



Professor Melanie Wakefield, Professor Peter Baume, Professor Raina MacIntyre, Professor Robyn Richmond

Leading the advances in Public Health and Health Service Research

The School's Annual Research Symposium held in September 2012 in the Scientia Building at UNSW showcased the most exciting elements in research from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine and its affiliated Research Centres: the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity; the Kirby Institute; the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre; and the Australian Institute of Health Innovation. Together they contribute to leadership and set the agenda for population health and health services research in Australia. The presentations spring from work that is contributing on a daily basis to the improvement of the health and well-being of all Australians. Two keynote speakers were invited to give presentations:

Professor Melanie Wakefield and Professor Robyn Richmond.

Professor Wakefield is director of the Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer at the Cancer Council Victoria and an NHMRC Principal Research Fellow. She spoke about the role of policy in tobacco control in Australia and in particular the major policy issues involved in tobacco control, including the recent introduction of plain packaging, and her own research on social marketing. Professor Wakefield's presentation illustrated the role of a comprehensive program of population-level policies in driving declines in smoking and changing the normative environment for smoking - including tobacco taxation, smoke-free policies, mass media campaigns, cigarette pack health warnings and tobacco marketing restrictions.

Professor Robyn Richmond from the School of Public Health and

Community Medicine (SPHCM) spoke about two of her research programs focusing of marginalised groups in our community. Robyn's research encompasses a broad spectrum of public health issues conducted over 30 years.

Although daily smoking has fallen to 15% of the Australian population,

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there are several sub-populations who still have high rates of smoking.

The Guidelines for Smoking Cessation in Australian General Practice (Zwar, Richmond et al) identify those who require urgent attention as their tobacco use is very high. Robyn's focus at the School's conference was her research with two of these vulnerable populations at high risk from smoking, in particular her work on reducing smoking among disadvantaged populations and what can be done for prisoners and those with a mental illness. Robyn presented the results from her randomised controlled trials.

Public Health researches at UNSW seek to promote health, prevent disease and strengthen health systems in Australia and the region, and continually works at the interface of research translation. These aims were reflected in the five separate sessions of presentations during the rest of the conference that were on smoking cessation, prevention, population, promotion and protection.

The hypothetical led by Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite from the Australian Institute of Health Innovation focused on "How punitive should public health get: Smokers don't deserve health care".

In a humorous and engaging way the many perspectives on this issue were skillfully presented by Professor Raina MacIntyre, Professor Nick Zwar, Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver, Emeritus Professor Peter Baume, Dr Greg Stewart and Sascha Callaghan.

At the end of the day awards were presented to academic and administrative staff and PhD students.

Professor Nick Zwar received the Peter Baume Public Health Impact Award.

Thanks go to Professor Mark Harris who chaired the organising committee and Associate Professor Andrew Hayen who took a key role in organising the Symposium.



UNSW staff at NIHS Sri Lanka

Meeting of The Asia Pacific Academic Consortium

The Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health (APACPH) includes many of the largest and most influential schools of Public Health in the Asia-Pacific region. The 44th APACPH Conference was hosted by the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Colombo from 14th to 17th October, 2012 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The School of Public Health & Community Medicine (SPHCM) was well represented at this conference by Professor Raina MacIntyre, Professor Richard Taylor, Dr Chinthaka Balasooriya, Dr Husna Razeem, Mr Albie Sharpe and Mr Ralf Itzwerth. In addition to the presentation of conference papers, the senior staff of the school played a prominent role at the conference, with Professor MacIntyre and Professor Taylor chairing a number of sessions, and Professor Taylor delivering a guest lecture.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to engage with the key public health issues relevant to the Asia Pacific region, and to

network with a range of leading international public health professionals. It was also an excellent forum to showcase the profile of SPHCM, and promote the teaching programs of the school.

On the final day of the conference, the SPHCM group also had the opportunity to visit the National Institute of Health Sciences (NIHS) at Kalutara, Sri Lanka. The NIHS is the premier public health training institute of the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka and is accredited as a WHO collaborating centre.

The Institute takes pride in training a highly skilled public health workforce that has enabled Sri Lanka to make significant progress in terms of its health indices.

The Institute has a number of skilled staff members and is well equipped as a training centre, and is therefore an ideal partner to engage in collaborative teaching and research. The SPHCM is pursuing this opportunity, and is exploring ways to establish a meaningful collaboration with this institution.

