1. LATEST NEWS

2. HEAD OF SCHOOL NEWS (T. Nolan)

This month’s edition of the newsletter contains many items of good news and success from staff from the School of Population Health. We also welcome a number of new staff members to the School. As I write this, the University’s Vice-Chancellor and central executives and deans are meeting at the Mt Eliza Business School to finalize budgets and plans for 2008 and beyond. As we are moving to the detail of the Growing Esteem agenda, the business reality of significant change in educational philosophy and programs is compelling us to focus on making it all work.

Congratulations to John Hopper, Graham Giles and colleagues for their recent Nature publication, details are given elsewhere in the newsletter. John Wiseman, Marion Frere and others from the McCaughey Centre was successful in obtaining an ARC Linkage Grant on “Family Violence Reform” partnering with the Victoria Police, Victorian Department of Human Services and Department of Justice and Department for Victorian Communities. They have been awarded over $460,000 to conduct this collaborative research. Shyamali Dharmage and her co-researchers have been awarded an NHMRC Strategic Award (‘Healthy Start to Life’ National Research Priority) looking at predictors and consequences of allergies that impact on children. They have been awarded over $840,000. Doreen Rosenthal and her team at the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society received an international award for interactive media for their “Sex Health” website.

The McCaughey Centre will be formally launched on 16 July. The Centre will be launched by Minister Peter Bachelor together with the Vice-Chancellor and VicHealth’s new CEO, Todd Harper. The School welcomed Professor Marcia Langton and her indigenous studies group at a special function held on 18
April. We are delighted to have Marcia and her team join Onemda in the Centre for Health and Society to give us the nation’s most significant critical mass in indigenous health and indigenous studies.

Enrolments for our Master of Public Health program this year exceeded those for Monash University for the first time as the growing reputation of quality and uniqueness of our Master of Public Health program becomes promulgated.

Nick Golovachenko has now been appointed to be a member of the School’s Executive Committee recognising the importance of information technology for all aspects of our academic, research and teaching work and the high quality IT group that Nick has coordinated since he joined the School.

The annual Advanced Medical Science Conference (AMS) was held on 25 May and was an outstanding success. The superb job done by Lynn Gillam and others in coordinating the AMS program was reflected in the quality of the presentations from the 38 students who presented their work during the day. For those who are interested, an excellent program listing abstracts of the AMS students is available through the Academic Programs Office.

3. TEACHING AND LEARNING
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3.1. POSTGRADUATE NEWS (C. Bennett)
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The SPH postgraduate coursework programs continue to grow and evolve. The School listens to student feedback and actively seeks input from industry partners, community representatives, and future employers of our graduates etc to shape program development. Recent major changes include the 2006 roll out of the new Epidemiology program (MEpi and MPH), and in 2007 the introduction of the revised Women’s Health curricula (PGDipWH, MWH, MPH).

Following the success of the PGDipPH(Sexual Health), and the uptake of Sexual Health elective subjects in the MPH, the School is currently working towards the development of a Sexual Health stream within the MPH, including the option of taking a research project in this area.

Add to this the ongoing redevelopment of our existing subjects (nearly 100), and the recent introduction of some new and already well subscribed subjects (eg Australian Health Systems), and it is clear how dynamic the teaching development and delivery activities are at SPH.

Our active review and redevelopment program, and our standing as a quality postgraduate education provide in Public Health, means the School’s programs already sit well with the Melbourne Model, and that we are well prepared for the University-wide review of Postgraduate programs that will commence in the near future.

3.2. UNDERGRADUATE NEWS  (M. Guillemin)
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For all of us involved in teaching, the semester seems to have flown by. However, we should not underestimate the amount of work that has gone into the last few months. First, a warm welcome to Meg McKay, our (now not so new) Health Practice Administrator, who has replaced Katie Dumas. Academic
staff and students alike have commented to me on Meg’s professionalism, efficiency and willingness to help and we are delighted to have Meg with us. Thanks also to all the numerous SPH staff involved in teaching Health Practice 1, 3 and 5 this semester. Special thanks to Heather Rowe, Peter Greenberg and a number of the MEGA staff for their hard work in re-developing and further improving HP 3. Hennie Williams has joined Heather Rowe in co-coordinating HP 3. Despite her initial surprise at how much medical students had changed since she graduated, Hennie has been a keen contributor to the running of HP3 and we are very pleased to have Hennie join the HP team.

We will soon be advertising internally for tutors for HP 2 and HP 4 in second semester. Anyone interested should contact Meg McKay at mckaym@unimelb.edu.au.

