SPHCM Summary

Head of School of Welcome
Head of School Welcome

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine (SPHCM) and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) recognise the unique position of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia's culture and history. That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have inhabited Australia for well over 50,000 years and that their unique cultures and identities are bound up with the land and sea. We acknowledge that the Aboriginal people are the original owners of the lands occupied and used by our school. In so doing it is important that the special position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia’s First Peoples is recognised and incorporated into the activities of the school. The School of Public Health and Community Medicine seeks to achieve this through observing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural protocols and the provision of services and programs appropriate to UNSW’s Indigenous medical students and other students who are focussed on Indigenous health and wellbeing. In 2011 we were proud to launch a new Master of Public Health Specialisation stream in Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing. This is tailored for people interested in pursuing a career in Indigenous health, and is led by Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver and the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit at SPHCM UNSW, bringing to it a wealth of experience and knowledge in the field.

Public health and community medicine are different but related disciplines, which have key elements in common that bring us together as a School. These include a concern beyond the individual, an interest in the societal context in which health care is provided, and a commitment to equity and social justice. Public health and community medicine are powerful tools with which we can bring some equality into an unequal world. For example, vaccination programs protect the entire community, even those who are unvaccinated through herd immunity effects, regardless of socioeconomic status. Where there is poverty, inequity and suffering, public health can make a difference, and Australia has a very strong tradition and culture of public health and programs for the public good.

At UNSW, we offer a rich and diverse range of courses in public health and health service management, and have a tradition of excellence in teaching. We also have a major role in teaching within the UNSW Undergraduate Medicine Program. Our largest areas of research strength are in global health, primary care, infectious diseases epidemiology and Indigenous health (see Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit). We have expertise in many other areas. Some of the other highlights in our school include the AusAID Human Resources for Health Knowledge Hub, our Football United program, our new Masters of International Public Health, and our strength in health promotion and qualitative research. This is the only school to offer specialisation streams within the Master of Public Health (MPH) for those who wish to pursue a specialised public health career. We understand that many people seek specialised careers in public health. To facilitate career advantage, we are unique in offering MPH specialisation streams with the area of specialisation appearing on testamur at graduation. Each MPH specialisation option is underpinned by flagship areas of research strength in our School. These are Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing, Infectious Diseases Epidemiology and Control, Health Promotion, Primary Health Care and International Health. This means that UNSW specialist MPH degrees are taught by leading research experts in the field, with the additional benefit of interaction within an active research environment. For those interested
in a career in international health, we offer a Master of International Public Health, which commenced in 2009, with enrolments of almost 100 local and international students by 2011.

We also have the oldest, and one of the most respected health management programs in Australia, which has produced many health leaders and managers across Australia and the world. Academics within SPHCM, are currently conducting research into and teaching about consumer engagement, teamwork, innovative approaches to workplace change including practice development, workplace learning and development, human resource management and the quality and safety of care. In addition, our program offers links with the renowned Australian Institute of Health Innovation, and to the AusAID Human Resources for Health Hub at UNSW. We are therefore ideally placed to meet the needs of Australian and international health managers faced with complex, ever changing environments for the delivery of effective health services.

Further, we offer combined degree options, which have proven very popular in recent years. Our graduate Summer School in public health and health management can be taken by coursework students, but also as standalone courses for professional up-skilling. We provide flexible learning opportunities with face to face and distance education options, as well as a mix of short courses and semester long courses.

SPHCM UNSW is also the chosen academic partner of the prestigious NSW Ministry of Health Public Health Officer Training Program, and within this program we work in close partnership with the NSW Ministry of Health to deliver a curriculum of learning leading to the award of the Degree of Doctor of Public Health. This offers a link between academia, government and practice, which is mutually beneficial to all stakeholders within the partnership.

For research students, we have a wide range of research courses and projects. We are very strong in both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies, with a mix of social scientists, qualitative researchers, clinical researchers, epidemiologists and mathematical modellers at SPHCM. We have a strong track record in attracting research funding from NHMRC, ARC and AusAID, with a new NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence in Population Heath as well an AusAID Knowledge Hub in Human Resources for Health. We have several NHMRC post-doctoral fellows within SPHCM conducting a range of exciting research programs.

This is the school to be at if you have a genuine passion for the health of populations, if you care about the inequities in health in our world and if you want to make a difference. The people in this school are unified by a common belief in the power of public health and community medicine to bring about change and population wellbeing. As one of the largest schools in our country within a leading Faculty of Medicine, we embrace our important role in mentoring and shaping the future leaders in the field. Browse these pages and learn about the breadth and depth of our teaching and research, and our achievements in the period 2009-2010.

RAIN MACINTYRE
Head of School
Professor of Epidemiology
Research

Infectious Diseases
International HIV Research Group
Global Health @ UNSW
Human Resources for Health Knowledge Hub
Primary Health Care
Indigenous Health
Social Sciences Research Group
The Football United Action-Research Program
New Chair in Positive Ageing and Care
Research Grants
NHMRC Research Fellowships
Infectious Diseases

The School has a large critical mass of multidisciplinary expertise in epidemiology, mathematical modelling, health economic modelling, special risk populations, social research and clinical research in infectious diseases. The multidisciplinary nature of our research also facilitates the translation of research outcomes into policy and practice. Infectious Disease research within the School is undertaken with national and international partners including collaboration with government, industry, other universities and community groups. We run infectious diseases journal clubs on a regular basis and have linked our research to our MPH specialisation stream in infectious disease to integrate teaching and research.

Clinical research

The School has successfully obtained funding from key research funding bodies, such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing to conduct a number of clinical studies. The team, led by Professor MacIntyre, have undertaken individual and cluster randomised, controlled trials within this reporting period including:

- Randomised controlled trials of N95 respirators and medical masks in healthcare workers in Asia. Two trials have been completed in China in collaboration with The Beijing Center for Disease Prevention and Control (MacIntyre C.R. et al. Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses, 2011)
- A case-control study investigating the aetiological role of human papillomavirus in oesophageal squamous cell cancer in Australia and China;
- A case-control study investigating the role of influenza in precipitating cardiac, stroke and respiratory hospitalisations.

Hospital infection control and epidemiology

The School is involved in research around the epidemiology and control of hospital infections. Clinical epidemiological research, undertaken by Professor McLaws and Dr Seale includes clinician attitudes and behaviour related to infection control, the development of surveillance and analysis protocols for hospitals. In addition to this research, Professor McLaws is also advisor to the Clinical Excellence Commission on hand hygiene and healthcare associated infections related activities of the Commission. Recent clinical epidemiology collaborations include a State-wide prevention of central line bloodstream infections (CLABS) project, developing a protocol for early treatment of sepsis in Emergency Departments and a State-wide quality antibiotic use in intensive care project.

In collaboration with the University of Western Sydney, Professor McLaws was successful in obtaining NHMRC funding for a randomised controlled trial on infection related to cleaning superficial wounds. Research in this area includes epidemiology and mathematical modelling of patient safety and behaviour issues in hospitals and development of standardised surveillance and analysis protocols for hospitals to control

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<th>STAFF INVOLVED IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES RESEARCH</th>
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and manage infection. Collaboration between UNSW and the World Health Organisation include the First Global Patient Safety Challenge Clean Care is Safer Care and a UNSW-WHO collaborative project on hand hygiene in Vietnamese hospitals. Professor McLa-ws is also a WHO advisor to the Associated Infection Burden Task Force, collaborates on infection burden and hand hygiene in a six pilot site project and leads the clinician perception of the WHO Clean Care is Safer Care program.

Modelling

Mathematical modelling of infectious diseases is now an important contributor to control policies in infectious diseases, particularly in relation to vaccine policy. Within the School, research projects during 2009-2010 featuring disease and/or economic modelling have focused on the comparative impact of new vaccine programs for influenza and pneumococcal disease, the development of models to simulate the control of tuberculosis, and on projections for several current vaccine programs in Australia. These projects have been facilitated by external funding from various sources, including the ARC and NHMRC and the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS). Key modelling staff at the School includes Dr Wood, Dr Newall and Dr Gao.

Specific studies within this period include:

- Estimating the influenza-attributable mortality in Australians aged over 50 years: this project explored the differences in excess influenza deaths estimations apply various modelling approaches (published, Newall et al. Epidemiology and Infection, 2009).
- Modelling pharmaceutical-based pandemic influenza mitigation strategies: this project estimated the likely disease and economic impact of various pandemic mitigation strategies (published, Newall et al. Emerging Infectious Diseases, 2010). This article won the 2011 Aileen Plant Memorial Prize in infectious disease epidemiology.
- Projections of the incidence of mumps in Australia: between 2005 and 2007 Australia experienced a substantial rise in mumps cases, while large epidemics were also seen in the UK and USA (presented, Philp et al. PHAA Immunisation meeting, 2010).
- Projections of the outbreak potential for measles by division of general practice: local variation in immunisation coverage is important as it could lead to significant epidemics even if on average Australia is achieving measles elimination (presented, Wood et al. PHAA Immunisation meeting, 2010).
- Comparison of one and two dose varicella vaccinations for control of varicella in Australia: this project showed that a two dose program was likely to achieve much improved control of varicella than a single dose (published, Gao et al. Epidemiology and Infection, 2010).
- Modelling the impact of rubella vaccination in Australia: this project evaluated the impact of vaccination on rubella epidemiology and predicted the epidemiological status for the next decade in Australia, and how vaccine coverage fall would affect rubella epidemiology (presented, Gao et al. PHAA Immunisation meeting, 2010).
- Modelling of new infant pneumococcal vaccines: this project predicted the likely disease and economic impact of the recently licensed infant pneumococcal vaccines in Australia (published, Newall et al. Vaccine, 2011).
Modelling of influenza vaccination strategies: this project explored key assumptions and sources of uncertainty in influenza vaccination models (presented, Newall et al. ESWI influenza conference, 2011)

Models of tuberculosis control: development of models of the impact and study design for new tuberculosis vaccines in India commenced during this period.

Staff within the School has also conducted annual mathematical modelling short courses at Christian Medical College, Vellore, India as part of a program of skill transfer held in conjunction with collaborative research activities. These workshops have a practical focus and aim to help participants from a health or policy background to increase their understanding and skills in relation to modelling.

Social and behavioural research

The School’s multidisciplinary approach to research has enabled examination of key public health issues using qualitative methods combined with quantitative analysis. Researchers in the School are making significant contributions in the following areas:

- An ARC funded project on Pandemic Influenza: People, Policy, Science that is developing a sociological analysis of how the material and social conditions of everyday life influence how Australians think, feel and act with regard to pandemic influenza, and the overlaps and gaps between public understanding and existing policy (Dr Niamh Stephenson).

- A NHMRC-funded study combines quantitative and qualitative research to study the sexual behaviour, health and attitudes of prisoners, a vulnerable and disadvantaged group of people who are often omitted from representative sample surveys. The study will make practical recommendations to improve prisoners’ health and help prevent sexual assaults in prison (A/Prof Juliet Richters).

- The Australian Longitudinal Study of Health and Relationships aims to document the natural history of sexual and reproductive health in the Australian population. Evidence provided from this study will allow for more effective sexual health interventions and will enable us to understand the links between ‘risk events’ and health outcomes (A/Professor Juliet Richters).

- A series of studies were conducted in 2009 to examine the knowledge, attitudes and practices of hospital and community based healthcare workers from Australia and in Asia towards annual and pandemic influenza (Seale et al. Vaccine, MJA). Focus groups in Vietnam have also been conducted to examine the barriers to the use of non-pharmaceutical interventions with a specific focus on medical mask and respirator use in the hospital setting. (Dr Holly Seale) During the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) pandemic, two large community studies and two university based surveys were undertaken to examine the risk perceptions, attitudes towards the pandemic and willingness to accept the pandemic (H1N1 09) influenza vaccine amongst community members (Dr Seale et al, MJA, BMC infectious diseases).

- A novel study was implemented in 2009 to document the knowledge and attitudes about human papillomavirus (HPV) and the HPV vaccine and identify current sources of information about the HPV vaccine amongst the caregivers of immunosuppressed children/adolescents. This study was supported by The Public Health Education and Research Trust (PHERT) Immunisation Scholarship 2010 (Dr Holly Seale)

- The School is also involved in a number of HIV social and behavioural research projects being undertaken in Asia and the Pacific (under the leadership of Associate Professor Heather Worth). Specific projects within this period include:

  - A large-scale qualitative project has been mapping sex work and HIV risk in a number of Pacific countries: Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Papua New Guinea (Karen McMillan and Dr Angela Kelly).

  - An integrated bio-behavioural survey of men who have sex with men and transgender in Fiji (Dr Patrick Rawstorne and Dr Nicola Man).
In Papua New Guinea, a mixed-methods project examining the experiences of HIV-positive people receiving antiretroviral therapy has been undertaken, utilising early-career PNG researchers (Drs Kelly, Rawstorne and Man);

Also in PNG, a longitudinal study has begun which seeks to understand women’s and men’s experiences of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV services (Dr Kelly); and

In Indonesia, in-depth research amongst of women who inject drugs in Central Java has been undertaken in collaboration with Gaja Madah University.

Refugee and migrant health research

The potential impact of population mobility, particularly in complex humanitarian emergencies, on health care provision is significant. Research in the School aims to develop understanding of the trends and burden of infectious diseases in complex humanitarian situations and also on refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who resettle in Australia but become marginalised members of the community.

The School is engaged in studies on the epidemiology of exotic clinical and non-clinical infectious diseases of refugees and internally displaced persons, the relationship between Vitamin D deficiency to infectious diseases; and access to diagnostic and therapeutic intervention services on resettlement. This research aims to equip public health practitioners to plan and manage outbreaks of infectious diseases and to inform development of high level management guidelines and cross-cutting intervention to improve access to healthcare services of this cohort.

Travel health research

Current research in the School aims to control the importation of diseases into Australia by understanding traveller behaviour and travel patterns. Supported by an ARC Discovery Project obtained by Professor Macintyre, the School has conducted extensive research the role of travel and travellers in the spread of infectious diseases across international borders. A large NHMRC Capacity Building grant in modelling of infectious diseases, led by Professor Macintyre, has conducted important work on travel, border control and screening which has directly informed Australia’s national pandemic response. Mathematical modelling of data on travellers traversing Australia’s borders and their contact patterns with other people can be used to understand the pathways by which infectious diseases may enter and spread around Australia and to develop mathematical models to evaluate effective control measures for emerging infections in Australia.

Survey-based data collections at airports in Sydney and Thailand and national Australian telephone surveys have formed the basis of the research undertaken as part of the ARC Discovery grant. This research has highlighted numerous areas for national disease control policy development in preventing travel-related infectious diseases in travellers and their contacts and provided data for modelling the impact of global disease transmission and travel patterns on Australia’s national disease control. Under this grant, Dr Heywood examined the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of international travellers to infectious disease risks and preventative health practices, particularly healthcare seeking and vaccine uptake. This research has identified poor uptake of pre-travel health advice and vaccination in travellers, particularly migrant Australian travellers.

Professor Nick Zwar is also involved in travel health research at the School. He is the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners representative on the Travel Health Advisory Group – a joint travel industry and travel medicine group which aims to promote healthy travel. This group has auspiced a series of telephone surveys of Australian travellers investigating their behaviour in terms of seeking pre travel health advice and immunisation for hepatitis A and hepatitis B and their risks of contracting hepatitis B during travel.

NHMRC Capacity Building Grant in Population Health

In 2009-2010, Professor Macintyre led the final two years of a $2.5 Million NHMRC Capacity Building Grant (CBG) in Population Health in mathematical modelling of infectious diseases, in collaboration with the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (ANU), The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (UNSW), the School of Population Health (University of Melbourne), The Department of International Health (Curtin University of Technology) and the Victorian Infectious Diseases Service (Royal Melbourne Hospital). The CBG funded several talented post-doctoral modellers who have contributed directly to national disease control policy through their work - the group most notably did a major body of work to inform the National Pandemic Influenza Plan.

The major aim of this grant was to establish a comprehensive program of research, based on mathematical modelling, to aid the understanding of and provide policy support for the control of infectious diseases, now and well into the future. It is envisioned that this will involve the integration of mathematical modelling with policy and public health service delivery, the completion of about 20 specific research studies under three major infectious disease control themes of national importance and the establishment of an international reputation for the team. A final workshop for the CBG was held in August 2010 in Melbourne. At this forum, researchers in the group interacted with key stakeholders in the government and policy sector to ensure translation of their research findings into policy and practice.
INTERNATIONAL HIV RESEARCH GROUP

In 2009 the International HIV Research Group (IHRG), headed by Associate Professor Heather Worth, joined the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. It has five staff: Dr Patrick Rawstorne, Dr Angela Kelly, Dr Wing Young Nicola Man, Karen McMillan and Christina Rofe. IHRG’s approach to research is underpinned by long-term sustainable partnerships in order to build in-country responses to the HIV epidemic through gathering rigorous scientific evidence. IHRG has two major programs of research and research capacity building in the Pacific and China.

