1. LATEST NEWS

Nil this month -- see other sections!

2. HEAD OF SCHOOL NEWS (ed. Terry Nolan)

2005 has been a wonderful year of success contrasted with significant challenges that have tested us all. It's a credit to all of our staff and to several others within the Faculty who helped us navigate some of the difficulties particularly in relation to budget issues that confronted everyone at the University of Melbourne in 2005.

I am delighted to report that three of our outstanding staff have recently been appointed to Associate Professor. Jane Fisher (Key Centre for Women's Health in Society), Dorota Gertig (Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology) and Marilyns Guillem (Centre for Health and Society) are all to be congratulated on their wonderful achievement in achieving this rank. In addition, Shaun Ewen (Centre for Health and Society), Lyle Gurrin (Centre for MEGA Epidemiology) and John Waller (Centre for Health and Society) have all been confirmed in their continuing appointments. Professor David Hill, Cancer Council...
Victoria, has been appointed as honorary Professorial Fellow to the School of Population Health, and Professor Tony Scott from the Melbourne Institute has been appointed as an Adjunct Professor to the School. A/Prof Peter Greenberg has been formally appointed to the School (Centre for MEGA Epidemiology) to continue his wonderful work in teaching and inspiring our undergraduate medical students in evidence-based healthcare.

A number of outstanding staff were recognised in the School's Excellence Awards for Teaching and Learning this year. Shaun Ewen (CHS; Early Career Category) and Alison Morgan (Honorary School of Population Health, AIHI; Early Career Special Commendation) gave presentations on their innovative approaches at the School Awards Seminar. The School Research Award in the Open Category was this year presented to A/Prof Rob Carter (Program Evaluation Unit) and a Special Commendation was made to the Project i Team led by Doreen Rosenthal and Shelley Mallet (KCWHS). An Early Career Category Special Commendation was made to Tessa Keegel (CHS).

Last year's Open Category in our Teaching and Learning Excellence Award was made to Lynn Gillam and Marilys Guillemin who went on to win the University's 2005 David White Award. They were then nominated by the University for the Carrick Institute Australian Awards for University Teaching.

Recently, we hosted a School of Population Health evening at University House to recognise and celebrate the contributions of all of our salaried and honorary teachers. Marilys Guillemin and Cathy Bennett gave brief presentations on changes to both undergraduate and postgraduate School programs, and the evidence on our Faculty-leading achievements in the quality of teaching and learning. It was a wonderful event that we will certainly make a regular part of the School's calendar in the future.

The School of Population Health is jointly hosting a major public seminar series on Health and Human rights with the Law School and VicHealth. Starting with Health Inequalities, and followed by Violence against Women, Indigenous Health and Human Rights, and then Global Health and Human Rights, we hope that these seminars will be widely attended [see Item 4. and http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/seminars/].

We have also received many new research awards that are listed at http://zolder.sph.unimelb.edu.au/webdocs/enews/Att1_grant_offers.doc. These again attest to the breadth and depth of quality research in the School. Congratulations to all of those involved. You will have heard by now that we have introduced a Research Grant Development Framework to help all our staff improve the quality and competitiveness of their grant proposals. This will operate at the Centre and Unit level but be harmonised by the School Research Committee. Access to the Faculty grant mentoring program is also available to all staff.

Dorota Gertig has had a very productive year not only with her recent promotion but also the offer of an NHMRC Research Fellowship and success with a number of NHMRC Project Grants. In addition to these achievements, Dorota has recently accepted a position as the Director of the Victorian Cervical Cancer Registry commencing February 2006. Dorota will continue with a fractional appointment at the School through the Centre for MEGA Epidemiology.
After several productive years at the University of Melbourne following her move from the University of Queensland, Professor Lenore Manderson has accepted an offer from Monash University to establish a new research centre there. She will commence her new role in the New Year. We wish Lenore and those of her research group who will be moving with her all the best for this next exciting stage in her career.

The University's process for appointment of the two vacant Chairs within the School, notably the Chair of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and the Chair in Health Promotion is now reaching late stages of completion with strong fields for both Chairs. It is quite a challenge getting Professorial appointment committees arranged with interstate and international applicants and senior University staff both within and outside our Faculty. Nonetheless, it is hoped that these appointments will be made before the end of this year (or early in the New Year) with commencement some time in early 2006 all being well.