The SPH Advanced Medical Science Conference was held on Friday 25th May. This annual event provides AMS students at SPH and its affiliates the opportunity to present and showcase their year’s research to staff, students and a number of proud parents. For many of us involved with AMS students, it is very rewarding to see students develop from novice researchers in Week 1 to present often sophisticated research work by the end of the AMS year. The success of the AMS year is testament to a lot of hard work by many SPH supervisors and the masterful and efficient administration of Anita Lucas under the leadership of Lynn Gillam. The SPH AMS program trialled a mentoring supervision scheme of junior supervisors, including a number of PhD students and recent graduates, by more senior staff. Although formal evaluation is forthcoming, by all accounts it has been a very successful initiative.

3.3. RHD NEWS (J. Fisher)
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3.4. SPH POSTGRADUATE GROUP – 'Lofty Thoughts' (eds. Lidija Turkovic and Daria Bodzak Co-Presidents)
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The SPH post-graduate student group "Lofty Thoughts" is having BYO lunches on the first Monday of the month from 12:00 to 1:00pm. Our next lunch is on July 2nd in the usual place, Room 405A, 207 Bouverie Street.

AND, the venue for our regular pub nights has changed to "Prime" Bar, Carlton Rydges Hotel, 701 Swanston St. All SPH post-graduate students are welcome and details will be sent out in upcoming emails.

At our Annual General Meeting in March, we elected a new executive committee with Lidija Turkovic and Daria Bodzak as co-presidents, Alaina Vaisey as Secretary and Cameryn Garrett, Ahsan Ahmad and Jayantha Assanayake as our non-executive members. John Burgess has kindly agreed to stay on as Treasurer for one more year. We would also like to thank Jennifer Stone and Kelsi Kritmaa for the wonderful work they have done so far as they are stepping down from their roles as co-presidents due to having both completed their studies.

For those not familiar with Lofty Thoughts, the group is designed to enhance academic and social activities of postgraduate students. If you have any questions or would like further information, please feel free to contact Lidija or Daria at lidijat@gmail.com or daria.bodzak@gmail.com.
3.5. SPH ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OFFICE (Liz Lagias)
---------------------------------------------
The academic programs office has been working with the Postgraduate Studies Committee to review SPH academic program policies. The School policy documents augment the university’s academic policy, and also outline our local procedures.

The following policies have recently been approved by the School’s Executive Committee. Staff and Students are responsible for making themselves aware of the rules and regulations of the School and the University and to abide by these, so it is important for staff and students to familiarise themselves with these important policies and review them regularly. The Academic Programs Office will notify all students and staff when policies and procedures are introduced or updated.

Credit Policy & Form (Updated 2007)
Extension Policy & Form (Updated 2007)
Grievance Procedures (New 2007)
Internal Transfer (New 2007)
LOA Discontinuation Policy (New 2007)
Student Progress Policy (New 2007)

4. RESEARCH COMMITTEE NEWS
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see 6. Seminars for list of scheduled WiP's

5. CENTRE/UNIT NEWS
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5.1 SCHOOL OFFICE (L.Taylor)
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1. COSTING & PRICING POLICY for RESEARCH
The University policy for establishing the price that a client should be charged for the provision of research services recommends that:

- Direct costs include salary and on-costs of academic staff working on a project
- Direct costs include individual equipment costs
- A minimum indirect cost recovery (overhead) factor of 35% is to be applied to all eligible research project budgets; however wherever possible the University should be charging 40-60% (especially for research with commercial partners). (Ref PBC Meeting 2/2007, Document #4.6, 5 March 2007)

The minimum cost recovery of 35% is not applicable for Australian competitive Grants (as listed on the Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR)). In all other circumstances, the approval of the Associate Dean (Commercialisation), Professor Eric Reynolds is required to reduce, or in some situations waive the cost recovery component of a research project budget.

The proposed distribution of the 35% cost recovery is
10% FMDHS
25% School  
Or a distribution ratio of 2:5  

Of the 25% - 5% will be retained by the Centre or Unit and 20% will be  
recovered by the School  
Or a distribution ratio of 2:1:4  

2. SCOPE  
This policy does not apply to consultancies, which should be priced at  
commercial market rates (i.e., overheads at a minimum of =35%), meeting all  
costs and normally generating a net profit.  

In practice, a large proportion of the research conducted at the School  
occurs under highly regulated pricing regimes such as the Australian  
Competitive Grants.  

Where no regulations exist, it is important that the chief investigator is  
mindful of the full cost of undertaking the research when calculating the  
budget, to ensure all costs are met.  

Also, it is important for compliance with relevant acts (Trade Practices  
Act) and Competitive Neutrality Policy that the price is established in a  
clearly defined way.  

3. THE COST of RESEARCH  
The total cost to the School/University of undertaking a research project  
is the sum of the direct costs and indirect costs (i.e., overheads  
/infrastructure).  

The costs incurred specifically to carry out the project are termed direct  
costs and typically include:  
• Salary and on-costs of staff employed to work on the project  
  (including academic, technical and professional staff)  
• Stipends for student research assistants and post doctoral fellows  
• Computers, materials  
• Travel and living expenses  

Indirect costs are those which are not necessarily related to the project,  
but are incurred nonetheless. Calculation of indirect costs is  
particularly important to ensure that the University does not inadvertently  
subsidise research unnecessarily. For simplicity indirect costs are  
usually expressed as a multiple of directs costs.  