Human resources for health policy analysis: collaboration and learning by doing



Dr Ngo Duc Anh, Dr John Rule, Prof Richard Taylor and Dr Hong Thi Phuong outside of HSPI building in Hanoi - HSPI in moving to new premises in Hanoi

The Health Strategy and Policy Institute (HSPI), Vietnam, and the Human Resources for Health Knowledge Hub (HRH Hub), School of Public Health and Community Medicine are conducting a policy analysis study of primary health care (PHC) in Vietnam. Identifying gaps in policy development and implementation in relation to human resources for health are priority interests for HSPI, and the Ministry of Health in Vietnam is keen to receive reports from HSPI in relation to PHC and health care at the grass-roots level in the country.

In June this year, Professor Richard Taylor, HRH Hub Director, Dr John Rule, HRH Hub Research Associate, and Dr Ngo Duc Anh, Project Consultant, visited HSPI at their offices in Hanoi to continue work on this collaboration.

During the Hanoi visit, the HRH Hub presented a draft document on Approaches to Evaluating Primary Health Care in low-and middle-income countries and the HSPI research staff presented information from a scan of policy and regulatory documents in Vietnam.

Findings from the scan by HSPI covered topic areas of health leadership and governance; health financing; human resources for

health; health service delivery; medicines and medical equipment and health information systems. Major areas of concern in the human resource area were in regards to incentive allowances and health workforce education.

The Deputy Director of HSPI, Dr Tran Thi Mai Oanh, commented that the review, conducted by the HRH Hub, provided valuable information as it validated the HSPI approach as consistent with international evidence and best practice.

Dr Hoang Thi Phuong, an economist working with HSPI, said that the experience of conducting and reporting on the policy scan was beneficial, as it was an experience of, 'learning by doing'.

There is considerable pressure on the grass-roots level provision of PHC in Vietnam and a clearer picture is emerging of the human resources for health problems being experienced in the Commune Health Stations throughout the country.

The collaborative work between the HRH Hub and HSPI was formally negotiated in 2011. Future collaborative activities include producing a report on the evolution of PHC in Vietnam and documenting PHC policy developments and

HRH challenges in Vietnam – this information will be published and provided to the Ministry of Health in Vietnam by HSPI. The HRH Hub inputs have been valued by our partners and the collaborative project is assisting in building in-country capacity, including research skills and policy analysis skills.



'Policy Analysis Study for Primary Health Care in Vietnam – Learning by Doing – included in photograph are Prof Richard Taylor, Dr John Rule (HRH Hub), Dr Tran Thi Mai Oanh (Deputy Director, HSPI), Dr Khuong Anh Tran (Head of Health Services Management, HSPI) and other research staff at HSPI'

Playing for Change: Football United Program launches its internationally ground-breaking research results

On Friday October 19, UNSW Chancellor, David Gonski AC, launched a world's first-of-its-kind research report outlining the benefits of the Football United® program. The report presents findings from an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant and other Football United monitoring and evaluation (M & E) results, to investigate the implementation of Football United and its impacts. One of the objectives of Football United is to use the magic of football to bring people together for the common goal of creating harmonious and cohesive societies.

The ARC study was designed in consultation with partners including input into measures used and on people involved in the study. It consisted of a mixed methods design, following two Football United® school-based programs (Football United schools), compared with two similar schools with no involvement in Football United (comparison schools). The 'dose response' model used compared those with no involvement in the Football United program at a single point in time - enabling them to then participate in the program following measurement - with those with lower or higher levels of participation. The study design reflected the reality that settlement is an ongoing process, and different young people access the Football United program at different times. The dynamic nature of program participation and settlement meant a true baseline measurement was not possible and the study design chosen was the best approach to understand the effects of Football United.

The ARC study results are complemented in this report



UNSW Chancellor David Gonski with Anne Bunde-Birouste and Ahmed Tafer

with Football United's ongoing monitoring and evaluation findings to provide a synthesis of the program's overall impact. This data highlights Football United's experience and expertise in implementing a far reaching and high impact model of football for social development

Chancellor David Gonski said the benefits of Football United beyond the physical are clear, and the study outlines key policy recommendations to improve social cohesion among migrant and refugee youth. "The Football United program is a tangible example of the University's multi-cultural focus and support for research on social change which helps build the fabric of Australian society," Gonski said.

The study provides critically needed guidance for governments and communities to develop and evaluate sports based and related programs to strengthen Australia's social fabric and humanitarian refugee settlement. The results presented are of international, as well as national, significance.

The report outlines key policy recommendations for governments and communities, based on the

research, to develop tailored sports-based and related programs which run weekly for at least two terms and offer multiple opportunities to participate at different levels.

The research, led by Sally Nathan, is the first of its kind to measure and evaluate programs using sport to foster social development and engagement backed up by robust research. Results of the study underline Football United's positive impact on participating young people's sense of self, and



Guests from Sydney FC at Football United Festival



Teresa, Football United Youth leader, Matthew Miles, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW, Chancellor David Gonski

appreciation for, and engagement with, peers from diverse backgrounds.