MAPPING SEX WORK IN THE PACIFIC

This program of research has been carried out in three countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) and Vanuatu. Risky Business: sex work and HIV prevention in Fiji is an in-depth, qualitative examination of the barriers and challenges to safe sex amongst Fijian sex workers. Risky Business: sex work and HIV prevention amongst women who board foreign vessels in Kiribati to sell sex is an examination of the particular social and economic drivers of sex work and HIV risk amongst ainen matawa (ship girls).

Askim na Save (ask and understand): people who sell and exchange sex in Port Moresby is a mixed method study, including an integrated bio-behavioural survey (IBBS) of 593 men, women and transgender sex workers (and in-depth interviews with 25) which found overall an HIV prevalence of 18% and high rates of Syphilis and evidence of high risk practices. Of those who tested HIV positive molecular epidemiology was also undertaken.

STRENGTHENING HIV SOCIAL RESEARCH IN CHINA

The international HIV Research Group has developed a strong collaborative relationship with the AIDS Policy Center at Tsinghua University in Beijing around HIV social research. This collaboration was initially funded through an Australian Leadership Award Fellowships which brought 10 Chinese early career scholars to Australia for a month in January 2009 to begin writing for academic publication in English. The major outcome from this initial phase was a book (Jing Jun & H Worth 2010 HIV in China: the social aspects of the epidemic. Sydney: UNSW Press) for which the US rights are being negotiated with Harvard University Press.

Since then, the collaboration has held an intensive HIV social research workshop in Kunming, China with local NGOs and universities, and is beginning a oral history of the gay community in China since the Cultural Revolution.
Global Health@UNSW

Global Health@UNSW brings together a critical mass of researchers, teachers, development workers and practitioners with demonstrated commitment to strengthening health systems and promoting more equitable global health policy.

Aims of Global Health@UNSW

Working at a global level, and with an emphasis on the challenges facing low- and middle-income countries, Global Health@UNSW aims to:

- Promote, through teaching and research, the use of evidence and best international public health practice, to enhance countries’ capacity in health policy development, program design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- Use knowledge to share insights in health and development.
- Facilitate international collaboration to respond more effectively to global health issues, in particular those affecting the most vulnerable populations.
- Build collaborations and partnerships with groups and institutions, at UNSW, in Australia, and abroad, committed to advancing effective responses to global health issues.

Activities, staff and approach to global health

A wide range of SPHCM staff are engaged in global health research, teaching and related activities. Professor Anthony Zwi convened Global Health@UNSW from 2009 -2010, with Associate Professor Heather Worth then taking on this role in 2011.

In Timor-Leste Global Health worked with UNSW Global, the Ministry of Health, National Statistics Directorate and a leading women’s NGO, the Alola Foundation, to undertake the Timor-Leste Health Care Seeking Behaviour Study. The research highlighted the parallel decision making considerations (traditional and modern) which influence how community members seek health care and from whom: this is influenced by concepts of causation, along with access, trust, and quality of care.

The work has been used by both the Ministry of Health and a range of donor and other organisations working in the country. Professor Anthony Zwi and Dr Ilse Blignault led the team which included Karen Hobday, Dr Catherine Bateman Steel, Diana Glazebrook, Dr Joao Martins and a range of Timorese research team members.

A study of mental health policy in post-conflict and post-disaster settings was undertaken. The research was funded by the Australian Research Council and undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and local partners in the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.
It highlighted the importance of basing policy and system development on community understandings and experiences and the importance of drawing on and bolstering local community and health resources. The multi-disciplinary project team included Professor Derrick Silove, Anne Bunde-Birouste, Associate Professor Jan Ritchie, Dr Ilse Blignault, and Professor Anthony Zwi. This project highlights the close linkages between UNSW and partners in Ministries of Health and services in the countries with which we work.

Global Health seeks to integrate research, teaching, partnership and community engagement. Global Health works closely with the SPRINT initiative, an AusAID funded initiative which brings together a range of agencies working with the International Planned Parenthood Federation and the United Nations Family Planning Association, as well as UNSW and the Australian Reproductive Health Association. Conjoint Associate Professor Anna Whelan worked up the successful grant application for the SPRINT initiative and has since become the Regional Director of the IPPF involved with overseeing this project amongst many others.

Global Health ran a series of seminars on systematic reviews and in competitive bids secured two grants to undertake reviews related to humanitarian and disaster interventions: what is known about the best means of prevention of gender-based violence in conflict-affected and post-conflict fragile states and to what extent does community based disaster risk reduction reduce social and economic costs of disasters.

Global Health@UNSW seeks to stimulate debate around current global health policy and associated issues. The Global Health Journal Club, convened by Dr Husna Razee and Professor Zwi with input from others, functions to bring together students and staff to debate current issues and literature in global health. The Journal Club plays a valuable role also in bringing students and staff together in an informal environment.

Global Health@UNSW also runs occasional meetings to enable visiting speakers and leading international experts to discuss and present their work. Amongst those presenting at UNSW through Global Health@UNSW were Professor Skip Burkle on Public Health Emergencies, Professor John Wynn Owen on the UK Health Protection Agency, Dr Unni Krishan from the international NGO PLAN around humanitarian and emergency responses. In addition two Forums were held to present research and policy issues around Timor-Leste Health and Development.

Throughout all these projects, there is a strong commitment to enhancing knowledge management to improve capability, quality and the evidence base for decision-making.

An underlying set of values of Global Health activities is an emphasis on equity, social justice, and human rights. These underpin our work and provide a framework for effective working together.

One manifestation of this was the highly successful course, training programs, conference, concepts, publications and other activities developed by the Initiative on Health and Human Rights under the leadership of Professor Daniel Tarantola who developed a highly effective Short Course, on Health, Development and Human Rights.
HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH KNOWLEDGE HUB

The Human Resources for Health Knowledge Hub (HRH Hub) is one of four Knowledge Hubs funded by AusAID as part of its Strategic Partnerships for Health Initiative which seeks to provide improved health knowledge and expertise to policy makers at national, regional and international levels by both AusAID and development partners. The Hub was established in 2008 for a period of three years. In June 2010 a mid term review was undertaken and AusAID extended funding for a further 18 months until 2013.

EXECUTIVE CHANGES

In July 2010 Prof John Hall resigned as Director of the Hub and Prof Richard Taylor was appointed to the position. The Hub welcomed Dr Mario Dal Poz, Coordinator, Department of Human Resources for Health, World Health Organization (Geneva), Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert, Senior Advisor on Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health (Thailand), Prof James Buchan, Queen Margaret University, (UK), Jim Campbell, Integre (Spain), and Dr Jimmie Rodgers, Director General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, (Nouméa, New Caledonia), who bring a wealth of expertise and experience to the Expert Group which will provide ongoing strategic advice and direction to the HRH Hub.

RESEARCH AREAS

- Mapping Human Resources for Health in the Pacific. This work highlighted several issues which have implications for HRH development in the Pacific Region, including:
  - Variability in the availability and sources of workforce data, with HRH data currently stored in various repositories (e.g. Ministries of Health may have workforce data whilst Ministries of Education may have data relevant to education and training institutions)
  - A lack of disaggregated workforce data
- Strengthening health leadership and management capacity in the Asia-Pacific region
- Evidence informed community-based maternal, newborn and reproductive care (MNRC) staffing
- Innovative strategies for managing migration of skilled health workers in the Pacific which involved extensive information collection in six Pacific Island countries, in collaboration with the Fiji School of Medicine, concerning extent and type of mobility/migration, and responses in terms of policy and practice.
- Human resource challenges and innovations in health aspects of emergencies and disasters which involved literature reviews and mapping of agency activities and intensive case studies of HRH aspects of several disasters and emergencies in the Asia Pacific.
- Knowledge repository: This will be merged with the School of Public Health and Community Medicine’s longstanding Virtual Public Health Library in 2011. Amalgamation will ensure a wider audience for the HRH Knowledge Hub Electronic Gateway and ensure sustainability of the repository in the longer term.
The HRH Hub convened the following meetings and forums, bringing together key stakeholders in HRH in Asia and Pacific regions, thus facilitating dialogue and exchange of regional and national perspectives on HRH issues and initiatives for strengthening health systems in the Asia-Pacific region.

The inaugural HRH Hub Advisory Board meeting, which was held in September 2009, brought together key regional stakeholders to review and discuss the work program of the Hub and consider future plans for activities in 2010.

In 2009 the Hub sponsored a session in the Realising Human Rights for All Symposium in Hanoi Vietnam, on Health System Strengthening, including content on HRH.

**Expert Consultative Meeting on Human Resources for Health.** HRH Knowledge Hub SPHCM UNSW and Australian Health Workforce Institute (AHWI). Australian National University, Canberra. 18–19 February 2010.

**Informal meeting on HR training needs in the Asia-Pacific region.** HRH Hub SPHCM UNSW. University of NSW, Sydney. 7 April 2010. (Held as a satellite to the HRH Forum on Human Resources for Health). This meeting of regional and global experts brought together thirty eight practitioners and representatives from regional training institutes and government departments to discuss training needs. Participants were from Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Sri Lanka in Asia; New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Timor-Leste in the Pacific; and Australia, United Kingdom and Switzerland. They included HRH practitioners and regional training institutes including the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo and University of Sri Jayawardewapura (Colombo, Sri Lanka); Universitas Gadjah Mada (Yogyakarta, Indonesia); Fiji School of Medicine; School of Medicine and Health Services, University of Papua New Guinea; Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; and School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of NSW. The meeting also provided an opportunity for Australian HRH experts to share their experiences and expertise with HRH regional experts, which commenced a regional dialogue.

**HRH Forum on Human Resources for Health.** HRH Hub SPHCM UNSW. University of New South Wales, Sydney. 8–9 April 2010.

Ninety five Australian, regional and international delegates from twenty three countries attended the meeting. These countries were: Australia, Cambodia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, New Caledonia, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, United Kingdom and Vanuatu. Participants included those from Ministries of Health, WHO, World Bank, academics and students. The forum consisted of two days of networking, discussion and debate on HRH issues. Global and regional experts presented and brought their experiences to the debate.

The proceedings of the Forum are available on the Hub’s website at www.hrhhub.unsw.edu.au/HRHweb. nsf/page/Publications%20Menu
Primary Health Care

Primary Health Care research is a major strength of the School through staff located at the School’s affiliated Research Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity (CPHCE) and through researchers located within the School. The Primary Health Care Group conducts research under the following four themes:

1. Behavioural risk factor management and chronic disease prevention
2. Understanding and intervening to address health inequalities
3. Management of chronic disease
4. Primary health care policy

Much of the work on these themes takes place within the UNSW Research Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity and also in collaboration with other staff in the Faculty of Medicine and with other universities. The focus of the work is on: management of chronic disease; and prevention, including intervention of risk factors for chronic illness such as tobacco smoking.

Management of chronic disease

Staff within the School are leading or involved in projects on earlier diagnosis and improved care of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), systematic review of interventions for care of chronic disease in primary health care, teamwork for chronic disease in general practice, advance care planning, improved care of atrial fibrillation to prevent stroke, better access for Aboriginal people to mainstream services and use of electronic decision support tools in care of type 2 diabetes. All of these projects address health conditions of high prevalence and impact where improved care in the community has the potential for important health benefit for the population.

Prevention including intervention of risk factors for chronic disease

Nicholas Zwar and Robyn Richmond are leading a project (Quit in General Practice) in collaboration with colleagues at University of Western Sydney, University of Melbourne and the Australian National University to develop and test the role of general practice nurse to provide smoking cessation advice. This project tests a new approach to supporting smoking cessation in general practice. This involves the practice nurse, GP and Quitline working in partnership to provide a flexible program of support to meet the needs of smokers. Primary Health Care group staff are also involved in projects on absolute cardiovascular risk assessment in general practice, implementation of preventive health guidelines in general practice, vascular disease prevention, detection of hazardous alcohol use in general practice and lifestyle risk factor management in the 45-49 year old health check in general practice.

Primary health care policy

A team led by Nick Zwar performed a systematic review on optimising skill-mix in the primary health care workforce for care of older Australians. The issue of distribution of roles and responsibilities is an important policy and practice questions given the major problems with health workforce.
Advance Care Planning in the Primary Care context

Since 2008, Dr Joel Rhee, Prof Nicholas Zwar and A/Prof Lynn Kemp at the Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity and the School of Public Health and Community Medicine have been conducting research to examine the role of Advance Care Planning (ACP) in the Primary Care context.

ACP is a process through which people, in consultation with their family, friends and health professionals, make decisions about their future care in the event of them losing their decision-making capacity. ACP has the potential to improve patient autonomy and the clinical care of patients. However its uptake remains low and there is evidence that even when ACP takes place, the resultant plans often are not implemented.

The first phase of the study involved qualitative analysis of interviews with representatives of key stakeholder organisations and expert clinicians. The findings showed that while most agree on the aims of ACP, there are considerable differences in the conceptualisation of the ACP process. Views ranged from a consumer-orientated view that saw ACP as undertaken by patients to define and communicate their care preferences; to a care-orientated view that focus on ACP as discussions led by health professionals in order to provide more effective care.

The study highlighted an important need to increase the community awareness and encourage health professional involvement in ACP. The study also showed the importance of system-wide implementation of multi-faceted interventions around ACP in order to ensure its success.2

The next phase of the study involves interviews with General Practitioners and patients living in the community. The interviews will explore their experiences and attitudes to ACP and this will then be critically examined against the traditional conceptualisations and models of ACP. These findings will inform the development of a model of ACP that is better able to meet the needs of patients and health professionals in the community.

This study is supported by grants from GP Synergy and the NSW Primary Health Care Research Capacity Building Program. This research also forms part of Joel Rhee’s PhD thesis, which is supported in part by a NHMRC Scholarship.

References:


2. Rhee JJ, Zwar NA, Kemp LA. Uptake and implementation of Advance Care Planning in Australia: findings of key informant interviews. Aust Health Rev. 2011 In press.
In 2007, staff members within the School of Public Health and Community Medicine were awarded a three year NHMRC project grant to rigorously evaluate an educational program for general practitioners to reduce the risk of stroke in atrial fibrillation. Dr Melina Gattellari is leading the collaboration with Professor of General Practice, Nicholas Zwar, Associate Professor John Worthington (neurologist), Professor Dominic Leung (cardiologist), Professor Jeremy Grimshaw from the Ottawa Health Research Institute, Canada, and Obioha Ukoumunne, from the Peninsula Medical School, Exeter UK.

Around five-percent of people over the age of 65 have atrial fibrillation. Atrial fibrillation confers a five-fold increased risk of ischaemic stroke - a risk greater than that associated with more prevalent stroke risk factors, such as hypertension and diabetes. Moreover, atrial fibrillation increases the risk of fatal and disabling stroke.

Amongst patients in New South Wales hospitalised for ischaemic stroke, around 40% with atrial fibrillation will die within one-year compared with 20% of patients without atrial fibrillation. Anticoagulation, with adjusted dose warfarin is proven to reduce the risk of fatal and disabling stroke. However, anticoagulation remains underused despite almost 20 years of convincing evidence that warfarin is the drug of choice for most patients with atrial fibrillation over less effective antiplatelet therapy.

The team aimed to develop an intervention designed to bridge this evidence-practice gap and provide decisional support to assist general practitioner decision-making about the appropriate uptake of anticoagulation.

The DESPATCH study (Delivering Stroke Prevention in ATrial fibrillation: a Cluster randomized controlled trial in primary Health care) is a cluster randomised controlled trial involving 70 general practices recruited from South Western Sydney. Practices are randomised to receive either evidence-based guidelines or a multifaceted intervention aimed at optimising the management of atrial fibrillation in general practice.

Our intervention involved the delivery of academic detailing sessions by medically trained peers, an expert led-workshop, targeted practice materials and access to an innovative expert decision-support service empanelled by national experts in neurology and cardiology.

Post-test evaluation, via an independent, blinded audit of medical records of an expected 1,000 patients with atrial fibrillation, is currently underway. Results are expected in 2012.