The University policy now requires a minimum indirect cost level of 35% of  
direct costs. That is, the minimum price to be charged for a research  
project is 1.35 times the sum of all direct costs. When dealing with  
business and industry, the aim should be to charge where possible, 45-60%  
on top of direct costs.  

All direct project income comes to the Centre plus 5% of the indirect  
income and of the remaining 30%, the School receives 20% and the Faculty  
10%.  

4. Exemptions from Pricing Policy  
Some granting schemes regulate how prices are set. These schemes may  
specify that no indirect costs may be charged, or my set a limit on the  
level of indirect costs that will be met.  

4.1 Exemptions Not Requiring the Dean’s Approval  
Many research activities at the University are undertaken within schemes
that regulate prices. In such circumstances exceptions to the pricing policy apply, and the indicated pricing model can be used without the approval of the Dean.

Australian National Competitive Grants
Postgraduate Student stipends that are the sole component of the research project budget
Maximum level of cost recovery allowed for under funding rules (e.g., NIH, 8%)
Research undertaken for charitable organizations that will not fund University overheads or may set limits.

4.2 Exemptions Requiring Dean’s Approval
A request to reduce or waiver should always be in writing, endorsed by the Head of School and support by a compelling business case. E.g., where a sponsor’s written policy on contract research defines a maximum indirect cost charge of less than 35%.

Documents relating to any request to waiver or reduce the overheads must be retained by the department.

The Dean will be required to report annually to the DVC (Research) on those cases where an exemption has been granted.

5.2 CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIETY (D. Scobie/N.Waddell)
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CHS have a number of celebrations and more cause to celebrate:

Welcome to New staff members Laura Thompson, Alister Thorpe and Yin Paradies.

Congratulations to Di Fitzgerald on being awarded a bursary from the Australian Federation of University Women for completion of her Master of Social Health.

Congratulations also to the following students on the recent successful examination of their Master of Social Health theses:

Rachel Canaway       A study of the development of the naturopathic profession in Melbourne
Jill Ferguson        Would an intersectional approach to discrimination be useful in improving the efficacy of Australia’s anti-discrimination policies and systems?
Bronwen Merner       Is paternalism justified when a person’s decision making ability is unclear due to aphasia?
Natalie Neary        Concepts of pollution in the refugee debate: An analysis of the Tampa crisis
Heather Ploeger      Is it ever ethically justified to conduct research on existing clinical records about families involved with child protection without their consent?
Nalika Unantenne     Health, wellbeing and religion: The experience of Sri Lankan migrants in Melbourne
David Silkoff        The role of actor networks in disputes concerning diagnosis of ‘non-intellectual insanity’ in nineteenth century Victoria (Master of Social Health by Research)

Finally, congratulation to Nicky Welch on the recent submission of her PhD
thesis, and to Deirdre Featherstonhaugh for the successful examination of
her PhD thesis entitled: Hobson’s choice: dialysis or the coffin. A study
of dialysis decision-making amongst older people.

This is a fantastic achievement for students and supervisors concerned and
we are delighted to add them to our CHS alumni.

Forthcoming Conference of interest:

The LIME Connection II
Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education
“Cultures across the Indigenous health spectrum: achieving better
outcomes.”
Sunday 23 – Tuesday 25 September 2007
University of New South Wales, Sydney

Key Dates
30 May, 2007 - Call for Abstracts & Award Nominations open
1 June, 2007 - Website Launch
1 June, 2007 - Online Registrations open
28 June, 2007 - Abstract submissions close

For further information:
Please contact the Conference Organisers:
ICE Australia
183 Albion Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia
Phone: 02 9368 1200 / Fax: 02 9368 1500
Email: lime@iceaustralia.com

5.3. CENTRE FOR MEGA EPIDEMIOLOGY (M.Lenaghan)
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Excerpts from 3 recent press releases:-

1. "World first study of faulty genes for breast cancer - University of
Melbourne provides significant research effort"
J.Hopper, M.Southey, G.Giles
Monday 28 May 2007

Results of a world first large scale study of faulty genes and breast
cancer, with significant Australian contributions including research from
the University of Melbourne was released in Nature 28/5/07.

Researchers at Cambridge University brought together an international team
in the world’s first large-scale ‘whole genome search’ for faulty genes for
breast cancer.

The study involved the analysis of DNA from nearly 50,000 women worldwide.

About 15% of women with breast cancer have strong family history of breast
cancer and are at 2 to 3 times the average risk of getting breast cancer
themselves.

The hunt for genes that cause familial breast cancer has been a challenge.
We have known for over a decade now that women who carry rare mutations in
genes such as BRCA1 and BRCA2 are at very high risk of breast cancer, but
these account for less than 25 % of all familial breast cancers.