Learning from interviews found unanticipated connections between participating in Football United and learning English, positive engagement with school, and building self confidence. Sally notes that: "The research found 84 per cent of refugee youth reported they felt better after participating in the Football United program."

"They also showed a significantly stronger appreciation of their new country and feelings of belonging to Australian society, and boys in the study had significantly higher scores on pro-social behaviour – compared with those in schools where the program is not available," Sally said. Football United® Founding Director Anne Bunde-Birouste added that: "The report demonstrates the strength of the Football United approach and its ability to address issues that are vital for social cohesion in Australia – benefits which extend well beyond the newly-arrived immigrant sector, fostering positive improvements in the lives of many youth in socio-disadvantage communities." Since its inception in 2006, Football United® has delivered positive outcomes for more than 4,000 participants in three states.

Further detail is available on the study approach at: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/10/587>, and the study report along with other football United program information can be accessed at www.footballunited.org.au.

The Football United ARC Study team included S Nathan, A Bunde-Birouste, T Shwe, and J MacKenzie from SPHCM, L Kemp from Centre for Health Equity Training Research and Evaluation within the SPHCM and C Evers currently at the University of Nottingham Ningbo, China.



Football United Festival 2012



Alan Hodgkinson trophy awarded to Airds High School

The Alan Hodgkinson Trophy for Fair Play

Every year Football United holds a tournament in New South Wales to honour the Football United program participants. A number of trophies have been organised to highlight dedication to good sportsmanship, winning the tournament and fair play. In 2012 the program inaugurated a new Trophy for Fair Play to honour the team that exhibited the most considerate and fair play engagement over the course of the tournament. The trophy is named after Alan Hodgkinson, who was the deputy head of school at SPHCM and who tragically died suddenly in 2011. The trophy is to recognise Alan's belief in the program since its beginning, and his enthusiastic support to keep Football United growing and supported within the Faculty. It will be a perpetual trophy in his honour. This year it was awarded to Airds High School.

The health needs of vulnerable women

Professor Robyn Richmond, Associate Professor Heather Worth and Dr Holly Seale from SPHCM have recently developed a novel course offered in the Master of Public Health (MPH) program as an Independent Study Course called: The Health Needs of Women Living in an Internally Displaced Persons Camp in Kenya. This course was initiated in June 2012 and is the first MPH course offering the opportunity for data collection overseas in a resource poor country. There are two components of this initiative working in a resource poor country: teaching and research.

The Pipeline IDP camp was formed in 2007 following Kenya's presidential elections. Targeted ethnic violence forced tribes out of their homes, towns and businesses and around 200,000 people became displaced with many fleeing to Nakuru and living in displaced person's camps. There are around 6,500 people who live in the Pipeline IDP Camp in Nakuru. The people residing in the IDP camp are very vulnerable to numerous public health problems related to limited resources, poor sanitation, inadequate fresh water supply, severe overcrowding in temporary housing, lack of food and extremely poor nutritional status.

Kenya has one of the world's worst HIV and AIDS epidemics. Globally, an estimated 1.5 million people are living with HIV with around 1.2 million children orphaned by AIDS. Women in the Pipeline IDP Camp are disproportionately affected by HIV and many are at higher risk for infection due to sexual violence.

The MPH course

The MPH Independent Study Course, The Health Needs of Vulnerable Women living in a Displaced Persons Camp is guided by the eight United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which form a blueprint agreed to by all the world's countries and leading development institutions who have galvanised unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world's poorest.

During semester 1 in 2012, MPH students attended a logistics workshop held in May to talk about visas, accommodation, transport and other logistical issues. At the end of June a 4-day intensive workshop was held to discuss in depth topics such as: public health issues in Kenya, and the Millennium Goals. Following the workshop, students spent a week in Nakuru, Kenya supervised by Robyn, Heather and Holly, where they learnt about conducting

research in a resource poor country and collected information on the health needs of women living in the Pipeline Internally Displaced Persons Camp (IDP). There were 3 assignments in this course related to the experiences and information gained from conducting research on health needs in a resource poor country. Assignment 1 consisted of a participant observation and a critical reflection, Assignment 2 was a presentation of each student's results from their particular study focus, and Assignment 3 was a report from each student on their research focus.

The UNSW team collaborated with Brigitte Gerstl and Cassandra Treadwell from the NGO, So They Can who helped to organise the activities of the itinerary in Nakuru.

The UNSW team also established a Memorandum of Understanding with the School of Community Medicine at the University of Nairobi, Kenya through Professor Elizabeth Ngugi. Professor Ngugi ran two workshops for the women in the camp on reducing the prevalence of HIV by condom use.