Despite our growth and outstanding success in research achievement and increasing student enrolments, the offset on the "costs" side to our budget and the University's overall position particularly affected by changes in growth of international fee-paying students, we have to deal with an effective budget cut in our core allocation of funds of approximately 11.5% in real terms. Recently, we were relieved to hear the news that PHERP funding from the Commonwealth would continue. However, the total allocation is not indexed (and has not been increased for many years), and distribution to each participant may be substantially different as core/priority allocations vary in the revised funding arrangement. In other words, the effect of this on our overall budget position will not be helpful, and may actually make things even more challenging in the future. School and Centre Heads and Managers ably assisted by Fiona Kostidis have done a wonderful job in buffering the impact of this budget challenge. Whilst 2006 is going to be a very difficult year as we try to make do with substantially less, there are many promising new developments that we will be working on.

I hope there will be an opportunity at our forthcoming school meeting to expand on some of the developments that I have listed above in more detail and to answer questions that any of you may have.

3. TEACHING AND LEARNING
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3.1. COURSEWORK NEWS (ed. Cathy Bennett)
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SPH Postgraduate Coursework Programs in 2006
As of second semester 2005, we now have 300 continuing students within our postgraduate coursework programs at the SPH. There have been substantial reviews of our postgraduate teaching programs that have taken place in 2004-5 and we will see a number of changes come into effect in our postgraduate coursework offerings for 2006. Program details are available in the 2006 Postgraduate Handbook (available...
Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (Sexual Health)
Dr Hennie Williams joined the School in 2005 and we welcome her as the new coordinator for the Postgraduate Certificate, and subject coordinator of the sexual health subjects with Professor Christopher Fairley. The specialty sexual health subject for nurses (Clinical Sexual and Reproductive Health for Nurses) has been re-established for the 2006 teaching program.

Master of Epidemiology (MEpi)
With the closure of the PostgradDip in Epidemiology, the MEpi has been completely revised and no longer requires the PGrad Dip Epi for entry into the program. The new MEpi incorporates a combination of core methods subjects and coursework or research project options for specialization. The degree is offered as one year F/T or 2 years P/T, and is open to local and international medical graduates, and graduates with a relevant honours degree, postgraduate diploma in Epidemiology, or 2 or more years of F/T equivalent relevant work experience.

The Epidemiology teaching revision developments include the creation of core epidemiology and analytic methods subjects for the MEpi that also form the heart of the Epidemiology & Biostats stream of the MPH, and DrPH, and PhD with coursework programs. The new methods subjects are offered in more flexible format (a combination of 5 day intensives and 1/2 semester subjects comprising 4 hour contact sessions per week) and teach foundation statistical analysis skills as integrated methods within the two Epidemiology & Analytic Methods subjects.

Social Health Degrees
The Social Health postgraduate programs underwent major review in 2004, and the changes to streams and subject offerings are listed in the 2006 handbook, and include the introduction of a new subject focusing on community development frameworks (Community: Theory and Practice) being jointly coordinated by Angela Clarke and Shaun Ewen. New subjects are also being offered in Aboriginal Health.

Health Program Evaluation
SPH no longer offers the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Services Research and Evaluation, but we have added to our offerings within the MPH program with the introduction of a number of subjects and now have a strong Health Program Evaluation stream (new subjects include Jenni Livingston's Using Evaluation in Program Design, and Helen Jordan's Environmental Health Service Evaluation available in classroom and distance modes).

We also welcome Cathy Segan as the new joint coordinator of the foundation subjects we teach in the Master of Public Health Consortium, Health Economics and Program Evaluation.

3.2. RHD NEWS (ed. Jane Fisher/Bill Genat)
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A set of policy guidelines was recently endorsed by the SPH Executive concerning the processes of PhD Confirmation and Conversion from Masters by Research to PhD. These will be available on the SPH website from the end of next week.

The deadline for PHIRST (Population Health Investing in Research Students' Training) Funding was October 20th and seven applications were received. This funding scheme is designed to provide partial subsidies of the costs associated with higher degree research. Successful students will be informed by Friday November 11.

RHD co-ordinators within Centres should also note that it is now a university requirement that all PhD students present their research at a seminar within the School in the final year of their candidature prior to submission.