It has long been suspected, therefore, that there must also exist some very
common genetic faults that only increase breast cancer risk by a small
The international study shows that if a woman carries one faulty copy of one of these low risk genes, her risk of getting breast cancer might increase by about 20 percent but if she carries two faulty copies, her risk increases by between 40 and 60 percent.

According to the Cambridge researchers, the increased risks associated with the common faulty low-risk genes found in this study are relatively small and would not be suitable for genetic testing. But as more of these low risk genes are found, it may be possible to design tests for a combination of genes.

Three Australian research groups contributed to the study including the University of Melbourne, The Cancer Council Victoria and KConFab.

Genetic epidemiology studies led in the third stage of the international study by Professor John Hopper (School of Population Health) and Associate Professor Melissa Southey (Department of Pathology) and Professor Graham Giles, (School of Population Health and The Cancer Council Victoria) have been critical to the identification and characterization of these common low risk mutations in these genes.

The involvement of the Australian studies of women in the general population (the Australian Breast Cancer Family Study and The Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study) may lead to new information with wide relevance to breast cancer control.

“This research discovery is a step towards explaining genetic influences on breast cancer risk, not just for women with a family history of breast cancer but also for the majority of women in the general population,” said Professor John Hopper of the University of Melbourne’s School of Population Health who is a co author on the paper.

“Their discovery will promote new research efforts to further our understanding of biological mechanisms,” said Professor Graham Giles, an honorary professorial fellow in the School of Population Health and Director of the Cancer Epidemiology Centre at The Cancer Council Victoria. The Australian Breast Cancer Family Study led by Professor John Hopper contributed genotype data from 833 women with breast cancer and 1,483 controls.

The Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study led by Professor Graham Giles contributed genotype data from 519 women with breast cancer and 578 controls.

Professor Giles says a future step would be to investigate other factors that contribute to the risk associated with these common genetic variants, such as interactions with other genes and with environment and lifestyle factors.

“These factors are much harder to measure than genotypes and again we will need an enormous international effort and population studies probably in excess of 100,000 people.”

2. "A family study to investigate causes of childhood allergies and their consequences, wins NHMRC Healthy Start to Life grant"
Dr Shyamali Dharmage
$840,960.00
A longitudinal family study investigating risk factors for childhood allergic disorders and their consequences has received $850,000 from the National Health and Medical Research Council under the Healthy Start to Life Grant scheme.

Researchers of this study aim to identify the risk factors for eczema, asthma, hay fever and food allergies and their impact on families and health care services by following up the families of babies who were recruited 15 years ago into the Melbourne Atopic Cohort Study (MACS).

“Allergic conditions are not like other diseases” says Dr Shyamali Dharmage, of the Centre for MEGA Epidemiology in the School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne, the Principal investigator of the 15-year follow-up of the MACS.

“They change over a person’s life time. For example some infants with eczema continue to have eczema or develop hay fever and asthma, while others do not. We have no information on causes of these changes. This next stage of the MACS is critical to determine these causes and identify the long-term impact of these diseases”, she said.

MACS began by recruiting 620 babies prior to birth. Only infants born into families with a history of allergic disease were included. All children recruited to the study had their family members and their home environment assessed at the time of birth. The children’s allergic conditions were monitored regularly over the first ten years of their life.

Dr David Hill, Foundation Director of the Department of Allergy Royal Children Hospital, Melbourne established this study and ran it during the first 10 years. He is now one of the key investigators of Dr Dharmage’s team as they move into the 15-year follow-up.

This study is collaboration between The University of Melbourne, Monash University, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, University of Adelaide, New South Wales University and the Department of Human Services, Victoria. The stakeholder partners of this project are Victorian Asthma Foundation and Eczema Association of Australia.

more info at

3. “2007 Premier's Award for Medical Research Winners”
Monday 4th June 2007

Commended - Dr Robert MacInnis, NHMRC Sidney Sax Fellow (currently based at Cambridge University for overseas component of fellowship), for research as follows:-

Obesity has become a major public health concern in Australia, not least because it has been identified as a key risk factor for preventable death and disease due to high blood pressure, heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

There is also mounting evidence that excess body weight is associated with cancer.

What’s not as well known is whether certain types of cancers are associated
with a person’s body fat distribution.

Dr Robert MacInnis studied results from the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study (which included 41,528 people aged 27 to 75) to see whether certain aspects of body size - particularly fat mass, fat-free mass and waist circumference - were associated with the risk of developing particular cancers.

He found that measures of waist circumference and overall fat mass were linked to an increased risk of cancers at many specific sites; including the breast (in postmenopausal women); aggressive prostate cancer; cancers of the colon, rectum, kidney, bladder, endometrium, ovary, pancreas, lower oesophagus and stomach; and myeloid leukaemia.