References:


The Australian Centenarian Study under the leadership of Professor Robyn Richmond won the prestigious UNSW Research Showcase for the best presentation. The research team in the SPHCM includes Dr Frances Kay Lambkin, post doc at NDARC, and Jenaleen Law, a BScMed Hons student working with Robyn Richmond. The study has been interviewing centenarians since 2007 and there will be around 200 centenarians in the study by the end of the year. The presentation on Positive Ageing: How to live to 100 years won the prize for the best presentation. It was delivered by Jenaleen Law.

Australians have the second longest life expectancy in the world. Centenarians are those who are 100 years or more and they are the fastest growing age segment in Australia, growing at a rate of 8.5% per year. In 1901 there were 50 centenarians and this had increased to more than 3,000 in 2006. NSW has the most centenarians with 1,058 people 100 years or more. Centenarians have markedly delayed or escaped diseases that would otherwise be lethal at younger ages, such as cardiovascular diseases, cancers and Alzheimer’s disease. They have a compression of morbidity in which their illness occurs in a short period just before death.

Results were presented at the UNSW Research Showcase on 140 centenarians interviewed in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, ACT and South Australia on their lifestyle, personality and social and cognitive function. Richmond says: “Our sample has a mean age of 101 years with the oldest centenarian, 108 years of age. Three quarters were born in Australia and 84% were female. We found that most had a medical history which was generally good. There were 29% of centenarians with heart disease, 18% with cerebrovascular disease, 29% with hypertension, 7% with cancer and 10% with diabetes. The age of onset of these diseases was between 85 to 95 years of age. “We asked about lifestyle factors and found that only one third were current drinkers of alcohol, only two were smokers, and none were obese. Indeed, their current weight was close to what it had been for their entire adult life, a finding the Okinawan Centenarian Study has also reported. Centenarians are generally physically active and scored high on activities of daily living and independent functioning. Centenarians are generally very positive and resilient people. They have very little depression or anxiety on HADS measure and were highly optimistic with high levels of confidence. Their mini mental scores were close to normal for someone who was 85 years of age. They were cognitively intact until well into their 90s.”

Centenarians are socially connected with more than 70% of them having family contact at least one to two times a week. Two thirds of them believed that having a social group contributed to their longevity, and over half of them believed that their connectedness with their family contributed to living an extremely long life. How can you live to 100 years or more? Here are some of the major findings from our research to date. Eat fresh food and vegetables, and try and avoid fast foods. Limit drinking alcohol and do not smoke. Maintain a healthy weight and a regular regime of exercise. Keep mentally active and interested in the world. All sound familiar? Well what about: maintaining an optimistic view of life. Be resilient in tough times. Develop and sustain a rich social and family network and work to maintain relationships and develop stress reduction strategies.

The Mental Health Matters Award for Research in 2009 was presented to Professor Robyn Richmond during the launch of Mental Health Week in October by the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir, AC, CVO. The Mental Health Matters Award is a unique award that recognises the achievements of individuals and organisations who have worked to improve understanding, awareness, service provision and the general betterment of the mental health of our community, over the previous 12 months.

Robyn also received the APSAD Senior Scientist award for 2009 “for excellence in science and research” in the alcohol and drug area. This award acknowledges significant contributions to alcohol and drug science and provides role models for future generations of Australian AOD scientists.

Professor Robyn Richmond from SPHCM is part of a team which received a $436,085 NHMRC grant to Follow-up of Healthy Lifestyles Intervention for Cardiovascular Disease among People with a Psychotic Disorder.
Indigenous Health

Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit

Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit is a dedicated health research unit residing within the School of Public Health and Community Medicine. Launched in 2004, Muru Marri's vision is guided by local, national and international community priorities. Muru Marri contributes to the healing, positive health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through research, teaching, service, representation on peak local, national and international bodies and public advocacy.

To Aboriginal people, health and wellbeing is more than the absence of disease. Ill-health can be a manifestation of many things, including spiritual and emotional alienation from Land and Country and family and culture. Tied to this, Land and Country are central to Aboriginal people’s identity and spiritual beliefs, as they are to wellbeing; just as are connections to family and community. This concept of health and wellbeing forms the core and philosophy of Muru Marri’s work.

In 2009, Muru Marri engaged with local partners and critical friends to review strategic directions for the next five years. Contributions were sought from many, including the Faculty of Medicine, Nura Gili, CHETRE, CPHCE, NDARC, RCS, ILC, SPHCM, SPRC, Neuroscience Research Australia and Shalom College internally, as well as conjoint and other academics committed to Indigenous health and wellbeing from a variety of other universities and organisations, resulting in an integrated plan founded on the University’s core domains of research, teaching and service.

The Unit’s progress on each of these domains through 2009 and 2010 includes:

Research

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING OF INDIGENOUS YOUTH – REVIEW OF THE EVIDENCE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY AND SERVICE DELIVERY (DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS)

This project aims to provide a sound evidence base for investment in and support for programs that enhance the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. In 2010, Muru Marri completed a comprehensive literature and policy review of programs and projects that are assisting Indigenous young people to gain social and emotional strength and resilience. Planning commenced in 2010 for six case studies to be conducted in 2011 that will enable knowledge and experience from youth program participants and stakeholders to inform government decisions.

EVALUATION OF THE ABORIGINAL YOUNG PARENT PROGRAM, NGALA NANGA MAI (WE DREAM)

In 2009 and 2010, Muru Marri supported Ms Perdi Osborne to complete her Independent Learning Project (ILP). This ILP involved the design and completion of the first evaluation of the La Perouse-based Aboriginal parenting program, Ngala Nanga Mai (Sydney Children’s Hospital Department of Community Child Health).
In 2010, the NHMRC granted a further five years of funding to build on the findings of the Gudaga Project. Bulundidi Gudaga is an adaptation of a regionally based sustained home visiting program designed to meet the support needs of vulnerable women and their babies within the local Aboriginal community.

Institutional collaborations

In 2009, Muru Marri developed a strong working relationship with the Collaborative Research on Empowerment and Wellbeing team of James Cook University in Cairns. Muru Marri staff and conjoints are chief investigators on a number of research initiatives on empowerment, mental health and social and emotional wellbeing operating in Far North Queensland. These include projects implementing pathways for wellbeing support in primary health care (funded by Queensland Health), trialling the Family Well Being Program in a prison setting (POCA) and validation studies of the Growth and Empowerment Measure (QH, RFDS).

Also in 2009, Associate Professor Jan Ritchie commenced as a CI on a five-year NHMRC funded research project with the Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin, working in partnership with four remote Aboriginal communities to build their own capacity for maintaining their food security.

In 2010, Professor Jackson Pulver, through membership of the Indigenous Group on Indigenous Health Measurement (IGIHM), was commissioned by WHO to coordinate the preparation of a Background Paper for the World Health Report 2010. This report focuses on global health systems financing and the path to universal coverage. This Background Paper entitled, Indigenous Health – Australia, Canada, Aotearoa New Zealand and the United States – Laying a claim to a future for us all, reviews challenges in health status, data quality and usage across many levels of health service and policies for enhancing access for Indigenous populations across these four developed countries. It is available on the WHO website.

Other collaborations include the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s Australia’s health (2008 and 2010); the Australian Bureau of Statistics (membership of the Indigenous Technical Panel, Australian Health Survey Reference Group and membership of the Advisory Group Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics); as well as project and research collaborations with the National Centre for Classification in Health (USyd) and the NSW Department of Health.

Learning and teaching

Over the past two years, Muru Marri has continued to deliver the elective PHCM9630 ‘Indigenous Health in Australia’ to students in the Master of Public Health. In 2009, the Unit piloted an innovative scenario based learning component for the first time, which included creating a DVD trigger video in conjunction with SPHCM (Lois Meyer) entitled Ending Indigenous health inequalities within our lifetime. The learning approach has been well received by students and has been showcased at a number of conferences. Evaluation of the development and implementation of this component continues. In 2010,
the development team comprised of Ms Lois Meyer, Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver and Ms Sally Fitzpatrick received the Faculty of Medicine’s Award for Innovation in Learning & Teaching.

During 2010, we made significant progress in developing a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health specialisation stream within the Master of Public Health. This stream will build on existing courses within the MPH and includes two new courses to be delivered in 2011: PHCM9632 ‘Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Across the Lifespan’ and PHCM9634 ‘Case Studies in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health’.

Associate Professor Melissa Haswell also convened PHCM9612 ‘Environmental Health’ in 2010, introducing a new scenario focussed on environmental health issues in the Torres Strait. The Unit has also continued to provide Indigenous content to the Master’s Foundations and Community Development courses and is developing material for Health Policy and International Health.

Muru Marri’s Director and core staff continued to mentor and supervise a number of PhD, MPH, DrPH and post doc students. This includes students visiting from other universities, several of whom have achieved publications in the peer-reviewed arena and continue to contribute to Muru Marri’s research output. In 2009-2010 these students included: Dr Anna Olsen (Post Doc), Dr Arlene Laliberté (Post Doc), Rachelle Arkles (PhD), Earl Melville Hill (PhD), Susan Thomas (DrPH), Tim Hayden (DrPH), Ngiare Brown (PhD), Mohammad Ruhul Amin (RHD), Perdi Osborne (ILP) and Josef McDonald (MBBS elective) plus several MPH students undertaking elective supervised project work.

Also in 2009, Muru Marri inaugurated five prizes, the Muru Marri Aboriginal Postgraduate Merit Prize (Dr Beth Kervin 2010), the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Impact Prizes, the Muru Marri Postgraduate Research Award, and the Muru Marri Post-Graduate Course-Work Award.

Muru Marri’s Director is also the co-founder of the Shalom Gamarada Ngiyani Yana Scholarship Program, which is funded by Aboriginal artists as well as by the provision of scholarships by private donors and corporate sponsors and (since 2010) the matching support of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation. Since its inception with one student in 2005, it has enabled 24 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholars to study Medicine, Optometry and Health Science. The scholarship covers board and lodging expenses so students are able to focus solely on their studies; and 2010 marked the program’s sixth Indigenous art exhibition and sale.

In 2009, the first graduations by scholarship holders were celebrated and in 2010 there were 14 scholarship holders living at Shalom College, ranging from year 1 to year 6 of their studies. The program is a key contribution to UNSW’s recognition as one of the universities of choice for enrolling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. There are a number of Shalom students who are working through their postgraduate Public Health options with Muru Marri staff.

In 2009 and 2010, Muru Marri contributed strategically as well as through content design, lectures and ongoing mentoring to the Nura Gili Pre-Medicine Program, which has since enjoyed a record number of Aboriginal medical student admissions.

Muru Marri staff also regularly provides facilitation design and delivery, as well as plenary lectures during Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Undergraduate Medicine Program, and supports Indigenous-specific ILPs and negotiated assignments.
Community engagement

As an academic unit, the majority of Muru Marri’s community engagement work occurs through Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and Stolen Generations advocacy groups, as demonstrated in many of the following collaborations. Each of these collaborations are formed through community processes and driven by the requirements of each.

Muru Marri also established a working relationship with the Gamarada Men’s Healing Program in Redfern in 2010. The Gamarada leaders adopted the Growth and Empowerment Measure (GEM) developed by Professor Haswell and colleagues to assist in their evaluation of the impact of their Program on participants’ lives. The Quest for Life Foundation also used the GEM in their residential program with Aboriginal youth.

Collaborations

During 2009-2010 Muru Marri continued to contribute to the Filling the Gap Indigenous Dental Program. We successfully published the final report and a paper on the program’s first formal evaluation. The program itself has moved from strength to strength. By December 2010, Filling the Gap had recruited over 175 dental professionals from across Australia, who have provided almost 7,000 episodes of care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults through Wuchopperen Health Service in Cairns. The original 12-month wait to see a dentist at Wuchopperen has long gone and for most of 2009 and 2010 the volunteer dental professionals have delivered the equivalent of a full time dental service.

Advocacy

At the international level, Muru Marri remains involved with the International Health Measurement Group (Canada, US, NZ and Australia), the Peoples’ Health Movement and the International Organising Committee for the International Network of Indigenous Health, Knowledge and Development, and is a member of the World Health Organizations’ (WHO) Scientific Resource Group on Equity and Health Analysis and Research.

Also, as Regional Director (2004-2010) and now as an active Regional Committee member of the South West Pacific Region of the International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), Associate Professor Jan Ritchie continues to advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Nationally, the Unit’s Director is also Deputy Chair of the National Advisory Group on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Information and Data, is a member of both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Research Advisory Committee of the NHMRC, and the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) as well as numerous other national committees and appointments.
Staff remain active in a number of non-government organisations and committees related to Indigenous health and wellbeing, including rights and justice. Submissions and contributions by both the Unit and individual staff in 2009-2010 were made to the Australian Government’s Stolen Generations Working Partnership and Indigenous-led Close the Gap Campaign for Indigenous Health Equality. At the community level, Muru Marri continues to support the work of the Kinchela Boys’ Home Aboriginal Corporation, the Gamarada Mens’ Healing Group and Link-Up (NSW).

Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver on behalf of the Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, December 2010.

MILESTONES IN 2009-2010

- Muru Marri’s space on Level 3 Samuels Building was renovated, providing room for core staff and research assistants and a newly reconfigured library of Indigenous health publications.
- Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver was appointed as one of five permanent Board members to the Lowitja Institute, Australia’s national body dedicated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health research.
- Conjoint Lecturer, Dr John Waldon, was awarded a PhD in Māori Studies from Massey University. Dr Waldon has since been awarded a postdoctoral fellowship in public health as a recipient of the Eru Pomare Research Fellowship. This fellowship supports emerging leaders in Māori health development.
- Muru Marri’s inaugural conjoint, Professor Ken Wyatt, was elected as the Federal Member for Hasluck, becoming the first Aboriginal person to be elected to the Lower House of the Parliament of Australia.
- Ms Marion Norrie joined the unit as Conjoint Lecturer.
- In 2010, Naomi Crago joined Muru Marri as Research and Administrative Support and assisted in setting up the new library. During the year Sarah Jacob, Fakhra Maan and Xiao Chen provided administrative assistance.
- Visiting Professorial Fellow, Professor Ian Ring continues in the role of Expert Advisor to the Close the Gap Campaign for Indigenous Health Equality.
- Senior Visiting Fellow, Associate Professor Jan Ritchie conducted a review of the Public Health Officer Training Program.

Participants at Gamarada’s two day community consultation including (from RHS back) Aunty Rhonda Dixon-Grovenor, Kerrie Kelly, Ramone Delalmo and Peter Briggs (sixth from right)
Social Sciences Research Group

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine has a rapidly growing team of social scientists and health researchers undertaking social research on health. Our research interests span developing contemporary social theory through to translational research; areas of specialisation include social studies of public health, the securitisation of health, social determinants of health, health promotion, culture, gender and health, sexual health, mental health, the quality and safety of care, community engagement and teamwork and leadership in health care. This research involves partnerships with a diverse range of communities locally and internationally and collaborations with researchers around Australia and overseas. The team includes: Assoc Prof Juliet Richters, Dr Niamh Stephenson, Dr Joanne Travaglia, Anne Bunde-Birouste, Dr Husna Razee, Dr Alison Rutherford, Sally Nathan and a strong cohort of PhD students, research staff and MPH/MHM students who come to social research via the core and elective teaching we do into these masters programs. We are also collaborating with SPHCM researchers in Global health, Infectious Diseases, Indigenous Health and the International HIV Research Group.

**KEY RESEARCH FOCI**

**Social cohesion/community engagement research**
(Anne Bunde-Birouste, Sally Nathan)

Football United is a community-based action research and intervention program in health promotion. Sally Nathan and Anne Bunde-Birouste are CIs (with C. Evers, L. Kemp, J. MacKenzie and R. Henley) on Social Cohesion through Football, an ARC Linkage project that investigates Football United’s implementation and its impacts on participants health/wellbeing and on social inclusion and cohesion.

**Sexuality and sexual health as local and global issues**
(Assoc Prof Juliet Richters, Dr Niamh Stephenson, Dr Alison Rutherford)

We are involved in research on sexuality and research on sexual health interventions both nationally and internationally. Associate Professor Juliet Richters leads a group of studies on sexuality and sexual health in Australia, some of them based at UNSW and some in collaboration with colleagues in the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS) in Melbourne. These studies focus on sex and sexuality as social behaviour in a social context, rather than simply as risk behaviour. Current research includes the Second Australian Study of Health and Relationships, a large NHMRC-funded cross-sectional survey of Australian sexual behaviour, attitudes and sexual health. Assoc Prof. Richters and Dr Alison Rutherford have a new ARC Linkage Grant with Family Planning New South Wales, Contraception understandings and experiences of Australian women, which explores women’s attitudes towards and experiences of fertility control in relation to their sexual lives. Dr Niamh Stephenson is completing a book (co-authored with Prof Susan Kippax) on how the global response to HIV is shaping international public health efforts more generally.