3.3. STUDENT NEWS
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Lofty Thoughts is the SPH Post-Graduate Group which is funded by UMPA and designed to enhance academic and social activities of postgraduates within a school. We meet regularly at our first-Monday-of-the-month BYO lunches which are a great way to meet new people and share research questions and/or ideas. These lunches are open to both Coursework and Research Students and we meet at 1:00 pm in Room 405, Level 4, 207 Bouverie Street. We also organize various social events throughout the year.

Our next big upcoming event is our Annual End of Year Party which is on Thursday, December 1st at the Lincoln Hotel (corner of Queensbury and Cardigan Streets). It's open to all Coursework and Research students and kicks off at around 6:00 pm. Nibbles and drinks will be provided and the invitation is extended to one guest per post-grad but please RSVP to j.stone3@pgrad.unimelb.edu.au by Friday, November 25th.

We will be looking for new Committee Members next year so now is a good time to get involved and see what we are all about. Our next Annual General Meeting will be in March 2006.

All the best from your Lofty Thoughts Committee,

President - Jennifer Stone
Treasurer - John Burgess
Secretary - Sally Kingsland
Non-Executive:
Karan Hammarberg
Adrian Lowe
Helen Cox/Sonja Hood

3.4. SPH ACADEMIC PROGRAMS OFFICE (ed. Liz Lagias)
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Re-enrolment forms for 2006 have been sent to all continuing SPH students.

Deadline for enrolment without penalty: 26 November

Deadline for staff to submit their subject results to the APO: 25 November

SPH Valedictory Night: 30 November

4. CENTRES/UNITS NEWS
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4.1 SCHOOL OFFICE (ed. L. Taylor)
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Results of the SafetyMAP V4 and EMS ISO 14001 Internal Audit Results:
I am pleased to report that the School has received the internal audit and corrective action reports from the SafetyMAP/EMS Audit conducted in April 2005 across the Centre for MEGA Epidemiology, the Program Evaluation Unit and the School Executive, including Academic Programs Office and the Information Technology Unit. Our overall result was 85.7% conformance with the Faculty average being 73.6%.

Thanks to the Centre/Unit Managers Maggie Lenaghan, Tracey Mayhew, Doug Scobie, Felice Rocca, Mary Joy Gleeson and the Chairs of the EHS Committees, Jenny Burchill and Judi Maskiell for their efforts with the implementation and documentation of the EHS Audit requirements.

More good news:
Congratulations to Nick Golovachenko and Alina Turner on the birth of their baby boy - Oscar. Although Oscar has given them some anxious moments in his first few weeks, he is home now and doing very well.

4.2 CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIETY (ed. Doug Scobie)
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Nil this month

4.3. CENTRE FOR MEGA EPI (ed. M. Lenaghan)
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Staff News:
Congratulations to Dorota Gertig who was awarded an Associate Professorship and has been successful with both an NHMRC Senior Research Fellowship and Career Development Award, as well as investigator on two other project grants. (See also Section 2. HOS News)
Congratulations to Julie Simpson, Hugh, and Ashlyn who are delighted to announce the arrival of Liam Robin Kerr at 15:50 on 17 October at the FreeMasons Hospital Melbourne.

Research News:
Bircan Erbas was successful as a CI on a project grant with Cancer Council Victoria on DCIS.

Latest from the Tasmanian Asthma Study (TAS):
TAS is the largest longitudinal respiratory study in the world and involves more than 8,500 participants and their parents and siblings making the total cohort size 46,000. The 37 year postal survey follow-up of the TAS participants, which is coordinated by Cathryn Wharton, is nearly complete and the laboratory phase of the study is well underway in Tasmania and Victoria. We have extended the study into Queensland with laboratories in Brisbane and on the Gold coast to commence laboratory testing in 2006. Melanie Matheson has started on a NHMRC post doctoral fellowship to extend the current follow-up to include a family study and to develop the genetic component of TAS. John Burgess is well into his PhD investigating early life risk factors for chronic respiratory diseases in middle-age using the TAS cohort. Two more PhD students have just commenced working on the TAS. Charmian Bennett aims to investigate air pollution and chronic respiratory diseases and Rangi Kadane will start next year looking at genetic modifiers of environmental risk factors for asthma.