His findings, together with those from other studies, have convinced The Cancer Council Victoria to begin a major public education campaign on the relationship between obesity and cancer. It is focusing on waist circumference.

Recent Publications: see 8.3 below

5.4. Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics (T. Mayhew/J.Yeadon)
-----------------------------------------------------------------
Staff News:
Welcome to the following staff who joined the Centre recently.
  • David Studdert - Professor & Federation Fellow
  • Arthur Hsueh - Senior Lecturer - Health Economics
  • Bridget Hse-Hage - Associate Professor of Health Promotion and Informatics
  • Bridget Bassillios - Research fellow - Mental Health
  • Justine Fletcher - Research Fellow Mental Health

Forthcoming CHPPE Seminars:

Tuesday 26th June 2007
"Area based investment and health: a solid foundation for healthy public policy?"
Presenter: Hilary Thomson, Senior Scientific Officer, Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow
Time: 12.30 to 1.30 pm
Venue: Room 516, 5th Floor, 207 Bouverie Street

Tuesday 3rd July
"Evaluation of the capital extended aged care at home dementia (EACHD): community care packages for people with dementia"
Presenters: Colleen Doyle and David Dunt
Time: 12.30 to 1.30 pm
Venue: Room 405A, 5th Floor, 207 Bouverie Street

CHPPE Short Courses:
The first of this year’s workshops in Health Program Evaluation – Planning, Negotiation, Evaluation Approaches, Criteria Selection and Program Modelling was held earlier this month over three days. Short course two - Data Collection, Analysis & Reporting in Health Program Evaluation will be held on 16, 17 & 18 July. Places are still available. Contact Joy Yeadon on 8344 0710 for further information. Both of these
courses will be repeated later in the year

New Publications: See 8.4 below

5.5. Key Centre for Women's Health in Society (A. Tattam)

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Latest News:
The Autumn 07 edition of KeyNotes is now available at:
Latest news items can also be found at http://www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au/news

As part of the Japanese Language Master of Women’s Health, nine students and three tutors recently attended the Women’s Health Promotion and Evaluation subject taught in block mode by Dr Heather Rowe at Tokyo Women’s Medical University in May.

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Dr Heather Rowe and Dr Jane Fisher participated in a Japan - Australia Women’s Health Symposium, where current Women’s Health research activities in the two countries were reported. The third graduation ceremony for the Japanese Language Master of Women’s Health was held in Tokyo on 11th May 2007 with Prof Fumi Horiguchi as keynote speaker.

The Victorian Lifestyle and Environment Study (VicLANES) Report was launched by the Hon Bronwyn Pike MP Minister for Health on Wednesday 23 May in the Yasuko Hiraoko Myer Room at the Sidney Myer Asia Centre. The study, funded by VicHealth, is the biggest of its kind in Australia to examine how local environments impact on health. To view the report or for further information on VicLANES, go to: http://www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au/research/major_research_programs/viclanes or pick up a copy of the latest edition of ‘Voice’ Vol 1, No 6.

New reproductive and sexual health website wins major international award!
The University of Melbourne website outscored entries by major corporations from all over the world. The sex education / reproductive health website aimed at adolescents was commissioned by Professor Doreen Rosenthal AO, Director of the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society.

www.yoursexhealth.org was judged ‘Best in Class’ in the 2007 Interactive Media Awards for the education category. This is the highest honour bestowed by the New York-based Interactive Media Council.

It outscored big budget websites for leading organisations in other entry categories, including Qantas Travel Booking and Servicing, the US Tennis Open, Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Geographic Maps website.

www.yoursexhealth.org has attracted thousands of visitors from around the world since it was launched on January 19 and is currently being translated into French and Spanish. Posters and postcards are available for distribution. Please contact azwar@unimelb.edu.au for further information.

The voices of young mothers who took part in a qualitative research project are to be featured in a new booklet by Dr Deb Keys, Key Centre Research Fellow. The year long project ‘Becoming a mother’ explored the impact of becoming a mother on young women who have experienced homelessness. It was
carried out in partnership with Family Access Network, an accommodation and support service for young people. Booklet copies and launch details are available from Deb Keys at keysdw@unimelb.edu.au

Grants:
KEYS DW, Young mothers and mental health, how mothers’ groups can help. $14,568, Windemere Foundation.


ROSENTHAL DA, KIRKMAN M, FISHER J, Investigation of the reproductive lives of young adults who live in the technological age: feasibility of method. $23,402, University of Melbourne Research Grant.

ROSENTHAL D, MALLET S, Williams H, KEYS D, & Jordan L, Making it Real: relevant sexual health communication for young people, $98,536, Department of Human Services, Victoria.

ROWE HJ. Evaluation of a pilot social work program in an early parenting centre. $15,000, 2007, Tweddle Child and Family Health Service.