During the trip to Kenya in mid 2012, 132 women living in the IDP camp were interviewed by the MPH students on their specific health issues, such as reproductive health status, nutritional status, lifestyle factors, female genital circumcision, birth and neonatal mortality, antenatal care, bednet use, and water and sanitation issues. The questionnaires were translated into Kiswahili and the translators were women from the camp.



The UNSW team with some of the MPH students who worked in the Internally Displaced Persons Camp in Kenya

Awards for outstanding achievements



Hearty congratulations to Professor Raina MacIntyre who has won the highly competitive Dean's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Professor Raina MacIntyre is Professor of Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Head of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine (SPHCM), at UNSW Medicine.

The Staff of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine are thrilled that their Head of School has won the Dean's Senior Academic award for outstanding academic achievement. This is the highest award made by UNSW Medicine in recognition of significant achievements, usually over a prolonged period of time, by academic staff in the areas of education, research and community activity. This award recognises achievements of the highest standard that give great credit to the individual and to the Faculty. Many staff wrote strong statements of support which were included in the nomination of Raina for this award.

As Head of School Raina has led the transformation of SPHCM, including significant growth in teaching and research for the school, as measured by research grant income, peer-reviewed publications and student numbers for the school since she commenced in 2008. She has introduced new teaching programs, flagship areas of research strength, and a range of other innovations.

In her own research field, she has demonstrated excellence as an innovator and leader in scientific research in public health. She is an expert in infectious diseases epidemiology, and involved in many influenza and respiratory pathogen research studies. Her most significant research is on the transmission and control of infectious diseases, particularly those spread by the respiratory route. She has current research projects encompassing clinical trials and epidemiologic studies of face masks, vaccines and other preventive measures in communicable diseases control. She also has projects in special risk populations such as health care workers, immunosuppressed, refugees and the frail elderly. She has led a NHRMC Capacity Building Grant in Population Health in mathematical modelling of infectious diseases from 2005-2010, and from 2012 leads a NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Population Health.



Professor Robyn Richmond has won the highly competitive national Public Health Association of Australia's (PHAA) Mentor of the Year Award for 2012. This award is made to a senior member of the PHAA who has demonstrated outstanding dedication and made a significant contribution to mentoring early-career professionals, practitioners and students in public health. Its purpose is to formally acknowledge the importance of mentoring in career development and in recognition of the time

commitments and other sacrifices that are involved for mentors. Mentoring plays an important role in developing proficiency and increases the capacity of members of the Association. The award was presented to Robyn at the national PHHA annual conference held in Adelaide in September.



Congratulations to Professor Nick Zwar who was awarded the Peter Baume Public Health Impact Award for 2012. The Peter Baume Public Health Impact Award commenced in 2009 and it recognises career achievement and excellence in public health and significant international impact of members in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, its Centres and conjoint academics.

Professor Zwar is a leading public health and health service researcher who has made a significant contribution to health policy and practice in Australian primary care over the past 15 years. Nick's work covers a range of important health issues. These are chronic disease care, prevention - in particular smoking cessation in primary care, quality use of medicines, travel medicine and program evaluation. Nick has led the development of national clinical practice guidelines for smoking cessation and these have been widely disseminated in general practice and to a range of other health professionals. He is



Sarah Jacobs, Dr Anita Heywood, Prof Raina MacIntyre, Alexander Rosewell, Dr Ben Polkinghorne

leading several major evaluation of complex intervention in general practice including projects on improving smoking cessation support with Robyn Richmond, and a project on early diagnosis and intervention in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Nick's work has been highly policy relevant and has had an impact on Medicare support for chronic disease care in the community and incentives for general practitioners in asthmacare. He has been involved with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners over the last 20 years including chairing the College's national research and evaluation ethics committee and serving on the national research committee. Nick has also worked closely with NSW

Ministry of Health and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Dean's Rising Star Award

This acknowledges outstanding achievements of post doctoral staff and early career researchers as part of the Faculty's talent management program. This year's recipients are Anita Heywood and Joanne Travaglia.

Dean's Award for Professional and Technical Staff

Acknowledgement of the Dean's Award is the highest award made by the Faculty to any member of

the Professional and Technical staff and is intended to be awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in their respective areas. Sarah Jacobs was a very worthy recipient of this award.

Dean's List (Hons/PhD/MSc)

Acknowledgement on the Dean's List is the highest award made by the Faculty to a student and is intended to be awarded to students who have made outstanding contributions in their respective areas. Three SPHCM students, Alexander Rosewell, Ben Polkinghorne, and Amanda Cohn were recognised with this prestigious award.

Let's hear from you

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

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