Selected 2005 Publications:


DITE GS, WARK JD, GILES GG, ENGLISH DR, MCCREDIE MRE, HOPPER JL. Is there overlap between the genetic determinants of mammographic density and bone


IULIANO-BURNS S, STONE J, HOPPER JL, SEEMAN E. Diet and exercise during growth have site-specific skeletal effects: a co-twin control study. Osteoporosis International 2005;online 22 March 2005
J Cahill1, T Keegel1, S Dharmage, D Nugriaty, R Nixon Prognosis of occupational contact dermatitis in a group of workers allergic to epoxy resins. Contact Dermatitis 2005: 52(3); 147-153

T KEEGEL, J CAHILL, A NOONAN, S DHARMAGE, H SAUNDERS, K FROWEN, R NIXON. Incidence and prevalence rates for occupational contact dermatitis in an Australian suburban area Contact Dermatitis 2005: 52 (5);254-260

Matthias WJST, Shyamali DHARMAGE, Elisabeth ANDRE, Dan NORBACK, Chantal RAHERISON, Simona VILLANI, Juha MANFREDA, Deborah JARVIS, Peter BURNEY, Cecile SVANES. Geographical latitude, birth date and allergy in adults. PLoS Med 2005; 2(10); 978-984


4.4. PROGRAM EVALUATION UNIT (ed. T. Mayhew)

New Staff:
Both Kui-siang Tay (a past MPH student) and Sally Kingsland (a current MPH Student) recently joined the unit as part time Research Fellows.
Cathy Segan, a Public Health Postdoctoral fellow, started at the Unit this month.

Visitors:
Dr Tracey Sach a Lecturer in Health Economics from the School of Community Health Science, University of Nottingham is visiting at the Unit for two months as part of the Universitas 21 scheme.

Congratulations:
Cathy Mihalopoulos delivered a healthy baby girl, Athena Lambrini on 23 August.
Congratulations to Cathy, Con and big brother Alexander.

and:
Mosaics created by Sharon Edelsten (ex Academic Programs Office) will be on display and for sale at Jenni Livingston's garden for the Australian Open Garden Scheme on 5th and 6th November (32 Coate Avenue, Alphington).

Selected 2005 Publications:
PEU staff have published 20 peer reviewed journal articles so far this year, with a further 6 accepted and 10 submitted for publicaton.


4.5. KEY CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH IN SOCIETY (ed. F.Rocca)


Key Centre Review:
It is not often that we get the time, or the opportunity to stand back and systematically reflect on our achievements and activities. But a comprehensive Centre Review - an event that happens once every five years - has obliged all staff and students to analyse what we do, how we do it and where we would like to go in the future.
In June, a team of five senior academics from both within and outside the university, spent two days interviewing staff and students, leaving no stone unturned in its quest to evaluate the life of the Centre.
Measuring the performance of the Centre in relation to its stated aims and objectives was the main aim of the Review but the team also looked at:

- Academic activities and interactions within the School of Population Health;
- The breadth and effectiveness of external funding sources, and the financial management and viability of the Centre;
- The Centre's collaborative relationships with the health professions, government, industry and with local and international academic and other stakeholders; and
- The likely future direction and staffing of the Centre as well as whether the Centre should continue to operate as a Centre of The University of Melbourne.

As part of the review process, the Centre documented the visible and often invisible work of staff. For example, in the period covered by the review, staff had been members of 71 academic and professional committees.

"The past five years have been a period of considerable growth and achievement for the Key Centre," said KCWHS Director, Professor Doreen Rosenthal. "It has grown into a strong education and research centre since its inception in 1988 and it is our intention to maintain the growth of the past five years and to position the Key Centre as a leader in education and research in women's health nationally as well as in the Asia-Pacific region."

The Centre will hold a planning day late in 2005 to address recommendations of the Review and to consider strategic directions for research and teaching in 2006.

New Grants:

Staff & Student Achievements:
Project i - a study of homelessness in Melbourne and Los Angeles (Melbourne research team led by Professor Doreen Rosenthal and Dr Shelley Mallett) - received a SPH special commendation for excellence in research achievement.