**Social studies of public health surveillance and interventions**
(Dr Niamh Stephenson)

This research focus examines how public health reaches out into people’s everyday lives and how people’s creative uptake of health messages force responses on the
part of public health. Dr Niamh Stephenson currently holds two ARC Discovery projects on this topic. One DP, **Pandemic influenza: People, Policy, Science** (with M. Davis, Monash) examines gaps between public concerns about pandemic influenza and Australian preparedness efforts. The second, **Ultrasound, embodiment and abortion: An analysis of foetal imaging and the ethics of the selective termination of pregnancy** (with C. Mills USyd) considers how the increasingly routine use of ultrasound in pregnancy is impacting on women’s experiences of pregnancy and on contemporary public debates about termination.

**Healthcare and Health Promotion for vulnerable groups**  
*Dr Joanne Travaglia, Dr Husna Razee, Sally Nathan*

This research examines situational and structural factors which affect the provision of health promotion and the quality and safety of healthcare for vulnerable groups including: the elderly; youth; women; people with disabilities; Indigenous groups; people from refugee and immigrant backgrounds; overseas students; people from lower socio-economic backgrounds; homeless persons; geographically and socially isolated individuals and other vulnerable groups. Dr Joanne Travaglia is currently working on a number of projects with Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite in the Australian Institute of Health Innovation, on the development of management skills for nurses; indicators of a healthy clinical environment; and models of consumer engagement (with Sally Nathan). Dr Husna Razee is a CI (with M. Whittaker UQ and L. Yap and with PI Rohan Jayasuriya) on **Health worker performance improvement**, an Australian Development Awards grant. And Sally Nathan is also involved in research on the experiences of vulnerable young people in health services (**Program for Adolescent Life Management**).

**Contact**: Dr Niamh Stephenson, n.stephenson@unsw.edu.au

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**The Football United action-research program: One of the SPHCM’s flagship programs**

**Developed according to best practice in community-based health promotion, the program is an exemplary initiative of ground-breaking university-community engagement and highlights addressing Equity Gaps through innovative health promotion and community development**

**Background**

The Football United action-research program was initiated in 2006 as a PhD study by SPHCM Convener of Health Promotion A Bunde-Birouste. Based on the vision to assist recently arrived humanitarian refugee youth and families in their transition into Australian society, the program uses people’s love for Football (soccer) to build opportunities for racial harmony and social inclusion. Research underpinning the development of the Football United Program began in 2005 with community-based action research in health promotion to explore the use of football (aka soccer) as a mechanism for building social cohesion within refugee communities in urban areas in South West Sydney. Since its beginnings in 2006, the extent of the program reach has grown, both in research and practice.

The program has grown in both size and diversity of intervention activities to reach more than 2000 diverse and disadvantaged children, youth and adults each year, delivered in partnership with over 40 separate community, government and corporate partners, with a combined research and intervention
budget of over $500,00/year. The program now combines a number of social intervention strategies which associate factors of health promotion with social development, to engage and empower across communities in S-W Sydney, Queensland, South Australia, and soon at national level.

Achievements

Among the major achievements during this period was the successful ARC Linkage funded three-year study (2009-2011): Social Cohesion through Football, a cohort impact study investigating the implementation of a football program for refugee youth examining processes and impacts on individual health/wellbeing, social inclusion and cohesion in areas of Sydney with high humanitarian refugee settlement - $439,000 over 3 years. The study is a complex mixed methods design which must grapple with measuring the impacts of a complex program operating at multiple levels and research with vulnerable young people including the sensitive ethical issues involved for both the participants and the researchers.


Additional highlights include the establishment of partnerships with both the Football Federation of Australia (FFA), and the Football for Hope programme, a joint initiative of FIFA and Streetfootballworld International. The FFA partnership has enabled a national development plan to be established, with significant partnership for national development with the University of South Australia, Adelaide and Queensland Department of Communities Multicultural Affairs Division, and multiple state and local partners in the Australian Capitol Territory.

The highlight of 2010 was Football United’s ‘Hope Team’ representing Australia at the Football for Hope Festival in South Africa, an official event of the FIFA World Cup™ 2010. This enabled Football United to connect with North One TV, Screen Australia, Screen New South Wales and Foxtel who produced the inspiring documentary film, “Passport to Hope”, which was awarded the Australian Human Rights Commission national prize in 2010, and has won a number of UNSW awards in addition to the national award:

- Inaugural Building Inclusive Communities Award, Macquarie University and National Ethnic Communities 2011
- Australian Sports Commission’s final list for 2010 Media Awards
- Australian Rights Commission’s 2010 Media Awards
- UNSW Community Engagement Award in 2010
- UNSW Staff Excellent Award in 2009.

Contribution to UNSW and Opportunities for Engagement

UNSW students have opportunities to engage in many aspects of the program, and have contributed greatly to the development and running of the program to date across a number of faculties including Medicine, Law, and Arts and Social Sciences.

The Football United program has significantly contributed to UNSW’s capacity to support and engage with hard to reach communities by providing an excellent platform for multidisciplinary student engagement, multidisciplinary research opportunities (public health, social science, public policy, psychology, international/development studies), public-private-beneficiary partnership for community development, social cohesion/justice and racial harmony.

Key contact at SPHCM

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New Chair in Positive Ageing and Care

In August 2010, HammondCare and UNSW signed a five-year agreement to fund and appoint a new Chair of Positive Ageing and Care in the School of Community Medicine and Public Health, based at Hammondville.

The intent of this agreement was to appoint an academic champion of a new unit for research, teaching and clinical care, across multiple disciplines of rehabilitation and aged care medicine and nursing, and allied health services, including exercise physiology and psychology. UNSW SPHCM supports the medical stream, UNSW Exercise Physiology the allied health stream, and UOW nursing supports the nursing stream.

Andrew Cole, Conjoint Associate Professor at SPHCM, says: “The main emphasis of aged care medicine until now has been in the geriatric units and community outreach arms, based in large teaching hospitals. While this has brought a welcome focus on problem-solving in elderly people presenting to hospital with medical problems, it is clearly a reactive system, which deals primarily with the small fraction of elderly people who develop serious medical issues.

“Once admitted to hospital, it requires a major effort to restore a majority of these people to some semblance of their previous lives, and many never return home, instead requiring admission to aged care facilities for nursing support. In short, a system that deals with many unhappy older people, but still only with a very small percentage of the whole aged care group.”

What about the 98% of older people who do not need to use hospital services? How can we help people to age in the most healthy way possible, focusing on health maintenance and healthy exercise and nutrition programs? A small group within SPHCM with interest in these problems convened in 2007, but there seemed little hope of progress until late 2009.

At that time, the Department of Health and Ageing recognised that teaching hospitals had reached saturation levels for teaching of healthcare students in medicine, nursing and allied health disciplines. At the start of 2010, funding applications to build new teaching facilities in aged care and subacute healthcare centres were submitted, and HammondCare received nearly $5 million, to be spent between now and mid 2013. A new first-stage building at Hammondville costing $1.35 million will be completed in December 2010. On-site student teaching commences in early 2011.

Individuals living both within the Hammond Village and in the surrounding community will be able to access a suite of preventative
and restorative health and treatment services. This will hopefully avoid hospital admission for many, and maintain all in the best possible health, as they live and age in their at-home settings. Research will be aimed at developing the best models of community care and support for the burgeoning elderly population of the future.

The Chair will have a substantial clinical consultant role at HammondCare’s facilities, as well as being the champion for the development of community-based aged and disabled care research and teaching of students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. In 2010, A/Prof Christopher Poulos was appointed to the Chair, and he took up the position in March 2011.

UNSW SPHCM and HammondCare are privileged to be involved at the leading edge of aged care service research and development, in an academic environment unique on Australia’s east coast.

The UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine (SPHCM) is happy to announce the appointment of Associate Professor Christopher J Poulos as the founding Hammond Chair of Positive Ageing and Care

UNSW and HammondCare recently signed an Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Chair of Positive Ageing and Care, supported by funding from HammondCare.

The Chair, together with an associated multidisciplinary academic unit, will be located in a newly-completed DOHA-funded Clinical Training Centre in the Hammond Village aged care precinct in SW Sydney.

The intent is to develop specialist programs with a broad focus on health maintenance, restoration and care for older Australians, maximising their quality of life at home, and avoiding hospital admissions if at all possible.

Chris Poulos says: “What really excites about me about this position is the opportunity to develop new person-centred models of care. We need to focus on wellness, and on helping people maintain their independence, abilities and quality of life as they get older.”

Professor Raina MacIntyre, Head of the School of SPHCM says: “Aged Care has been a longstanding focus of SPHCM, and we are delighted to have this opportunity to further build strength in this area, and look forward to working with Associate Professor Poulos and HammondCare to realise this vision. It is an exciting development for SPHCM and UNSW to be able to focus on the important issue of community aged care.”

Professor Peter Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, says: “The University of New South Wales is proud to form this partnership with HammondCare. Under Associate Professor Chris Poulos’s leadership the new unit will enhance teaching and training in this field and develop improved ways to deliver care to older Australians in the community.”

Dr Stephen Judd, CEO of HammondCare, says: “This partnership between UNSW and HammondCare makes the new academic unit ideally placed to develop and provide innovative clinical services to older Australians where they live. This is a win for people; it is also a win for efficiency.”
## Research Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantor</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Funding Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)/Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing: Public Health and Education Research Program (PHERP)</td>
<td>Alan Hodgkinson</td>
<td>$1,783,708.00 (2001-2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>US Department of the Army/US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USA Medical Research and Materiel Command): Conceptualising approaches investigation viral, hormone &amp; diet hypothesis for the etiology of breast cancer in genetically susceptible women</td>
<td>Noel Whitaker, James Lawson, James Sutherland</td>
<td>$124,451.00 (2003-2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Merck Sharp &amp; Dohme/Merck - Small Group CME for General Practitioners</td>
<td>Leah Bloomfield, Karsten Sommer, Peter Harris</td>
<td>$91,300.00 (2003-2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Western Sydney Area Health Service/South Western Sydney Area Health Service: Needs Assessment of Young IDUs in Bankstown and Campbelltown</td>
<td>Lisa Maher</td>
<td>$86,269.00 (2003-2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Western Sydney Local Health Network (SWSLHN)/Health Research Foundation Sydney South West and Ingham Institute Scholarship Award: Stroke in the elderly, risk factors and outcomes (HRFSSW Scholarship for Ms Qing Shen)</td>
<td>Qing Chan Shen, Daniel Kam Yin</td>
<td>$60,000.00 (2003-2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation/Research Grants: Development and pilot study of an evidence based healthy lifestyle brief intervention on alcohol, tobacco, nutrition and physical activity</td>
<td>Richard Mattick, Dennis McDermott, Robyn Richmond, Anthony Shakeshaft, Lisa Jackson Pulver</td>
<td>$131,023.00 (2004-2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Sydney/NHMRC Capacity Building Grants in Population Health Research Program Shared Grant / Subcontract: HERON: Using population health data to improve services, policy and planning</td>
<td>Elizabeth Comino, Elizabeth Harris, Anthony Zwi</td>
<td>$364,241.00 (2004-2010)</td>
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<td>NSW Department of Health/Health Administration Corporation Contract Research: Otitis media community awareness service</td>
<td>Lisa Jackson Pulver</td>
<td>$302,727.00 (2005-2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Career Development Awards: Improving and monitoring the health in prisoners in Australia</td>
<td>Tony Butler</td>
<td>$436,250.00 (2005-2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pius X Aboriginal Corporation/Research Project: Pius X Aboriginal Corporation service planning and evaluation project</td>
<td>Ilse Blignault, Jillian Guthrie, Lisa Jackson Pulver</td>
<td>$26,866.00 (2005-2009)</td>
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<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Project Grant: A survey of the sexual behaviour and sexual health of Australian prisoners</td>
<td>Basil Donovan, Juliet Richters, Tony Butler</td>
<td>$853,500.00 (2005-2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Project Grant: A multi-component intervention for smoking cessation among Australian male prison inmates</td>
<td>Ian Anderson, Tony Butler, Kathleen Wilhelm, Alexander Wodak, Robyn Richmond</td>
<td>$576,250.00 (2005-2010)</td>
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<td>Royal Australian and NZ College of Radiologists/Royal Australian &amp; New Zealand College of Radiologists: Review and redevelopment of curricula for postgraduate training in diagnostic radiology and radiation oncology</td>
<td>Leah Bloomfield, Peter Harris</td>
<td>$206,523.00 (2005-2010)</td>
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<td>Monash University: Footprints forward: Better strategies for the recruitment, retention and support of Indigenous medical students</td>
<td>Susan Green, Lisa Jackson Pulver, David Sutherland</td>
<td>$48,394.00 (2005-2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Vision of Australia: Bringing them home: Kinchela boys home aboriginal cooperation strategic plan</td>
<td>Ilse Blignault, Anton Clifford, Jillian Guthrie, Lisa Jackson Pulver</td>
<td>$87,952.00 (2005-2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Organisation</td>
<td>Project Title</td>
<td>Investigator(s)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Australian College of General Practitioners/Cardiovascular Research Grants in General Practice: The Collaborative Care Planning Scale</td>
<td>Psychometric properties of a scale to measure shared decision making in multidisciplinary care planning for patients with diabetes and cardiovascular comorbidities</td>
<td>Mark Harris, Suzanne McKenzie, Timothy Shortus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)/Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing: Demonstration and evaluation project to provide smoking cessation services in primary care</td>
<td>Nicholas Zwar, Robyn Richmond</td>
<td>$316,110.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Project Grant: A cluster randomised controlled trial of nurse and general practitioner partnership for care of COPD</td>
<td>Elizabeth Comino, Guy Marks, Sandy Middleton, Nicholas Zwar</td>
<td>$442,245.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Environment and Water Resources/Clean Air Research Programme: Health costs of ambient air pollution</td>
<td>Tom Beer, Geoff Morgan, Glenn Salkeld, Bin Jalaludin</td>
<td>$120,288.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Australian College of General Practitioners/Cardiovascular Research Grants in General Practice: The Collaborative Care Planning Scale</td>
<td>Psychometric properties of a scale to measure shared decision making in multidisciplinary care planning for patients with diabetes and cardiovascular comorbidities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Research Council/Linkage Projects: After the questions: Outcome of routine screening for domestic violence in NSW Health Services</td>
<td>Gwen Cosier, Anthony Zwi</td>
<td>$15,840.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Research Council/Linkage Projects: APAI - After the questions: Outcome of routine screening for domestic violence in NSW Health Services</td>
<td>Anthony Zwi</td>
<td>$86,275.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of New South Wales/Goldstar: Contagion &amp; Connection: How everyday social meanings and practices shape public responses to the threat of avian influenza</td>
<td>Daniel Tarantola, Anthony Zwi, Niamh Stephenson</td>
<td>$40,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Project Grant: DESPATCH. Delivering stroke prevention for atrial fibrillation: Assisting evidence-based Choice in primary care</td>
<td>Jeremy Grimshaw, Dominic Leung, Richard Lindley, Obioha Ukoumunne, James Van Gelder, John Worthington, Nicholas Zwar, Melina Gattellari</td>
<td>$547,353.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Research Council/Linkage Projects: After the questions: Outcome of routine screening for domestic violence in NSW Health Services</td>
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<td>$547,353.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- Australian Research Council/Linkage Projects: After the questions: Outcome of routine screening for domestic violence in NSW Health Services
- Australian Research Council/Linkage Projects: APAI - After the questions: Outcome of routine screening for domestic violence in NSW Health Services
- University of New South Wales/Goldstar: Structural, Social and Behavioural Influences on Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Impact Mitigation in Australia
- National Health & Medical Research Council/Project Grant: DESPATCH. Delivering stroke prevention for atrial fibrillation: Assisting evidence-based Choice in primary care
NSW Sporting Injuries Committee/Research and Injury Prevention Scheme: Understanding the barriers and bridges to the development and implementation of evidence-informed sports injury prevention policy in NSW
Rebecca Dennis, Caroline Finch, Roslyn Poulos
$24,992.00 (2007-2009)

Sisters of Charity Foundation/Research Grant: Refugee Youth Soccer Development Program
Anne Bunde-Birouste
$5,000.00 (2007-2009)

AusAID (Australian Agency for International Development)/Research Grant: HIV/AIDS + rehabilitation centres in Vietnam: Sexual and reproductive health needs, care and choices of transitional populations and their sexual partners
Anna Whelan, Daniel Tarantola
$160,000.00 (2007-2009)

Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)/Public Health Education and Research Program: Phase IV: Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP)
Rosemary Knight, Alan Hodgkinson
$1,594,820.00 (2006-2010)

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners/Cardiovascular Research Grants in General Practice: Absolute risk assessment in general practice – a pilot study to measure impact on prescribing and adherence to guidelines
Mark Harris, Nicholas Zwar, Sanjyot Vagholkar
$22,299.00 (2007-2009)

MBF Foundation/Research Grant: Supporting treatment decisions to optimise the prevention of STROKE: The STOP-STROKE Trial
Dominic Leung, Glenn Salkeld, James Van Gelder, John Worthington, Nicholas Zwar, Melina Gattellari
$97,709.00 (2007-2011)

The School hosts an annual symposium on “Advances in Public Health and Health Services Research” at UNSW.