Staff and Student Achievements:

Professor Doreen Rosenthal, Key Centre Director has been inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women for advancing understanding of sexual and reproductive health.
Professor Rosenthal AO joins a total of 386 women who are now on the Roll which continues until next year, the centenary of women’s suffrage in Victoria. Full details can be found at: www.women.vic.gov.au

PhDs awarded:
Phoebe BWEMBYA Reproductive decision making of HIV positive Zambian women.
Atika FAROQUI Tobacco use during pregnancy and perinatal health in rural Kanataka India.
Karin HAMMARBERG The experience of birth and early mothering after assisted conception.
Katherine VASEY A Country Welcome: Emotional wellbeing and belonging among Iraqi women in rural Australia

Upcoming Events and Courses:

A short Course in WOMEN & GLOBAL HEALTH, coordinated by Dr Elizabeth
Bennett is to be held 16 – 20 July 2007. Further information can be found on our website at:  http://www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au/courses/shortcourses, alternatively you can contact Jennifer Sievers or A/Prof Jane Fisher on (03) 8344 4333 or via email at enquiries-kcwhs@unimelb.edu.au.

The Key Centre will be holding a research planning day on Wednesday 18th July 2007.

New Staff:
Jane Hocking and Shelley Mallett have been appointed as Senior Lecturers to the Key Centre. Jane is an epidemiologist and currently a National Health and Medical Research Council Post Doctoral Research Fellow in the School of Population Health. Shelley is currently VicHealth Senior Research Fellow at the Key Centre.

Helen Rawson has been appointed to manage the NHMRC-funded Randomized Early Parenting Intervention Trial (REPIT) with Associate Professor Jane Fisher, Professor Doreen Rosenthal, Dr Heather Rowe, Dr Lyle Gurrin and Professor Julie Quinlivan, to investigate the efficacy of residential early parenting centres as an alternative to other treatments for postnatal distress and unsettled infant behaviour.

Helena Sandahl has been appointed to collaborate with Professor Rosenthal and Associate Professor Fisher to write a systematic review of the determinants of adolescent mental health problems in low income countries for WHO.

Recent Publications: see 8.5 below

5.6. Centre for International Mental Health (J.Burchill)
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Seminars:
Tania Miletic, a Research Fellow with the Centre organised and ran a one day workshop entitled Peacebuilding in our Region The aim of the workshop was to present some of the peacebuilding approaches on our doorstep and bring together local and international participants working across the broad areas of peacebuilding and development in the region. Presentations were made by Steve Darvill from Ausaid, Soth Plai Ngarm and Emma Leslie from the Alliance for Conflict Transformation who flew in from Cambodia to present at the seminar.

Staff News:
Ms Erminia Colucci commenced at the CIMH in January this year as a Research Fellow working on research and education programs in international mental health. She has just completed her PhD.

The following are Honorary Research fellows who will be at the Centre for the next 12 months undertaking research in their area of interest.

Dr Anura Jayasinghe - Sri Lanka
Dr Lukumar Pathumanbhan - Sri Lanka
Mr Li Lin - China

CIMH Students:

Helen Evert is completing her PhD thesis and is hoping to submit early in
Ms Dzenana Kartal is commencing her PhD studies and her area of interest is in Posttraumatic stress in population of Bosnian refugees resettled in Australia, Austria and Bosnia.

CIMH Courses:

ausMHLP (Australian Mental Health Leadership Program)

After the successful pilot in 2005-06, the Australian Mental Health Leadership Program is continuing in 2006-07. Designed as a part-time professional development program run over nine months, the Program aims to provide psychiatrists in the final years of training or early years of work with the skills and knowledge they need to be able to influence change in the Australian mental health system – whether at a service level or more broadly.

In 2006-07, year we have nine Fellows enrolled from three different states and successful seminars have been held in Melbourne (Sept 06), Brisbane (Nov 06) and Sydney (March 07). The final seminar will be a "Writing Workshop" focusing on the skills and requirements in writing for journal publication and will be held in Melbourne at the School of Population Health from 23rd-25th June 07.

CIMH recently had the very good news that the Australian Mental Health Leadership program will be funded for a third year, starting in July 2007. Eli Lilly Australia have agreed to provide another $150,000 in financial support over the 2007-08 financial year.

iMHLP (International Mental Health leadership Program):

This year the University of Melbourne-Harvard Medical School International Mental Health Leadership Program will run from 10 September – 5 October. The program is open to professionals (international and local) from all disciplines that can make a contribution to mental health system development, including psychiatry, psychiatric nursing, psychology, social work, occupational therapy, and mental health service administration. Applications close in August. For more information please see www.cimh.unimelb.edu.au/imhlp.

Masters of International Mental Health:

The Masters of International Mental Health will commence in second semester, to coincide with the iMHLP program.

