for Development and Social Change and innovative community-based approaches for working with disadvantaged groups. Anne specialises in fostering the nexus between practice-based research, teaching and social impact. Anne founded UNSW's flagship sport for social change program, Football United, which promotes social inclusion for disadvantaged youth and their families using soccer/football as the vehicle, and has been featured in an award-winning documentary as well as won numerous state and federal awards. Under Anne's leadership, Football United, together with the Rugby Youth Foundation, has developed the first social enterprise for sport for social change in Australia, Creating Chances.

A passionate human rights activist, Anne is on the Board of Streetfootballworld and was state finalist for the Australian of the Year Award in 2016.

Medical students learn about refugee health by watching videos of a “not-so-proficient” doctor, and then a more proficient one!



One of the UNSW 2025 education strategies is to offer more digital resources that have been designed around learning outcomes. The Society and Health course in Phase 2 of the undergraduate Medicine degree was one of the first to benefit from the Digital Uplift process, part of the Inspired Learning Initiative provided by the Pro Vice Chancellor Education unit. In this context, an opportunity to contribute to the development of online content on refugee health was given to staff at the NSW Refugee Health Service.

The education team consisted of Conjoint Dr Mitchell Smith and Lisa Atkins from NSW Refugee Health; and Dr Naïla Even, Dr Enoch Chan and Dr Husna Razee from UNSW Sydney. New resources were developed based on existing face-to-face lecture material for a lecture that focuses on refugee health care, and the importance of communication skills in working with refugees – including the use of professional interpreters during consultation.

The face-to-face lecture was shortened in duration, and new online resources were added to the topic: a 13-minute recorded lecture by Dr Smith, giving an overview of refugee health; and two brief videos of consultation scenarios: one done poorly, and one done better.

Each video scenario involves a refugee patient, played by an ex-refugee who also works for the NSW Refugee Health Service, and Dr Smith (a public health physician) as the doctor. In the second video, an actual health care interpreter worked in real time, without rehearsal.

The first video does not include the interpreter, and the doctor misses issues and fails to help the patient appropriately. The second video demonstrates a much better approach to a patient of refugee background, where – using a professional interpreter – the doctor carefully asks delicate questions related to the patient’s past. This helps the medical students understand the importance of social context and impacts on health, as well as the vital issue of quality communication.

This education work demonstrates a close collaboration between service providers and educators to provide a more meaningful learning experience for students. The resulting format is more engaging and will make for more effective teaching and learning.

Photo from left to right: Mitchell Smith, Naïla Even, Matthew Oxley, Maysoon Shammu and Amal Maximous during recording



Peace Centre Myanmar

Football United’s work in Myanmar is increasing with significant impact. Thanks to support from the UEFA Foundation for Children, Myanmar Red Cross and in collaboration with Hpa-an University, SPHCM’s Football United program has just celebrated the ground-breaking of its new Peace Centre in Hpa-an Myanmar.

The proposed Peace Centre is designed to empower university students studying at Hpa-an university in Kayin State, one of the most war-torn states in Myanmar, as local peace promoters in their communities using football’s social power. The youth leaders will introduce football-based grassroots peace, reconciliation and social cohesion initiatives at conflict-affected communities in Kayin State, and will then work with and for their communities to promote social cohesion, peace and reconciliation. Additionally, the project will allow social service providers in the region to continue to deliver innovative services, like that of sport for community development, in the areas under the control of Ethnic Armed Groups.

In order to determine the impact of the project on social cohesion, grassroots peacebuilding and reconciliation in the community, the project is now a central part of Football United’s Assistant Director Tun Shwe’s PhD research project.

Congratulations Chinthaka!

Dr Chinthaka Balasooriya has been elected as the President of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE). ANZAHPE is the premier association for health professional education across Australia and New Zealand, with a strong regional influence.

Chinthaka's election to this prestigious position follows many years of high-level contributions to the discipline of Medical Education. He is an outstanding educator who has made an enormous contribution to medical education over the last 18 years. He has made a significant contribution to the design and implementation of the UNSW Medicine Program and leads a research program that systematically evaluates and improves the program. He provides high-quality supervision to PhD students in Medical Education and this work has led to the development of some key educational innovations. In addition to his many leadership roles, he continues to deliver outstanding teaching to medical students. He is a highly-regarded educator who has inspired generations of medical students with his dedication, enthusiasm and infectious humour.

Chinthaka's expertise in education has been recognised through faculty, university and national-level awards. He is also one of the 15



Photo – Chinthaka's election as President being announced at the ANZAHPE 2018 conference

inaugural Scientia Education Fellows of the University and is the Deputy Director (Educational Scholarship) of the Scientia Education Academy. He has built important collaborations with international partners, including the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China; and the Universities of Peradeniya and Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Chinthaka's new role with ANZAHPE opens up many opportunities for the School to link with the national agenda related to Health Professional Education. Please do contact him if you would like to explore ways to expand your current research and educational projects. Please also consider the ANZAHPE Fellowship scheme (www.anzahpe.org/fellowship), which provides a pathway for recognition of expertise in health professional education.

We congratulate Chinthaka on his outstanding achievement and wish him luck in his new position!

SPHCM launches *new* Bachelor of International Public Health



The SPHCM launched the new Bachelor of International Public Health (BIPH) in January 2018. As a fully online degree, the BIPH aims to provide an innovative global program by meeting the needs of students wherever they are based, and providing the capacities to work in health and development domestically or internationally. The option for undertaking an online degree offers flexibility while maintaining the delivery of high-quality education in an interactive and engaging environment. This groundbreaking degree, in partnership with Arizona State University and Kings College London, provides a pathway into a public health career for school leavers, those who are working, or those who have finished school more than five years ago. Graduates will be equipped with core skills for a career in population health, epidemiology, preventive health, health promotion, policy formulation, health protection, surveillance and disease prevention, and management of health programs. For more details view: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sites/default/files/sphcm/Future_Students/BIPH-Flyer.pdf

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 editors Dr Rebecca Reynolds: rebecca.reynolds@unsw.edu.au or Dr Christine Linhart: c.linhart@unsw.edu.au.

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

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: sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au

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