The conference showcases 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; Australian Institute of Health Innovation; The Kirby Institute; and The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, which together form the strongest concentration of expertise and capacity in population health and health services research in Australia.

The Keynote Speakers in 2009 were Professor Rob Moodie from the Nossal Institute of Global Health and Professor George Rubin from the Centre for Health Services and Workforce Research who discussed strategic directions for population health at UNSW.

In 2010 the Keynote Speakers were Professor Simon Chapman who discussed the characteristics of influential public health researchers in Australia and Associate Professor Quarraisha Abdool Karim who deliberated on preventing HIV infection in young women and the key to altering epidemic trajectories in South Africa.

The symposium gave participants the opportunity to learn about innovative research and to meet leading researchers and academics across various disciplines. The symposium was open to the public, university staff and students.
NHMRC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Research fellowships offered by NHMRC are prestigious, highly competitive, sought after awards for high performing mid-career researchers. Recipients of these fellowships are generally in the top 10% of their field and are viewed as ‘pushing the boundaries’ of research. The purpose of NHMRC fellowships is to provide support for outstanding health and medical researchers to undertake research that is of major importance and of significant benefit to Australian health and medical research. The SPHCM is indeed fortunate to have four staff members who have been awarded NHMRC post doctoral research fellowships.

DR ANTHONY NEWALL

The evaluation of influenza vaccination strategies in Australia

Dr Anthony Newall is a lecturer (research) in health economics at The School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales. He is also an honorary fellow at the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS). He completed his Masters of Public Health (Hons) and PhD at the University of Sydney. His research focus is the epidemiology and economic evaluation of vaccine preventable diseases. He was awarded the Young Investigator of the year in 2008 by his research school based on evidence of significant research impact in public health.

DR HOLLY SEALE

Applied research in the prevention and control of infections in the hospital setting

Holly completed her PhD at the University of Sydney in 2008. Her thesis examined the epidemiology of severe cytomegalovirus (CMV) in Australia, with a special focus on congenital CMV and the disease burden in high-risk groups. In April 2008, she was appointed as an Associate Lecturer at the University of New South Wales and was promoted to...
lecturer within two years. Her role at the SPHCM includes a large program of research, supervision of students, school service and teaching/course development. In 2010, she was successfully appointed the position of Co-Director for the Public Health Officer Training Program.

Over the last couple of years, her research has been based around viruses and contagion, vaccine uptake and barriers to immunisation, preventative health behaviours and risk perceptions. This research has focused on a range of different consumer groups including the general public, healthcare workers and general practitioners. She has been a chief investigator on two research grants including awards from the ARC and the NHMRC. She was also successful in obtaining an NHMRC training fellowship in 2010 which she commenced in January 2011.

In 2010, she was the recipient of the School of Public Health and Community Medicine’s Young Investigator of the Year award, and The Public Health Education and Research Trust (PHERT) Immunisation Scholarship, a national award for vaccination research, presented at the 2010 Public Health Association of Australia Immunisation conference.

During the next four years under the fellowship she will examine new strategies to increase compliance with infection control measures including vaccines, respirators/masks and hand hygiene amongst healthcare workers.

**DR MOHAMUD SHEIKH**

*Infection, Immunity and Immigration-models for prevention and control of infectious diseases in refugees*

Dr Mohamud Sheikh is a published international public health specialist with over 17 years experience in communicable diseases control in developing countries and resettled refugees in Australia. Recently he won a number of key national awards and state awards. Having graduated from the University of Sydney with double Masters and a Doctorate in Public Health, Dr Sheikh currently holds four years fully funded National Health and Medical Research Council Public Health Research Fellowship titled; infection, immunity and immigration - looking beyond the medical model for the prevention and control of infectious diseases in refugee children.

Trained in clinical laboratory sciences; majoring in medical microbiology and medical parasitology/entomology, Mohamud comes with rich clinical and non-clinical background. Dr Sheikh migrated from Kenya to Australia nearly 9 years ago.

He has a number of key peer reviewed publications on international and refugee health, and also reviews for a number of national and international journals including; the UK Journal of Epidemiology & Infection (Cambridge University Press), Journal of population health metrics, Ethnicity and health, Paediatric and Child health, Asia-Pacific Journal of public health among other. He is the convenor World Health Organisation training of humanitarian aid workers on communicable diseases control in humanitarian emergencies, yearly held at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of New South Wales.

**DR IMAN RIDDHA**

*Ageing and infectious diseases; Healthy Ageing; qualitative methodology*

Dr Iman Ridda is a NHMRC clinical Research Fellow and Immunisation research coordinator/senior research officer at the Nation Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases. Her current research projects are:

- Prevalence of un-recognised pertussis in people over the age of 40 hospitalized with myocardial infarction and stroke.
- Long term immunity to pneumococcal vaccines in the elderly.
- Pertussis in frail elderly.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Title</th>
<th>Funding Body</th>
<th>Principal Investigator(s)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Project Grant: Health Services Research: A randomised controlled trial to evaluate a model of comprehensive stroke care</td>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>Jack Chen, Dennis Cordato, Christopher Levi, Sandy Middleton, Michael Pollack, Daniel Chan</td>
<td>$499,450.00</td>
<td>2008-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Veterans Affairs: Investigation of the effects of long term use of minor analgesics and NSAIDS in DVA Clients Phase 2</td>
<td>DoHA</td>
<td>Andrea Mant</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
<td>2007-2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Relations Commission of NSW/Contract Research: Research informing policy: Ethnic Affairs Policy</td>
<td>DoHA</td>
<td>Ilse Blignault, Patrick Harris, Anna Whelan</td>
<td>$50,921.00</td>
<td>2007-2009</td>
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<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Project Grant: Quit in General Practice: a cluster randomised trial of enhanced in-practice support for smoking cessation</td>
<td>DoHA</td>
<td>John Furler, Elizabeth Halcomb, Robyn Richmond, Julie Smith, Nicholas Zwar</td>
<td>$1,076,950.00</td>
<td>2009-2012</td>
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<td>International Planned Parenthood Federation East &amp; South East Asia and Oceania Region/AusAID SPRINT Shared Grant / Subcontract: Sexual and reproductive health programme in crisis and post-crisis situations in East, Southeast Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>AusAID Condominiums Program: Strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health in Asia and Oceania</td>
<td>Anthony Zwi, Anna Whelan</td>
<td>$104,985.00</td>
<td>2008-2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Training Fellowships: Infection, Immunity and immigration - models for prevention and control of infectious diseases in refugees</td>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Training Fellowships</td>
<td>Raina MacIntyre, Mohamud Sheikh</td>
<td>$262,750.00 (2008-2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Training Fellowships: DRC - Infection, Immunity and immigration - models for prevention and control of infectious diseases in refugees</td>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Training Fellowships</td>
<td>Mohamud Sheikh</td>
<td>$15,000.00 (2008-2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Stroke Foundation/Contract Research: Development of GP educational module: Preventing fatal and disabling stroke in patients with atrial fibrillation</td>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Training Fellowships</td>
<td>Melina Gattellari</td>
<td>$5,091.00 (2008-2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)/Contract Research: The development of a tool of levels of protection required for various occupational settings in a pandemic</td>
<td>National Health &amp; Medical Research Council/Training Fellowships</td>
<td>Raina MacIntyre, Mary-Louise McLaws</td>
<td>$27,271.00 (2008-2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Research Council/Linkage Projects: Social Cohesion through Football</td>
<td>Australian Research Council</td>
<td>Craig Duncan, Clifton Evers, Robert Henley, Lisa Jackson Pulver, Sally Nathan</td>
<td>$341,000.00 (2009-2012)</td>
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<td>Australian Research Council/Discovery Project: Modelling and estimation techniques for the transmission and control of Tuberculosis with new and existing vaccines</td>
<td>Australian Research Council</td>
<td>Peter Caley, James Wood</td>
<td>$217,500.00 (2008-2011)</td>
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<td>AusAID (Australian Agency for International Development)/Research Grant: Targeted HIV social research program.</td>
<td>AusAID (Australian Agency for International Development)</td>
<td>Heather Worth</td>
<td>$650,000.00 (2008-2011)</td>
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<td>UNICEF: Review quality of evaluation reports and to recommend necessary capacity building support</td>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>Heather Worth, Patrick Rawstorne</td>
<td>US $24,000.00 (2010)</td>
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BIOSTATISTICS AND QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS SEMINAR

The aim of this seminar is to provide talks on quantitative research methods used in medical and public health related research. The presentations normally provide an introduction to the topic that covers a wide range of quantitative methods including simple and complex biostatistical methods, mathematical modeling, econometric analysis etc.

These seminars started in 2010 and occur monthly on every second Thursday on each month, excluding the months of December, January and February. Academics and researchers (including conjoints) within the Faculty of Medicine and its affiliated centres are the presenters. Presenters can also come from outside the university if the topic is suitable for the seminar.

The target audiences are the research students, academics and researchers within the faculty and its affiliated centres. Recently some academics from the school of statistics and mathematics have expressed their interest in this seminar series. They have proposed to include their school in the seminar broadcasting.

The number of attendees to the seminar varies mainly based on the topic. The average number of attendees is usually around 30.
Australian Research Council/Linkage Projects: Economic, social and cross cultural issues in non-pharmaceutical protection of front line responders to pandemic influenza and emerging infections
Dominic Dwyer, Neil Ferguson, Lisa Maher, Mary-Louise McLaws, Anthony Newall, Phan Thi Nga, Holly Seale, James Wood, Raina MacIntyre
$185,000 (2009-2014)

Australian Research Council/Linkage Projects: Pandemic Influenza, Human Resources and Critical Infrastructure Dependencies: Mitigating the Impact on Hospitals
Paul Barach, Stanley Goldstein, Ralf Itzwerth, Pradeep Ray, James Wood, Raina MacIntyre
$210,000 (2009)

University of New South Wales/Goldstar-NHMRC: Investigating best practice primary care for older Australians with diabetes using data linkage
Jeffrey Flack, Marion Haas, Mark Harris, J Bin Jalaludin, Louisa Jorm, Elizabeth Comino
$30,000.00 (2009)

University of New South Wales/Goldstar-NHMRC: The PRISM study: A program of research informing stroke management using linked hospital and death data
Philip Clarke, Bin Jalaludin, Mohammed Mohsin, Lee Taylor, John Worthington, Melina Gattellari
$30,000.00 (2009)

National Health & Medical Research Council/Capacity Building Grants in Population Health Research Program: Mathematical modelling for improved planning of infectious diseases control policy
Niels Becker, Graham Brown, Peter Caley, Andrew Hayen, Matthew Law, Terrence Nolan, Aileen Plant, David Wilson, Raina MacIntyre
$561,000.00 (2008-2011)

National Health & Medical Research Council/Council/Postgraduate Scholarship: NHMRC Medical Postgraduate Scholarship - Yueping Wang
Alex Yueping Wang
$62,511.00 (2005-2011)

NSW Department of Health/Contract Research: Smoking Cessation Trial in Prisons
Robyn Richmond
$88,461.00 (2008-2009)

World Health Organization: Resource mapping for HRH Development in the Pacific
Alan Hodgkinson, Rohan Jayasuriya, John Hall
$27,472.00 (2009-2010)

University of Newcastle/NHMRC Project Grant Shared Grant / Subcontract: Healthy lifestyle intervention for cardiovascular disease reduction among people with psychotic disorders
Amanda Baker, David Castle, Frances Kay-Lambkin, Jayashri Kulkarni, Jill Williams, Robyn Richmond
$193,175.00 (2009-2012)

National Health & Medical Research Council/Training Fellowships: The evaluation of influenza vaccination strategies in Australia
Anthony Newall
$265,000.00 (2010-2014)

National Health & Medical Research Council/Training Fellowships: DRC - The evaluation of influenza vaccination strategies in Australia
Anthony Newall
$20,000.00 (2010-2013)

National Health & Medical Research Council/Training Fellowships: Centenarian lifestyle and predictors of positive ageing
Raina MacIntyre, Robyn Richmond, Iman Ridda
$270,032.00 (2010-2014)

National Health & Medical Research Council/Linkage Projects: Safer cycling: A partnership project to better understand cycling patterns, hazards and incidents
Raphael Grzebieta, Julie Hatfield, Andrew McIntosh, Chris Rissel, Roslyn Poulos
$208,000.00 (2010-2013)

National Health & Medical Research Council/Project Grant: Mortality and survival among clients of the Aboriginal Medical Service at Redfern
Kate Burgess, John Daniels, Stephen Morrell, Richard Taylor
$49,554.00 (2009)

South Western Sydney Local Health Network(SWSLHN)/ARC Linkage Project Industry Partner Contribution: Social Cohesion through Football
Sally Nathan
$9,000.00 (2009-2012)

Transcultural Mental Health Centre/ARC Linkage Project Industry Partner Contribution: Social Cohesion through Football
Sally Nathan
$9,000.00 (2009-2012)
SydWest Multicultural Services/ARC Linkage Project Industry Partner Contribution: Social Cohesion through Football
Sally Nathan $6,000.00 (2009-2012)

Western Sydney Area Health Service/ARC Linkage Project Industry Partner Contribution: Social Cohesion through Football
Sally Nathan $12,000.00 (2009-2012)

Community Relations Commission of NSW/ARC Linkage Project Industry Partner Contribution: Social Cohesion through Football
Sally Nathan $72,000.00 (2009-2012)

AusAID (Australian Agency for International Development)/Research Grant: Strengthening Evidence-Based Health Policy in Vietnam
Daniel Tarantola, Anna Whelan, Anthony Zwi $413,405.00 (2009-2011)

National Health & Medical Research Council/H1N1 Influenza: Optimal use of vaccine to mitigate a second wave of H1N1 2009 influenza in Australia
James McCaw, Anthony Newall, James Wood $78,050.00 (2009-2011)

NSW Sporting Injuries Committee/Research and Injury Prevention Scheme: A partnership approach to sports safety policy in NSW: Understanding the contribution of multi-agency partnerships in policy formulation
Alexander Donaldson, Roslyn Poulos $33,137.00 (2009-2010)

National Health & Medical Research Council/H1N1 Influenza: Efficacy of face masks against H1N1 swine influenza
Dominic Dwyer, Holly Seale, Raina MacIntyre $337,563.00 (2009-2010)

NSW Department of Health/Capacity Building Infrastructure Program: Capacity Building Infrastructure Program Round 3 - CHI
Jeffrey Braithwaite $1,750,000.00 (2010-2013)

NSW Department of Health/Contract Research: Multi-component intervention for smoking cessation among Australian male prison inmates
Robyn Richmond $90,000.00 (2009-2010)

University of New South Wales/Goldstar-NHMRC: Prevention and Treatment of Hepatitis C (PATH) Study: Randomised Controlled Trial of a HCV Prevention Intervention
Lisa Maher $30,000.00 (2010)

University of New South Wales/Goldstar-NHMRC: Effectiveness of a Patient Centered model of Diabetes self management in Sri Lanka
Rohan Jayasuriya $30,000.00 (2010)

University of New South Wales/Goldstar-NHMRC: The PRISM study: A program of research informing stroke management using linked hospital and death data
Melina Gattellari $30,000.00 (2010)

University of New South Wales/LP Contribution: Pandemic Influenza, Human Resources and Critical Infrastructure Dependencies: Mitigating The Impact on Hospitals
Raina MacIntyre $180,000.00 (2010-2012)

University of New South Wales/Major Equipment & Infrastructure Scheme (MREII): IT infrastructure equipment
Siaw-Teng Liaw $93,275.00 (2010)

National Health & Medical Research Council/Postgraduate Research Scholarship: Scholarship for Melanie Pitkin - Study of urban Aboriginal housing and its relationship to health - SEARCH housing extension part 1
Sally Redman, Anna Williamson $94,250.00 (2010-2013)

NSW Sporting Injuries Committee/Research and Injury Prevention Scheme: Making a difference in sports safety: A pilot study in applying a theory informed approach to the diffusion of safety initiatives in community level sport.
Roslyn Poulos $28,042.00 (2010-2011)

Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)/Contract Research: Improving cardiovascular health among people with depression: The development and pilot testing of an evidence-based internet healthy lifestyles treatment
Robyn Richmond $151,749.00 (2010-2011)

NSW Department of Health/Contract Research: Multi-component intervention for smoking cessation among Australian male prison inmates
Robyn Richmond $60,000.00 (2010)

Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA)/Contract Research: Healthy lifestyle intervention for cardiovascular disease risk reduction among people with psychotic disorders
Robyn Richmond $146,854.00 (2010-2012)

Bicycle New South Wales Incorporated /ARC Linkage Project Industry Partner Contribution: Safer cycling: A partnership project to better understand cycling patterns, hazards and incidents
Roslyn Poulos $6,000.00 (2010-2013)

Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW/ARC Linkage Project Industry Partner Contribution: Safer cycling: A partnership project to better understand cycling patterns, hazards and incidents
Roslyn Poulos $76,000.00 (2010-2013)

South Western Sydney Local Health Network(SWSLHN)/ARC Linkage Project Industry Partner Contribution: Safer cycling: A partnership project to better understand cycling patterns, hazards and incidents
Roslyn Poulos $15,000.00 (2010-2013)

Willoughby City Council /ARC Linkage Project Industry Partner Contribution: Safer cycling: A partnership project to better understand cycling patterns, hazards and incidents
Roslyn Poulos $6,000.00 (2010-2013)
Spotlight on Asia – SPHCM, UNSW links with China, India and Vietnam

UNSW SPHCM has many links in research, policy and teaching with our region. As an example, we highlight our current links and partnerships with India, China and Vietnam.
Spotlight on China

AIDS Policy Research Center at Tsinghua University

Associate Professor Heather Worth is the Head of the International HIV Research Group (IHRG) at the SPHCM. The International HIV Research Group has collaborated with Institutes in China including the AIDS Policy Research Center at Tsinghua University, Beijing.

