

Decades of Translational Public Health Research among Smokers

“Tobacco is one of the greatest emerging health disasters in human history” according to Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Director-General, World Health Organization.

For decades Professor Robyn Richmond has conducted translational research into treatments for smokers. When she commenced research in this area in the early 1980s, there were 40% of males and 31% of females who smoked. Over her career, Robyn has conducted 78 studies, 53 studies among smokers and 13 among risky alcohol consumers.

Over more than 3 decades and ongoing, she has conducted research for smokers and risky drinkers in general practice, in workplaces such as in the police service and Australia Post, in many hospitals and treatment centres, the prison system across NSW and Queensland, and among Indigenous communities. A focus of her studies is among high risk, vulnerable and disadvantaged populations such as among smokers with severe mental illnesses. She has carried out research on anti-smoking pharmacotherapies designed to assist smokers to quit and is currently conducting two NHMRC studies with colleagues in NDARC on pharmacotherapies.

In her presentation Robyn will discuss characteristics of her research including: building research themes and teams that endure for decades, carrying out multiple assessments in studies, and expanding her focus on reducing tobacco use, to include other high risk lifestyle behaviours such as modifying risky alcohol use, improving physical inactivity and poor nutrition. Robyn has translated her research into policies, guidelines, clinical practice, teaching medical students, training doctors

The School of Public Health
and Community Medicine

Getting to know the SPHCM Professors Seminar Invitation

Wednesday 10th June
12:00 - 1:00 pm
Room 305 Samuels Building



Venue: Seminar is available by [Teams Meeting Link](#)

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Recorded Seminars are available on the [SPHCM website](#)

Organisation: Seminars organised by Professor Robyn Richmond. Higher Degree student seminars organised by Poshan Thapa
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both nationally and internationally. She has transferred the knowledge she developed in her research to tackle other significant public health problems such as her work in northern Uganda improving the health of women. Recently she has turned her attention to another high-risk group of smokers, pregnant women, where smoking is as high as 47% among Aboriginal pregnant women. She will be submitting a NHMRC Partnership grant application in July.

About Professor Robyn Richmond

The School seminar program on 10th June in the series, “Getting to know the SPHCM Professors”, is presented by Robyn Richmond, Professor of Public Health in the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW. For over 35 years, Robyn has conducted research to reduce smoking prevalence and risky alcohol consumption in different settings in Australia. Over her career she has attracted research funding of almost \$19.7 million, and published 188 papers in professional journals, 58 books or book chapters and authored over 280 academic conference presentations. She has worked in executive positions in the Tobacco Prevention Section of an international non-government organization, the IUATLD, where her focus was to conduct research and provide teaching programs for medical schools on reducing tobacco use. A major focus of her research is on improving lifestyles of vulnerable populations. Since 2012 she has worked in low resource settings in Kenya and Uganda.

For 30 years she has trained general practitioners and other health professionals in Australia and globally to assist smokers to quit. Since 2002 she has been a member of the national expert advisory group, that developed smoking cessation guidelines for Australian general practice and other health professionals. These guidelines have been revised and updated 7 times, with the most recent released in January 2020. They are the focus of a World Health Organization award on World No Tobacco day on 31st May this year.