Recent Publications: see 8.6 below

5.7. Sexual Health Unit (K.Fairley)

Successful Grant Applications:

   $255,425

2. Tabrizi S, Fairley CK, Donovan B. Project Grant. Surveillance of
LGV Chlamydia trachomatis types among men who have sex with men (MSM). (Project Grant # 454620) 2007-2009. $203,000


Organisation of Scientific Meetings:


New Staff:
We wish to welcome Sandra Walker and Eve Urban who are working as research assistants on a longitudinal chlamydia incidence and re-infection project (CIROS) among young Australian women.

Recent Publications: see 8.7 below.

5.8. McCaughey Centre (J.Wiseman/J.Campbell)
--------------------------------------------

Centre Launch:
The McCaughey Centre is gearing up for its official launch on Monday 16th July. In addition to outlining the Centre’s initial strategic directions, we will also be launching the new ‘Community Indicators Victoria’ website and Local Community Wellbeing Reports. These web based reports will provide an important new source of data about local community wellbeing trends and issues and will be informed by the outcomes of the first state-wide ‘Victorian Community Survey’ which has been in the field over the last few months.

Linkage Success:
The McCaughey Centre is pleased to be a partner on a recently announced Linkage Project, to commence in July 2007. A grant sum of $465,513 has been awarded across 2007-2012 for the project ‘Family Violence Reform: Using Knowledge to Support Integration of Policy and Practice’. The School or Social Work is the grant lead, with Chief Investigators from the McCaughey Centre (Dr Marion Frere and Professor John Wiseman), Criminology, Victoria Police, Department of Human Services, Department of Justice and Department for Victorian Communities completing the team.

WHO Age Friendly Cities Project:
The McCaughey Centre has been pleased to be part of the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) Age-Friendly Cities Project, managing the Melbourne component of this 37-city, 22-country collaboration with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Council of the Ageing Victoria (COTA). Dr Kathleen Brasher recently presented the Melbourne project findings to the worldwide project team in London, which brought together
leaders from all the "Age-Friendly Cities Projects" collaborators to review the research results, and plan for the development and release of the WHO Global Age Friendly Cities Guide in October 2007

The McCaughey Centre circulates a quarterly e-Newsletter to a broad range of stakeholders, providing updates on the Centre’s policy research and knowledge transfer activities. To join the mailing list, please email your details to info-mccaughey@unimelb.edu.au with ‘add to mailing list’ in the subject line.

New Staff:

A number of new staff have joined the McCaughey Centre in 2007, taking our profile to 11 academic staff, 2 professional staff, 3 visiting staff, and a fantastic group of casual staff.

Dr Deb Vallance commenced with the Centre in January, and is working with Associate Professor Tony LaMontagne and Dr Andrew Hollaway (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre) on an NHMRC grant investigating ‘Latrobe Valley Cohort for the Study of Asbestos Related Disease’.

Dr Deb Warr joined us in February from the Centre for Health and Society on a five year VicHealth Fellowship examining ‘Pathways to inclusion: The contribution of community participation and networks to improved health and wellbeing outcomes’.

Dr Rob Salter recently commenced with the McCaughey Centre as a Visiting Academic for a twelve month period. Rob is a Community Development worker with Crossroads Youth and Family Services at the Salvation Army, and will be working with the McCaughey Centre on a project around Social Investment.

Further details regarding McCaughey Centre staff can be found at http://www.mccaugheycentre.unimelb.edu.au/staff/8000_staff.php

Research Students:

Welcome to Di Cox and Sara Kirsner, the McCaughey Centre’s first research higher degree students.

Seminars & Events:

Tuesday 3rd July 2007, 6-7pm, Sunderland Lecture Theatre, Medical Building: 'Community wellbeing in an unwell world: trends, challenges and opportunities', presented by Professor John Wiseman as part of the Dean's 2007 Lecture Series, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

Further details regarding seminars and events hosted by the McCaughey Centre and our Partners can be found at http://www.mccaugheycentre.unimelb.edu.au/events/5000_events.php

Publications: see 8.8 below

6. Seminars/Events
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   see http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/seminars/

Forthcoming scheduled WORK IN PROGRESS seminars:

June 21
Laura Baglietto, Cancer Council of Victoria
July 5
Anura Janarasikghe, CIMH, Child Mental Health in Southern Province, Sri Lanka

July 19
Nick Crofts, Director, Turning Point, Collaboration between TP and SPH

Aug 2
Mohammadreza Mohebbi, Dept Mathematics & statistics, A study of geographical variation of digestive cancer in southern literal of the Caspian Sea.