This collaboration aims to build social research capacity in parts of China where there is the biggest burden of HIV and specifically where capacity amongst social scientists to carry out HIV social research is low. The partnership is primarily with early-career researchers at Tsinghua University, but also with colleagues from Renmin University, Medical University Beijing, China AIDS Information Network, West China School of Public Health, Kunmin University and Yunnan University. In 2010 IHRG undertook a week-long advanced HIV social research seminar in Kunming. Over 30 young scholars and experts in the field of social science and public health from Guangxi, Yunnan participated in the workshop.

The collaboration has also resulted in the release of a UNSW Press book: *HIV in China: Understanding the Social Aspects of the Epidemic*, co-edited by Professor Heather Worth and Professor Jing Jun, Director of the Social Policy Research Centre at Tsinghua University. In this unique book, young Chinese scholars map some of the most important social, political and cultural characteristics of the HIV epidemic in China. After China’s first HIV-positive patient was reported in 1985, among those initially infected were peasants who had sold their plasma to international companies. Then it became clear that sex workers and injecting drug users were also becoming infected and later, transient populations, ethnic groups and the poor. The realisation that HIV was a profoundly social issue had begun to dawn. It was becoming clear that the epidemic was being propelled by three main economic drivers: the blood trade, the drug trade and the sex trade. *HIV in China: Understanding the Social Aspects of the Epidemic* uncovers some to the hidden truths about the spread of the disease and its social impacts.
Collaborating with the Institute for Infectious Disease and Endemic Disease Control, Beijing Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Professor Quanyi Wang is the Director of the Institute for Infectious Disease and Endemic Disease Control at Beijing’s Centre for Disease Control. He is collaborating on a trial of face mask use in health care workers with Professor Raina MacIntyre.

Professor Wang is responsible for the prevention and control of major infectious diseases including newly emerging infectious diseases in the Beijing area. He was one of few epidemiologists who studied the social behaviours of HIV & STI-related risk populations in China in the late 1990s, was involved in prevention and control during the SARS outbreak in 2003 and developed a novel syndromic surveillance system for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. With expertise in the prevention and control of respiratory infections, Professor Wang and his team are ideal collaborative partners for the Professor Raina MacIntyre’s project. The project is a cluster randomized clinical trial focusing on comparing the efficacy of N95 respirators and medical masks to prevent respiratory infection in healthcare HCWs who were recruited from 24 hospitals in Beijing, China in 2008/2009 winter and 2009/2010 winter.

On the project: “Healthcare workers (HCWs) are the crucial workforce for preparedness and response for the pandemic, and reliable access to effective protection strategies for HCWs will be imperative during a pandemic. However, in recent years, there have been a lot of debates on what kind of masks (N95 respirator or medical mask) should be provided for HCWs to prevent respiratory infection. We collaborated with Professor Raina MacIntyre and her team to conduct a clinical trial focusing on comparing the efficacy of N95 respirators and medical masks to prevent respiratory infection in healthcare HCWs, and providing scientific evidences for strategy on respiratory infectious disease prevention and control in HCWs, especially during a pandemic.”

On working with the SPHCM: “Professor Raina and her team members have excellent expertise in public health research. At the beginning of the collaboration, we had thought that the collaboration would be limited in completing this mask study and answering a public health problem concerned by us. With deepening of the collaboration, we recognized that the implication of the collaboration was far-reaching.

The collaboration gave us a new insight into the aim, the design, the methodology, the analysis and the utilization of the research on public health, and the research capability of our team has been greatly improved by this collaboration as well. Our friends -Professor Raina and her team members- gave us a volume of significant and precious comments on our own research projects, which brought us a lot of outputs, especially in the research of influenza.”

On further scope arising from collaborations with the SPHCM: “The initial collaboration mainly focused on the research of seasonal influenza and pandemic, and currently, more research scopes comprising avian influenza, HPV, etc. have been included in our collaboration. Based on classic epidemiological and laboratory methods, modelling research is introduced in the research as well, which expands the field of the collaboration. In addition, we ever sent three staffs as visiting fellows to work with Professor Raina at UNSW and Professor Dwyer at his WHO Influenza reference laboratory, which further enhanced the collaboration. We believe that the collaboration with Professor Raina and her team will be closer, more comprehensive and more fruitful.”
Spotlight on India

The University of New South Wales and the School of Public Health and Community Medicine have strong ties with India, as seen with the presentation of the gift of a bust of Indian independence leader Mahatma Gandhi, from the Indian government and people in 2010.

The inscription on the bust reads: ‘A Gift of the Bust of Mahatma Gandhi from the People and Government of India to the People and Government of New South Wales and UNSW, Sculptor, Ram Sutar, Unveiled on 1 September 2010 (Wattle Day) by The Hon. Eric Roozendaal, MLC and Treasurer NSW, Mr Amit Dasgupta, Consul-General, India and Professor Frederick Hilmer AO, President and Vice-Chancellor, UNSW.

‘This sculpture is a symbol of peace and harmony. The native wattle is a symbol of student safety at UNSW. Wattles are the first pioneer plants to rise from the ashes of bush fires and protect other seedlings in a natural succession of the bush.’

Project Profile - Infectious Disease Modelling Workshop

Mathematical models are becoming an increasingly important tool to understand how infections are transmitted within populations and to evaluate the potential impact of control programs in containing their spread and in reducing morbidity and mortality. In 2009, with established links to the CMCV, Drs James Wood and David Philp ran their first training workshop on infectious disease modelling. The workshop was supported by the Australia-India council, the SPHCM and the Infectious Diseases Training and Research Centre (IDTRC) at CMCV.

James Wood says: ‘We deliberately designed the course to have an even split between lectures and practical sessions, and despite concerns we’d made the practicals too hard, in fact most students completed them with time in hand. Feedback from students after the course was generally good but a common complaint was that it was too short – they wanted more! We were pleasantly surprised at how well our presentations were received and have plenty of ideas for how to develop and expand the course in the future.’ This workshop attracted 25 students and faculty both from within CMCV and from other parts of India and Nepal. The aim of the course was to expose the students to the simplest mathematical models and have them build and interpret the models as well as providing insight into the design and testing of models and critical appraisal of the modelling literature.

In 2010, the course was expanded and several members of the SPHCM participated in the 2nd International Workshop on Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases. Professor Raina MacIntyre and Drs James Wood and David Philp from SPHCM, along with Solomon Christopher from the Department of Biostatistics, CMCV, delivered lectures during the course, which was attended by 23 participants, including clinicians, postgraduate students, policy makers from the WHO and New Delhi as well as statisticians. The workshop covered important topics in the basics of mathematical modelling, including the use of software R in the design of models and the benefits of models in disease control and informed policy decisions. Due to the popularity of the course, the program will be implemented for its third year in October 2011.

Participants at the 2nd International Workshop on Mathematical Modelling of Infectious Diseases (2010) at the Christian Medical College, Vellore
ARC-funded TB study and collaboration with Christian Medical College, Vellore

In 2008 Dr James Wood was awarded an ARC Discovery project to develop models of the impact of new and existing vaccines for tuberculosis control in the context of India. An important component of this study has been to collect local epidemiologic data for the purpose of informing these models. This has been facilitated by building a strong research and teaching collaboration with Christian Medical College, Vellore, with the research focussing on epidemiologic studies of TB in the Vellore region.

These studies are being carried out by Dr Padmanesan Narasimhan as part of PhD and include a prospective study of TB transmission as detected through skin-test conversions and the newer Quantiferon blood tests. The aim of this study is to estimate the force of infection experienced within case households as opposed to households in which no case is present as a means of refining transmission parameters for the model. Additional studies being carried out focus on the effectiveness of the current treatment program, as this is likely to remain the mainstay of Tuberculosis control even as new vaccines come to market. The research relationship is now growing with new studies using mobile phone based advice to augment tuberculosis treatment underway and collaborations on other subjects including malaria control being discussed.

Collaborations with WHO SEARO, New Delhi

Professor Raina MacIntyre has established a relationship with the WHO South East Asian Regional Office (SEARO) and participated in the WHO SEARO Conference on Epidemiology in New Delhi, India in March 2010. The key objectives of the conference were to promote the role of epidemiology in public health action and advocate for its application in national program development and management. With an evidence-based focus, Professor MacIntyre presented on epidemiological research methods. The proceedings have been published by the WHO including a methods chapter written by Professor MacIntyre: “Health research: concepts, methods and techniques”. The conference and published proceedings enhance the visibility of epidemiology and dissemination of its importance within the Region.

STUDENT PROFILE

Dr Padmanesan Narasimhan

The SPHCM attracts top international students into its MPH and PhD programs, including many students from India. 2008 MPH graduate and current PhD student, Padmanesan Narasimhan is an example of this. Before coming to the SPHCM, Padma was a busy physician, living and working in Chennai, India. As well as clinical duties, Padma was involved in research, particularly in the areas of TB and HIV/AIDS, which included travel to the USA and France to present his research with colleagues. “I wanted to extend my research skills so I looked all over the world for an MPH”.

In 2008, Padma enrolled as a full time internal student in our Master in Public Health program, describing study at the SPHCM as “a much more engaging approach as we are encouraged to think critically. This has deepened my understanding and made me ask why, why is a particular thing needed, what should we do and why should we do it. There is also far more emphasis on social aspects of health which has really changed the way I look at things.”

In 2009, Padma enrolled in a PhD at the SPHCM, supervised by Dr James Wood and Professor Raina MacIntyre. Padma’s PhD Topic is “The epidemiology and transmission dynamics of tuberculosis (TB) in Southern India, with a focus on risk factors and household contact patterns.” His contacts in his home town of Vellore at the Christian Medical College, one of the top medical schools in India, have given rise to a number of collaborations and benefits to the SPHCM.

In 2009, Padma was integral in co-ordinating a link between the SPHCM and the CMCV and arranging an infectious disease modelling workshop, in conjunction with Solomon Christopher, a biostatistician at CMCV who visited the SPHCM on exchange in 2009.
Spotlight on Vietnam

Vietnam is a beautiful country with a history of conflicts, epidemics and other challenges to health. It is also one of the quiet Asian ‘power houses’ with economic growth averaging over 7% per annum over the last decade. Vietnam has demonstrated dramatic improvements in many key health and development indicators, most well beyond what may be expected given the per capita income in the country. Among the major issues faced by Vietnam are addressing the inequalities between urban and rural populations, managing health system reforms, ensuring that the rise in non-communicable diseases can be addressed at the same time as dealing with major infectious disease concerns such as SARS and avian influenza.

The School has built and sustained relationships with Vietnam for over a decade with many students completing their Masters and research degrees at UNSW: some in Public Health (MPH), Health Administration (MHA) and Health Professional Education programs and often supported through AusAID or WHO Fellowships. Most graduates have returned home and gained promotions in their organisations, or have accepted new roles and posts in a range of government and nongovernment agencies.

A number of SPHCM staff have worked on collaborative projects in Vietnam, building longstanding relationships and a strong platform for exchange. SPHCM graduates now work in the Ministry of Health, as well as Institute of Hygiene and Public Health based in Ho Chi Minh City, the Hanoi School of Public Health, Hanoi Medical University and other institutions across the country.

Collaborating with the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology

The National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), in Hanoi, Vietnam is a national leading institution in preventive medicine. Dr Tham Chi Dung is Chief of the Department of International Cooperation at the NIHE, which manages international collaborations in the fields of research, surveillance, control and prevention of infectious diseases. He discusses his collaboration with Professor Raina MacIntyre at the SPHCM.

The collaboration with the SPHCM was formed after Professor MacIntyre visited the NIHE in 2010 and meet with Professor Nguyen Tran Hien, Director of NIHE to discuss NIHE’s availability and capacity to conduct an ARC-funded study “Economic, social and cross cultural issues in non-pharmaceutical protection of front line responders to pandemic influenza and emerging infections”. Dr Dung said
that “the objectives of the project also met the visions and responsibilities of the NIHE visions and the collaboration was based on mutual benefits and equality...this is a milestone for the collaboration between UNSW and NIHE.” Highlights of the Project for Dr Dung have been the intensive support for project approval and administrative processes on both sides, achieving the project objectives with the highest quality and timing, mutual understanding and contribution to the successes of the research from both SPHCM and NIHE, knowledge exchanges and capacity strengthening and involvement of senior and junior scientists.

The collaboration with the SPHCM has enhanced the research program at the NIHE. Scientists and health care workers who participated in the research project have dramatically paid their attention to the issue of hand washing, mask use to protect themselves and their patients. Health staff involved in the project design, construction, planning and the implementation process have had many opportunities to gain experience in to expose themselves to quantitative and quality research methodology under the support from UNSW and NIHE experts. As a consequence, the project has strengthened capacity building in terms of data collection, laboratory sample collections and reservation, biosafety and SOPs of mask wearing, hand washing. In doing this, it strengthened the ability of lower level hospitals/ health care system in terms of treating, better services and lab testing techniques.” This study commenced in 2009 and was completed in 2011, and the UNSW/NIHE partnership continues to build on this work.

Implementing a hand hygiene project in Viet Nam

The “Improving Hand Hygiene compliance and its clinical implications in a sample of health care facilities across Viet Nam” project was officially launched in Hanoi on September 30th, 2010. Professor Mary-Louise McLaws at the SPHCM collaborated with a large multi-institutional team including the in-country principal investigator Dr Nguyen Viet Hung, Head Infection Control Department, Bach Mai Hospital and Deputy Director Hanoi Society for Infection Control, Professor Didier Pittet, Leader the World Health Organization (WHO) First Global Patient Safety Challenge - Clean Care is Safer Care, and Sharon Salmon, the project investigator.

The launch was attended by more than 280 healthcare workers from across Viet Nam. The project launch was an opportunity to share the research rationale and methods to the pilot sites that signed an official commitment pledge to the project.

The project will take three years and consists of several workshops to provide key hospital staff with training in standardised auditing of hand hygiene compliance and healthcare associated infections (HAI).
The project is supported by World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters, Geneva Switzerland and the Regional Emerging Diseases Intervention (REDI) Center, Singapore.

The first workshop was also supported by B-Braun Medical Industry and SDS Solutions Viet Nam. At the first workshop the project hospital staff received training from the WHO technical expert Claire Kilpatrick, on the WHO My 5 Hand Hygiene Moments.

The level of resourcing of the healthcare system in Viet Nam is low to very low, while the costs associated with the additional length of hospitalisation due to treatment of HAI are enormously burdensome to Viet Nam. Therefore, the benefits of this inexpensive intervention will initially be seen in terms of capacity building that the workshops provide key staff across Viet Nam in standardisation of hand hygiene practices, auditing techniques for hand hygiene compliance and surveillance technique for HAI. Once hand hygiene compliance is improved there will be a flow-on effect in terms of patient safety in the reduced morbidity and costs associated with fewer HAI. This patient safety improvement project will provide Sharon with a PhD that will be the first scientifically rigorous study to describe the benefits of hand hygiene in a low resourced healthcare system. The project provides an exceptional opportunity for experts in Viet Nam, WHO and Australia to collaborate. Sharon will also receive supervision and mentoring from leaders in the field of infection control. Since the launch of the project the team has drafted several journal and conference papers and developing further ideas for future collaboration.

Conference: Realising the Rights to Health and Development for All

In 2009, the UNSW Initiative on Health and Human Rights co-hosted an International Conference and Research Symposium on Realising the Rights to Health and Development for All, with the Central Commission for Popularization and Education of The Communist Party of Vietnam, in Hanoi. The Conference examined access to basic health services, public health challenges and looming health emergencies, with a view to creating a comprehensive analysis of how these issues - that have been largely addressed in isolation from one another - actually interact, and how they can be best addressed through rights-based approaches.

Professor Peter Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at UNSW, spoke at the opening ceremony of the Conference, along with senior Vietnamese government officials. "Realising the rights to health and development for all necessitates bold actions on concurrent crises facing the world. Public health emergencies, economic globalization and climate change figure prominently among them," says Associate Professor Dr Dao Duy Quat, of the Central Commission Realising the Rights to Health and Development for All for Popularization and Education of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Over 300 health, development and human rights experts and officials from 30 countries and over 50 academic institutions, international agencies and NGOs called for a new global health strategy. They observed that the world’s most intractable health and development crises – including HIV, newly emerging public health threats and the alarming, persistent level of preventable maternal deaths – could not be solved by looking at each challenge in isolation.

“Every single one of these challenges is very important, but if we address each separately we cannot achieve the elimination of maternal mortality, or sufficient progress in other major areas of ill health and premature death,” said conference Co-Chair, Daniel Tarantola, Professor of
Health and Human Rights at the UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine. He added: “The basic human right to health and economic development are inextricably linked, so we have to understand this complex relationship if we are going to turn Asia’s growing wealth into better health.” The Conference also highlighted the way in which unprecedented resources mobilised to fight HIV/AIDS worldwide had made steady, but insufficient, inroads into controlling the epidemic, with 2.7 million new cases every year. On the other hand, low and middle income nations remain at considerable risk from pandemics, such as H1N1 and avian flu, because vaccines and medicines are largely stockpiled by wealthy nations. Climate change, the mass people movements and environmental degradation of rapid industrialisation and the current global economic downturn are compounding existing health problems.

“If we re-frame the global health agenda and emphasise the right to both health and development we have the best chance of successfully confronting multiple health challenges,” said conference Organizing Committee Co-Chair, Dr Cao Duc Thai, former Director of the Vietnamese Institute of Human Rights. Professor Tarantola said the resilience and creativity of local communities – not more global health policies and funds - were the key to new health and development models. Information on the conference and an agenda for research on health and human rights is available.

Partnership between UNSW and The Health Strategy and Policy Institute

The School’s work in Vietnam is very exciting. In 2008, the SPHCM, with A/Prof Anna Whelan and Prof Anthony Zwi, commenced a partnership with the Health Strategy and Policy Institute (HSPI) in Vietnam. Supported by AusAID, this collaboration aims to develop capacity and support evidence-informed policy in Vietnam. Award of the Partnership was a tremendous honour as substantial competition exists for working with Vietnam’s leading and emerging institutions. The three-year AusAID-supported partnership comprises a range of activities including training and short courses, institutional strengthening, and strategic research and research development. The aim is to improve the expertise within the HSPI so as to better assist the Ministry of Health in strategic policy development, policy analysis and evaluation and more effective policy implementation.
Learning and Teaching

Postgraduate Student Numbers

Postgraduate Coursework Report

Graduate Summer School

Communicable Disease Control in Humanitarian Emergencies Course: Collaboration with WHO

Higher Degrees by Research Report

NSW Public Officer Training Program

Postgraduate Research Student Conference
### COURSEWORK PROGRAMS

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* Commenced in 2010; # Program no longer offered by the School of Public Health and Community Medicine

### RESEARCH PROGRAMS

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2009-2010 was a period of significant change and growth in postgraduate coursework programs offered by the School. The suite of postgraduate coursework programs prepares our students for careers in public health, international public health and health management. Diversity and flexibility are key features of our programs, allowing students to study courses that will equip them to achieve their career goals. While studying with us, students actively engage in high-quality, currently relevant courses that are developed and taught by public health and health services management content experts who are supported by professional education consultants.

In 2009-2010, the School successfully developed important new programs and courses that strengthened the diversity and richness of our postgraduate coursework programs. Ongoing review and development of new programs and courses accords with our goal of being responsive to the changing needs of our students while achieving graduate attributes essential for public health professionals and managers working in Australian and international health settings.

**Combined Masters Programs** are a major area of growth for the school. We now offer combined programs of Master of Public Health and Health Management (from 2010) and Master International Public Health and Public Health. The combined degrees were designed to prepare public health practitioners for senior roles in public health and health management. The programs are increasingly popular with 116 students enrolled in 2010, up from 16 students in 2008.

The establishment of the **Master of International Public Health** and suite of related programs was a major achievement during 2009-2010, led by Professor Richard Taylor and Alan Hodgkinson. Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Master of International Public Health programs, as well as combined two combined Masters’ programs with Health Management and Public Health, were designed and approved by the Faculty of Medicine and University during 2009 and commenced in 2010. Several new international health courses were developed to support the new programs and are popular among students, including Tropical Disease Control and Health Aspects of Emergencies, Conflict and Disasters, while several existing courses were revised to increase international health content. In 2010, the first year the International Public Health programs ran, 56 students were enrolled across all the programs, increasing to 92 students during 2011.
The Master of Public Health program has been offered by the School for many years and remains one of the largest in Australia. The program was reviewed and revised in 2009 and 2010 to provide greater flexibility for students. They can now study a larger range of elective topics to assist them reach their career goals across a broader range of specialty areas while ensuring that the core knowledge, skills and attributes of graduates of the Master of Public Health are met including in epidemiology, statistics, health promotion, public health practice and social determinants of disease.

Master of Public Health students can choose to enrol in the general degree or combine this with either a Master of Health Management or Master of International Health. Alternatively, they can enrol in the Master of Public Health in one of five areas of specialisation - Health Promotion; Primary Health Care; International Health; Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Control; Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing. The popular Infectious Diseases specialisation commenced in 2009 while the unique Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing specialisation was developed in 2010 and commenced in 2011. All public health options have proven to be popular with students with a total of 305 enrolled across all Public Health programs, 98 of whom were enrolled a combined Masters degree.

The Master of Health Management was the first degree of its type in Australia and retains its pre-eminent position in the field. The program is accredited by the Australasian College of Health Services Management (ACHSM) and endorsed by the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA). The program has continued to grow, attracting both local and international students, many of whom choose to study health management combined with public health or international public health programs. The major focus of the health management program is the development of competent and critically reflexive managers who are capable of leading within local and national health systems. Total enrolments across all Health Management programs increased from 182 in 2008 to 252 in 2010, including 16 students enrolled in a combined health management program in 2008 which increased to 112 in 2010.

We are fortunate to have a team of Education Consultants in the School who help ensure continual course review and revision across all of our programs, and support academic staff in developing innovative course materials and teaching technologies. Each course has a Blackboard website, which replaced My eLearning Vista in 2010. This supports online learning for local students and those who choose to study by distance mode, further increasing flexibility for students.

Staff in our associated Institutes and Units, including the Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI), the Kirby

VALE ALAN HODGKINSON
1952 - 2011

Associate Dean of Postgraduate Coursework Programs, Faculty of Medicine; Deputy Head of School

Staff and students of SPHCM were saddened by the unexpected passing of Alan Hodgkinson on 22 April. Alan has been an invaluable and integral part of UNSW Medicine since 1993 when he joined to work on the Public Health Workforce Education and Training Study. Soon after, he became coordinator of the Master of Public Health.

His current role included coordinating the School’s teaching programs and teaching of management of human resources in health, and health management reform. He was director of our Master of Health Management program, the oldest and most respected health management program in Australia. Alan had a leading reputation in health management in the Asia-Pacific region, and was also Deputy Director of the AusAID Human Resources of Health Hub. He did consulting work in developing management and leadership capacity in Pacific Island Countries, specifically Fiji and Solomon Islands, and through the Pacific Open Learning Health Net. He was highly regarded in the Pacific for this work.

Alan also played a leading role in pastoral care and mentoring of students and staff. He took a keen interest in the lives of everyone around him, and always made time to listen to people. He was a champion for student-focused learning and ensured that the quality of the School’s programs reflected this teaching philosophy. His presence and extensive contribution to UNSW will be deeply missed.
During the Summer Term the School offers a series of intensive workshops over a period of several days, which can be taken as part of a postgraduate degree or as standalone non-degree courses. The workshops are followed by coursework to be completed over two-and-a-half months for those participants who are doing the workshops for coursework credit.

The Summer School is designed for a range of people:

- Postgraduate students from the School wishing to take courses during summer semester
- New domestic students wishing to commence their degree in summer term
- Postgraduate students from other faculties or other universities wishing to take electives for credit
- Health practitioners wishing to increase their professional standing
- People doing a course out of interest and not for study purposes.

Curriculum

The Summer School courses provide a framework for advanced study in many fields of public health and health management. All the courses offered can be taken for degree credit by both domestic and international students or as non-credit workshops for others. The courses are offered in block mode over a number of weeks commencing from mid November to mid December. They have been designed so that participants can enrol in one or more courses over this period.

For further information on the Summer School program see www.sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/SummerSchool
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CONTROL IN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES COURSE: WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COMES TO THE SPHCM

The School of Public Health and Community Medicine once again prides itself to reaching out to collaborate with reputable international organisations not only in research but as well in teaching. The school has established collaboration with the World Health Organization in teaching Communicable Diseases Control in Humanitarian Emergencies Course.

First begun in 2009, the course is designed for those working in public health or related disciplines, who have an interest and experience in humanitarian emergencies and who would like to improve their skills or bring their knowledge up to date to support the implementation of infectious disease control projects/programmes in humanitarian emergency settings.

The course is taught by experienced public health expertise currently in the field, through practical simulation of outbreak investigation and infection control thus the course is uniquely placed as it is able to draw on a combination of strong practical field experience and academia.

The course, the only of its kind taught in the southern hemisphere, draws not only on the breadth of experience the lecturers provide, but also the wealth of experiences the participants bring. The aim of the course, which comprises a 5-day on-campus workshop, is to equip participants with the knowledge and frameworks to be able to work more effectively in controlling and addressing communicable disease in humanitarian emergency settings.

Participants on the course are from a range of backgrounds, some are currently practising in the field, others are studying full time at UNSW with plans to work in the field at a later date. The course is also an elective of the Master of Public Health and Master of International Public Health Programs, comprising 6 units of credit towards the total required for completion of the study program.

Dr Mohamud Sheikh who is the course convenor would like to thank the course co-contributors; Dr Catherine Bateman Steel, Lois Meyer, Dr Michelle Gayer, Prof Raina MacIntyre, Prof Anthony Zwi, Alan Hodgkinson, Prof Richard Taylor, Christine Rousselis, staff of Medicine Sans Frontieres Australia among others.

Photo: Dr Sheikh providing health education to breast feeding mothers in a Somalian refugee camp
I chose UNSW because a few friends who occupy key positions in government, UN agencies and NGOs, graduated from UNSW. They have made major contributions to the development of Timor-Leste. In addition, UNSW is one of the best universities in the region that contributes to research and science, provides good teaching methods, and in which students can learn in a supportive environment and experience learning together with international students with a variety of backgrounds.

I was working for the World Health Organization in Timor-Leste when I decided that I would like to study at UNSW, and applied for a scholarship with AusAID. I have always been interested in international public health and health management and the health system in Timor-Leste is one of my main concerns. I decided to specialise in this area to enable me to better assist the health system.

The thing that I have enjoyed the most is having international students with varied and very rich backgrounds in my course. In addition, the course coordinators, academics, researchers and faculty staff were very helpful and always available at any time for discussions regarding assignments and research projects.

I strongly believe that my Master of International Public Health/Health Management, will serve as a good platform for my future career in public health. I have been working in public health, love my work and want to work in this area in the future.

Completing this degree at UNSW provides me with the formal recognition that enables me to improve my knowledge, obtain a better position and contribute to the decision making process in this area of work. With this degree, I am hoping to work with the government in Timor-Leste, especially helping the Ministry of Health to improve the health system.

My message to newly commencing students is if you can manage your time, find a balance between study and social life, are ready for a new challenge, are open minded and accepting of different cultures without forgetting your own culture, then I strongly believe that Australia, and the UNSW in particular, would be a great experience.
The School has a growing body of students enrolled in Higher Degrees by research. In 2009, a total of 14 research degree students graduated (12 PhD graduates, 1 Master by research and 1 MD by thesis graduate). By contrast there were 45 new enrolments in postgraduate research degrees in the School (30 PhD candidates, 4 DrPh candidates, 5 Masters by research candidates, 4 Masters of Philosophy candidates and 2 MD by thesis candidates). This represented a net gain of 31 students, resulting in a total of 140 research degree students in 2009, working directly in the School or in affiliated Centres.

New enrolments continued in 2010, with 46 new candidates (25 PhD, 9 Masters by research, 6 DrPh, and 6 Masters of Philosophy candidates). A total of 32 research degree students graduated (26 PhD graduates, 5 Masters by Research and 1 MD by thesis graduate). Overall, there was a net gain of 4 students, resulting in a total of 157 research degree students working in the School and its affiliated Centres.

Our research students are supported and co-ordinated by 2 postgraduate co-ordinators, assisted by a research student support officer. These staff members liaise closely with the Faculty of Medicine and the Graduate Research School regarding student issues and policy. In 2009, the post-graduate co-ordinators were Professors Nicholas Zwar and Robyn Richmond, assisted by Ms Kate Crosbie. In 2010, Professors Nicholas Zwar and Robyn Richmond worked as the co-ordinators, supported by Ms Kate Crosbie, Ms Sarah Jacob and then Ms Catherine Webster.

A Research Degree Committee exists within the School, with broad representation from the affiliated Centres as well as the School itself. The Committee meets on a monthly basis in order to provide policy direction, advice and support to research students and their supervisors.

Research students in the School are involved in a range of research areas, broadly categorised by the following research groupings.

- Epidemiology, HIV and other infectious diseases
- Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, injury and health promotion
- International and global public health, health and human rights, indigenous health, culture and health and health ethics
- Primary health care and general practice
- Education and capacity
- Organisational management, clinical governance and health informatics

All students are guided through their studies by supervisors and co-supervisors, who are academics either within the School, its affiliated Centres or are conjoints. These supervisors contribute enormous effort, support and rigour in guiding students to completion. A rigorous review process provides students with a regular opportunity to receive constructive feedback from academics and practitioners in the field outside the immediate supervision team.

Our students represent a diversity of experience both professionally and culturally. Alongside candidates from all parts of Australia, the School has attracted candidates from nations as diverse as The Maldives, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Iran, Turkey, China, Kenya, Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Taiwan, Pakistan, Timor Leste and Indonesia. The wealth of knowledge and experience from different cultural contexts contributes to the richness of the SPHCM community.

Students are encouraged to participate in regular seminars with their peers and are invited to present and participate in School lunchtime seminars, the Global Health Journal Club and a range of Centre-based seminars which provide a forum for visiting experts, staff and students to showcase their particular areas of interest.

A highlight of the academic year for our Research Degree program is the Annual Research Student Conference and prize award ceremony.
My PhD was undertaken while I was working with Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite at the Centre for Clinical Governance Research as a Research Fellow. While I was fortunate in having my research (as well as my supervisor) overlap, my particular interest, understanding patient safety from a social perspective, still remains relatively unusual. Most research into patient safety addresses the technical, cultural, psychological or organisations issues. What sociology and a critical perspective bring to health research is a different way of looking at the overlapping mechanisms which may shape professional and personal behaviour.

My thesis investigates three key aspects of patient safety: it’s history and the emergence of what I have called the ‘third wave’ of the patient safety movement (from the late 1980s onwards); the way in which patient safety inquiries in Australia and internationally have shaped the movement in particular ways; and an examination of the way in which 195 Australian health care workers have witnessed, experienced and responded to adverse events and patient safety.