Aug 30
Nick Osborne, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, HealthNuts - Peanut allergy

Sept 13
Dzenana PhD, CIHM, Posttraumatic stress in population of Bosnian refugees resettled in Australia, Austria and internally displaced in Bosnia

7. IT News (N.Golovachenko)

7.1 New telephone number for IT Unit - ext 43083

7.2 Andrew Poynton has taken a six month secondment with the University IT Services Department.

7.3 Danielle Pullin is our new staff member who is replacing Andrew while he’s on secondment.

7.4 Skype New University Policy - The Vice-Principal(Information) has adopted a policy to permit use of Skype on the University Network, in certain circumstances. The policy is available at: [http://www.unimelb.edu.au/infostrategy/policies/docs/PolicyOnSkypev1.pdf]

In short, the policy is that Skype can be used for University work on the University Network, but only if the user obtains written permission from the Vice-Principal (Information) and undertakes to use bandwidth throttling to reduce the risk of the computer becoming a "supernode".

7.5 Smart Phones - Information Services now offers users of the Enterprise Exchange Email & Calendaring system a new service that provides a total package for all their mobility needs. This package covers the total lifecycle of a mobile Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or 'smart' phone device - from procurement, provisioning of carrier, setup and connectivity to University systems, monthly billing, ongoing user support, asset management of the device and eventual disposal of the device when its use is no longer required. The service offers users a choice of devices that suit the profile of mobile user.

- i-mate JASJAM for high-end users
- i-mate Smartflip for medium-level users
- Nokia 6000 series

The service adheres to all appropriate University policies and standards whilst meeting individual requirements of the user.

Please note that this service is for university owned mobile phones only.

8. 2006 Publications (not listed previously)

8.1 School

8.2 Centre for Health and Society


8.3 Centre for MEGA Epidemiology

Bane A; Beck J; Bleiweiss I; Buys S; Catalano E; Daly M; Giles G; Godwin A; Hibshoosh H; Hopper J; John E; Layfield L; Longacre T; Miron A; Senie R; Southey M; West D; Whittemore A; Wu H; Andrulis I & O'Malley F for the Breast Cancer Family Registry. 2007. BRCA2 mutation-associated breast cancers exhibit a distinguishing phenotype based on morphology and molecular profiles from tissue arrays. American Journal of Surgical Pathology. 31 (1): 121-128.


Camp N; Cannon-Albright L; Baffoe-Bonnie A; George A; Powell I; Bailey-Wilson J; Carpten J; Giles G; Hopper J; Severi G; English D; Foulkes W; Maehle L; Moller P; Eeles R; Easton D; Badzioch M; Whittemore A; Oakley-Girvan I; Hsieh C-L; Dimitrov L; Xu J; Stanford J; Johansson B; Deutsch K; McIntosh L; Ostrander E; Wiley K; Isaacs S; Walsh P; Thibodeau S; McDonnell S; Hebrimg S; Schaid D; Lange E; Cooney K; Tammela T; Schleutker J; Paiss T; Maier C; Gronberg H; Wiklund F; Emanuelsson M; Isaacs W. 2007. Compelling evidence for a prostate cancer gene at 22q12.3 by the International Consortium for Prostate Cancer Genetics. Human Molecular Genetics. 16 (11): 1271-1278.


8.4 Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics
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Pirkis, J., Harris, M., Buckingham, W., Whiteford, H., Townsend-White, C. 2007, ‘International planning directions for provision of mental health services’, Administrative Health Policy and Mental Health Services Research, DOI 10.1007/s10488-007-0116-0

8.5 Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society
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Peer-review journal articles


Non peer-review journal articles

Reports


KEYS D, MAYES C. (2007). Becoming a Mum: Just the whole world changes! Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society, The University of Melbourne.

8.6 Centre for International Mental Health

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8.7. Sexual Health Unit
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1. Tideman RL, Chen MY, Pitts MK, Ginige S, Slaney M, Fairley CK. A randomised controlled trial comparing computer-assisted with face-to-face sexual history taking in a clinical setting. 2007. Sexually Transmitted Infections. 83: 52-56
2. Ginige S, Chen MY, Hocking JS, Grulich A, Fairley CK. Rising HIV notifications in Australia: accounting for the increase in people living with HIV and implications for the HIV transmission rate. 2007. Sexual Health. 4: 31-33

8.8. McCaughey Centre
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Warr, D., 'Outside the School Gates', Centre for Health and Society, The University of Melbourne, March 2007. ** Please note this report was developed and produced in the Centre for Health and Society.


LaMontagne, A.D., Glass, D., Benke, G., ' Review of primary investigation of suspected brain cancer cluster and employee health complaints in RMIT building 108', Secondary-level peer review conducted by a panel of experts jointly nominated by RMIT University, the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), and the Australian Education Union (AEU), 15th February 2007.


Stuckey, R., LaMontagne, A.D., and Sim, M.R., ' Risk and protective factors for occupational light vehicle user crash, injury, and fatality outcomes', National Research Centre for OHS Regulation 2007 Colloquium, Australian National University, Canberra, 6-8 February.

Keegel, T., and LaMontagne, A.D., 'Worker participation in OHS: Theory, policy and practice', National Research Centre for OHS Regulation 2007 Colloquium, Australian National University, Canberra, 6-8 February.