I used some of the theories developed by French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu in shaping and developing my own thesis. Bourdieu’s theory was that social behaviour is shaped by a series of overlapping fields: economic, political, legal and so on. Patient safety inquiries emerge within and through these fields: some errors, even individual errors if they are symbolic enough, spark major reviews of patient safety leading to system wide changes and reforms. The case of Vanessa Ann Anderson, coupled with another high profile case at the same time, led directly to the Garling Inquiry, which in turn led to a restructuring of the entire NSW health care system. Yet these cases, as tragic as they are, are far from unique. My role as a sociologist is to understand why particular cases spark major responses when others do not. Beyond understanding what prompts action within and between fields, my interest in patient safety inquiries relates to how they operate as sites of public disclosure and reassurance, while at the same time operating to construct neat linear narratives about complex, contradictory and contentious events.

At the level of individuals and groups, agents within fields retain the freedom to choose their behaviour. But their choices, Bourdieu has argued, are shaped by what they have been led to believe is possible by powerful groups that control those fields. A practical example of this might be a lower ranking staff member feeling that they cannot report an error or inappropriate behaviour on the part of one of their senior managers. This can come about through the very real fear of retribution, but it can equally be prompted by a sense that ‘... it is not my place to do so’.

In looking at patient safety in this way, I tried to show how clinicians’ understanding and experience of patient safety was shaped by factors beyond their immediate control. Most clinicians I interviewed, for example, felt vulnerable to sensationalist media as well as erratic political and managerial responses. Current evidence indicates that 10-16% of people admitted to hospital will experience some time of error. Clinicians live with the day to day experiences of being the person who actually makes the error, being involved in the occurrence of error in some way, or being witness to one of their colleagues making an error. As well as dealing with the professional and personal impact of these errors, clinicians have to deal with the way in which these events are reported in the media, responded to by managers and reacted to by governments and the public. Examining how each of these groups (patients, their families, clinicians, managers, the government, the media and the general public) understands and responds to errors may provide some new insights as to why, after 20 years of combined effort around the world, error rates remain essentially unchanged.

This research, along with more detailed studies of how different groups of vulnerable patients are exposed to errors, will be continuing as I take up in my new role as a Senior Lecturer in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine.
In 2009, the SPHCM was successful in winning a tender for an academic partnership with the NSW Department of Health to support and enhance the prestigious NSW Public Health Officer Training Program (PHOTP).

Established in 1990, the PHOTP is a 3-year service-based multidisciplinary training program offering supervised experience for people who have completed postgraduate studies in public health and who are committed to a career in public health. Its overarching strategic goals are to develop career pathways for talented public health professionals, contribute to a sustainable public health workforce in NSW, and to provide immediate surge capacity in response to public health risks and threats. Over 80% of graduates have remained in public health in NSW and many now occupy high-level positions in NSW Health.

Requirements for entry into the PHOTP include successful completion of a Master of Public Health degree and at least three years health-related experience. Over the 3-year period of the program, trainees develop rich practical public health experience through field placements of 6-12 months duration across a range of sites within NSW Health as well as other appropriate organisations. All trainees are required to undertake one of their placements in a rural setting and are drawn upon to respond to major public health threats such as the 2009 influenza A/ (H1N1) pandemic. Learning in the field is supported by specialised seminars, workshops and regular ‘Bug Breakfasts’.

An important component of the SPHCM submission was the development of a unique Professional Doctorate in Applied Public Health (DrPH). This unique award is available only to Trainee Public Health Officers. This DrPH as a Doctoral Degree (Professional) is universally recognised as equivalent to a Doctoral Degree (Research) or PhD in its qualification level, but differs from the latter primarily in two ways: it is characterised by a breadth of applied public health research in which a scholar practitioner might be involved (as opposed to the more usually narrow focus of a PhD), and it encompasses applied research taking place within public health service contexts which is of value in advancing the public health profession and in promoting and protecting the health of the people of NSW.

This professional doctorate is a program of applied research and advanced study in public health which enables the candidate to generate knowledge and augment understanding that makes a substantial contribution to the discipline of public health and the area of public health professional practice. Candidates will investigate and contribute to public health policy and professional practice through a study program of applied research and learning that prepares graduates to contribute to and help shape the public health services in NSW, and more broadly throughout Australia.

Since the start of the partnership, 15 trainees have enrolled with the SPHCM to undertake the Professional Doctorate. Over the last two years, the trainees have presented their work at many national public health and infectious disease conferences, at the SPHCM annual postgraduate research student conference and at the SPHCM seminars. The first group of these trainees will graduate with the DrPH in 2012.
Raina MacIntyre, Head of School and Professor School of Public Health and Community Medicine, says: “Research is a priority for us and our postgraduate students are part of our research culture. Doing a Master of Philosophy, a Master by Research, a PhD or a DrPH is often the first experience of research for many of us, and making your experience as a research student as rewarding and fulfilling as possible is important. This conference is part of the experience of undertaking a postgraduate research program at SPHCM for both students and supervisors.”

The 7th and 8th Annual SPHCM Postgraduate Research Student Conference was hosted by the School in 2009 and 2010 in the John Niland (Scientia) Building at the UNSW Kensington Campus.

This was a wonderful opportunity to share work, insights and perspectives on leading edge issues, to network with peers and experts, and to profile the work of research students.

A range of postgraduate research students presented at the Conferences, including those enrolled in PhD, DrPH, Masters by Research and MPhil, from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical research, Australian Institute of Health Innovation and Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity were involved.

Prizes were awarded for the best oral presentations. In 2009 the winners were:

- Sowbhagya Somanadhan (PhD) - Participation of People Living with HIV in Civil Society in India: Phase 1 Exploratory Research/ Preliminary Findings.
- The runner-up was Bethany White (PhD) - Low hepatitis B vaccine coverage in a cohort of young people who inject drugs in Sydney.
- The award for the best poster presentation was won by Maryam Sana (Masters by Research) - Effects on infant growth of exposure in-utero to drugs of dependency.
- An honourable mention for presentation (runner-up) was awarded to Emma Barrett (PhD) - From victim to victimiser: Violent crime among substance users with PTSD.

In 2010 the following presenters were recipients of Prizes:

- First prize: Jan Gralton (PhD) – Coughing and breathing produces airborne particles containing viral RNA.
- Highly commended: Deborah Debono (PhD) - Using workarounds to “get the job done”.
Other Activities

SPHCM Awards and Prizes

SPHCM Publications for 2009 and 2010

Staff at SPHCM
SPHCM Awards and Prizes

FOR STUDENTS

Australian Medical Association Prize for General Practice: For the best report based on the period of attachment in general practice
**Su Faye Lee** (2009)
**Adam Mahoney** (2010)

Australian College of Health Executives (ACHSE) Prize: For the best performance in the management core course PHCM9701 Health Leadership and Workforce Management in the Master of Health Management, the combined Master of Public Health/Health Management or the combined Master of International Public Health/Health Management programs by a student residing in NSW
**Peter Pichler** (2009)
**Belinda Kate Ford** (2010)

Hunt and Hunt Health Law 1 Prize: For the best performance in PHCM9331 Ethics and Law studying in the Master of Health Management or the Master of Public Health program
**Leah Denise Barrett-Beck** (2009)
**Alan O’Connor** (2009)
**Peter William Edward Child** (2010)

John Hirshman International Health Prize: For the best performance in PHCM9605 International Health
**Kai Hsun Hsiao** (2009)
**Susan Clarke** (2010)

John Hirshman Prize in Public Health: For the best overall performance in the Master of Public Health program
**Helen Aviva Sowey** (2009)
**Davina Juilliard** (2010)

School of Public Health and Community Medicine: For the best overall performance in the Master of Health Services Management program by a student undertaking studies in Hong Kong
**Bassanio Cheuk-Wah Law** (2009)

The 2/5 Australian General Hospital Association Prize in Health Services Management (Nursing): For general proficiency throughout the Master of Health Management or Health Administration programs by a trained nurse registered in Australia
**Rafic Hussein** (2009)
**Bradley Robert Thompson** (2010)

The 2/5 Australian General Hospital Association Prize: For the best overall performance in the Master of Health Management
**Kang-Yao Lim** (2009)
**Teck Meng Melvin Chin** (2010)

The 2/5 AGHA Primary Care Teamwork Prize in General Practice: For the student who submits the best teamwork assignment in Phase 3 Primary Care (MFAC 3504) of the undergraduate Medicine program, who also displays excellent teamwork skills in their General Practice Clinical attachment and performs at a high standard throughout the course
**Florence Ngui** (2009)
**Anthea Anantharajah** (2009)
**Tao Shen** (2010)

The Muru Marri Aboriginal Postgraduate Merit Prize: For exemplary performance in postgraduate studies at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW
**Jill Guthrie** (2009)

Winner of Student Presentations for the Annual Research Symposium
**Jennifer Plumb** (2010)
**Jacqueline Ramke** (2010)

SPHCM PhD Scholarship Recipient
**Sharon Salmon** (2010)
FOR STAFF

Peter Baume Public Health Impact Prize: Significant international impact and career achievement in public health

Prof Louisa Degenhardt (2009)
Prof Kate Dolan (2010)

Best peer reviewed publication

Dr Anthony Newall (2009)
Dr Mohammed Mohsin (2010)

Young investigator prize: Showing significant research impact

Dr Holly Seale (2009)
Dr Anthony Newall (2010)

Conjoint researcher of the year

Prof John Kaldor (2009)
Prof Bin Jalaludin (2010)

SPHCM PhD prize for best PhD thesis submitted

Dr Joanne Travaglia (2009)
Dr Joanne Spangaro (2010)

Excellence in postgraduate research supervision

Prof Mary-Louise McLaws (2009)
Prof Anthony Zwi (2010)

Outstanding Contribution to Teaching and Learning

Dr Alison Rutherford (2009)

Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Martha Lourey Bird (2009)
Dr Husna Razee (2009)

Excellence in Postgraduate Teaching

A/Prof Glenda Lawrence (2009)

All Rounder prize for outstanding teaching and research

Dr Meredith Makeham (2009)
Dr Holly Seale (2010)

Alan Hodgkinson prize for outstanding contribution to teaching and student learning

A/Prof Glenda Lawrence (2010)

Overall school prize recognising outstanding service to SPHCM

Kevin Forde (2010)

Innovation and Leadership

Anil Singh-Prakash (2009)
Sonal Bhalla (2010)

Support for Research Outcomes

Damian Harkin (2009)
Nina Mili (2010)

Support for Teaching Outcomes

Christine Rousselis (2009)
Tessalonica Ho (2010)

Excellence in Customer Service

Ravit Danieli-Vlandis (2010)

PETER BAUME AWARD

The Peter Baume Prize is given by the SPHCM for the person making the greatest public health impact in any year. Most of the money for the Prize came from teaching which was done in the University.

The Honourable Emeritus Professor Peter Baume AC was head of the SPHCM at UNSW for most of the 1990s. He was originally a physician, then a Senator for NSW, in which capacity he was Government Whip, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Health, Minister for Education and Minister Assisting the Minister for National Development. He was Chancellor of the Australian National University.
Publications 2009-2010

BOOKS


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Colebatch, HK 2009, Policy, Open University Press, Berkshire.


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BOOK CHAPTERS


Brennan, F 2010, Paediatric palliative care as a basic human right, Perspectives on palliative care for children and young people: A global discourse, Radcliffe Publishing Ltd, United Kingdom, pp. 11 - 906.


Colebatch, HK 2010, Giving accounts of policy work, Working for Policy, Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam, pp. 31 - 906.


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JOURNAL ARTICLES


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Harris, E, Rose, VK, Ritchie, JE, & Harris, N 2009, 'Labour market initiatives: potential settings for improving the health of people who are unemployed', Health Promotion Journal of Australia, 20, pp. 169 - S58.


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Mahajan, D, Menzies, R, Roomiani, I, & Lawrence, GL 2010, ‘Supplementary report: Surveillance of adverse events following immunisation among children aged less than seven years in Australia, 1 January to 30 June 2009’, Communicable Diseases Intelligence, 28, pp. 2052 - 53.


Masnick, KB 2009, ‘Narrowing the gap between eye care needs and service provision: A model to dynamically regulate the flow of personnel through a multiple entry and exit training programme’, Human Resources for Health, 7, pp. 552 - 482.


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REPORTS

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Harris, MF, Taggart, J, Williams, AM, Dennis, SM, et al, 2010, Effective determinants for supporting lifestyle health literacy and self management skills in primary health care, APHCRI, Canberra.
Professor Mary-Louise McLaws

Professor Mary-Louise McLaws has been World Health Organization Advisor to China and then to Malaysia during the development of their national surveillance systems for healthcare associated infections. More recently, her research into infection control, hand hygiene and clinician patient safety behaviour was utilised during her appointment as Advisor to the World Health Organization First Global Patient Safety Challenge Clean Care is Safer Care six country pilot project and Advisor to the Clinical Excellence Commission state-wide Clean Hands Save Lives project.

She holds the position of Honorary Advisor to the Clinical Excellence Commission for hand hygiene and healthcare related infection activities. Her research accomplishments include the development of the first surveillance system for healthcare associated infections piloted in 15 NSW public hospitals, a review of the SARS outbreak, a national study of sharps injuries in Taiwanese healthcare workers, a study of the performance of the first national Taiwan sharps injuries surveillance systems, a review of the Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza for infection control, and the first to publish a successful behavioural model that explains the influences on clinicians’ compliance with appropriate hand hygiene. She uses her research to drive her service to her discipline and vice versa.

Mary-Louise’s teaching experience at UNSW spans 18 years lecturing on Epidemiology, Evidence-based Informed Decision Making, Statistics, Public Health and Current Challenges in Infectious Diseases on the Sydney campus and in the off-shore Hong Kong program.

Her pedagogy is to keep her teaching material contemporary through her service to her discipline and research into patient safety. Mary-Louise says one of her greatest joys is mentoring her research students, many of whom have received prestigious award and her supervision has won her the 2010 Excellence in Postgraduate Teaching (Research student) Award.
Staff at SPHCM

HEAD OF SCHOOL
Professor Raina MacIntyre

ASSOCIATE DEAN POSTGRADUATE COURSEWORK
Associate Professor Glenda Lawrence

PROFESSOR
Professor Lisa Jackson Pulver
Professor Siaw-Teng Liaw
Professor Mary-Louise McLaws
Professor Robyn Richmond
Professor Richard Taylor
Professor Nick Zwar
Professor Anthony Zwi

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
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Associate Professor Rohan Jayasuriya
Associate Professor Chris Poulos
Associate Professor Juliet Richters
Associate Professor Heather Worth

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Anne Bunde-Birouste
Dr Angela Dawson
Kevin Forde
Dr Melina Gattellari
Dr Winston Lo
Dr Meredith Makeham
Dr Ros Poulos
Dr Joel Rhee
Dr Niamh Stephenson
Dr Siranda Torvaldsen
Dr Joanne Travaglia
Dr James Wood

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Nicole Clancy
Sally Fitzpatrick
Martha Lourey Bird
Sally Nathan
Dr Anthony Newall
Dr Lisa Parker
Dr Md. Bayzidur Rahman
Dr Husna Razee
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Peter Trebilco OAM
Dr Palatiyana Vithana
Dr Husna Razee was promoted to lecturer in 2010. She joined SPHCM in 2001 having relinquished a senior position as Head and Dean of the Maldives Faculty of Health Sciences after five years in the job, to pursue PhD studies in Australia. She was awarded PhD in 2007, for her thesis titled, ‘Being a good woman’: Suffering and distress through the voices of women in the Maldives.

Dr Razee started her second career as an academic facilitating scenario groups in Phase 1 undergraduate medicine program and started full time as Associate Lecturer in March 2007. Currently Dr Razee is the Co-convenor for Society and Health 3 course in Phase 2 UG medicine program and also co convenes PHCM 9201 (Health Promotion) in the Masters in Public Health Program. She currently supervises postgraduate research projects in the following areas: 1) Health security and peace building, 2) Psychosocial distress and wellbeing of Karen refugee women, 3) Lifestyle change in women at high risk for diabetes in Pakistan, 4) Mental health and psychological help-seeking among Iranian university students: a pilot study at UNSW and 5) Accessibility of primary mental health services for women in Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

Dr Razee’s research strength is in qualitative research methods and as a passionate qualitative researcher she says, “My goal is to foster a community of competent and excellent researchers particularly at SPHCM”. Towards this end she currently mentors postgraduate students to improve their qualitative research skills.

Dr Razee is active in a number of committees at the school and faculty level and is active within the community and in a number of professional bodies.
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