Dr Lisa Amir, has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of International Breastfeeding Journal. This on-line, peer review journal with BioMed Central will be launched in late 2005 and can be found at www.internationalbreastfeedingjournal.com

A/Prof Anne Kavanagh is a member of the Commonwealth Government Australian Screening Advisory Committee Working Group on Monitoring and Evaluation and Chair of the BreastScreen Victoria Research and Evaluation Committee.

Dr Heather Rowe has been re-elected as secretary of the Australian Society of Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynaecology and has been appointed as member of the International Breastfeeding Journal editorial board.

Victoria Team, Doctor of Public Health candidate was awarded a three year Postgraduate Equity Scholarship which began in July 2005.

PhD student Lukar Thornton received a PHIRST (Population Health Investing in Research Students’ Training) grant for $1000.

Kate Bourne (Melbourne IVF), Nicole Oke (Melbourne IVF) and Narelle Warren (KCWHS) were awarded the Counsellor's prize at the 2005 Fertility Society of Australia Annual Meeting in Christchurch for the paper, ‘Wanted: woman who cares: advertising for oocyte donors.’

New Staff:
Rebecca Bentley is a Research Fellow with the Australian Health Inequities Program. Rebecca is working on her PhD on socio-cultural determinants of contraception use, supervised by A/Professor Anne Kavanagh and Professor Anthony Smith of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society. Before joining the Centre, Rebecca worked at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in the Disease Registers Unit.

Lauren Matheson is the Research Co-ordinator with the research trial of the early parenting program Mothers, Fathers and Newborns: preventing distress and promoting confidence, known as PEPP. Lauren's background includes working with NGOs in sexual health education, reproductive health research and resource-poor settings.

Katie Symes is Personal Assistant to the Director Professor Doreen Rosenthal. Katie completed her Bachelor of Dramatic Art (Sound Design) at the Victorian College of the Arts (University of Melbourne) in 2000. As well as working extensively as a Sound Designer, Katie has worked as a Project Manager and Administrative Assistant within various arts organisations.

Lyndal Thomas is a Research Fellow with the Australian Health Inequities Program. She also works on the Adolescent Health and Social Environments Program, at the Centre for Adolescent Health, Royal Children's Hospital. Lyndal is working on her PhD on handling missing data in longitudinal epidemiological studies. She previously worked in adolescent health and as a statistical consultant in medical and other areas of research.

Amanda Tattam is Community Liaison/Research Translation Officer (0.5) with responsibility for the public and media profile of the Key Centre and ensuring that research findings are distributed widely to key audiences. Amanda has worked as a news reporter and editor for 18 years in Australia and the UK, covering health, education and industrial relations. Her work has been published in numerous general and specialist newspapers, magazines and books.
Short courses:

Harnessing the power of the camera
Using film can unleash endless opportunities for researchers and teachers, according to Professor Lenore Manderson, who presented at a one day workshop along with acclaimed Australian Filmmaker Debra Kingsland. The Key Centre workshop “Using Film in Development, Advocacy and Evaluation, explained how to integrate the use of film into social action projects and research. "A lot of the material we work with is immensely rich visually and film is a powerful research and teaching method. It allows us to collect data, to analyse responses and to disseminate research findings," said Professor Manderson.

Unpacking narrative theory
How can narrative theory be successfully applied to social science research? This intriguing question was explored and debated by over 50 participants in a two day workshop run by Dr Arthur Frank, an internationally renowned author and academic from the University of Calgary. Narrative is a highly valuable research tool, because it tells us about events and people both in qualitative and quantitative ways.

Exploring social determinants of health
Community health managers, policy makers and researchers were among the 24 people who attended the social determinants of health short course held at the Key Centre in June. The course was facilitated by internationally renowned academics Professor Ichiro Kawachi and S V Subramanian from the Harvard School of Public Health, plus Associate Professor Anne Kavanagh and Dr Milica Markovic. Participants were able to glean a deeper understanding of the social and economic circumstances influencing health and take part in hands-on workshops exploring multilevel and qualitative research methods.

4.6. DIABETES VACCINE DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (ed. MJ. Gleeson)
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Poster Presentation at IDS-8 meeting, Japan
DVDC presented a poster at the 8th meeting of the Immunology of Diabetes Society held in Japan in early October to promote its mission directly to the diabetes immunology community. One of DVDC's stakeholders, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International attended the poster and feedback on the interest in the poster was positive.

Recent call for Expressions of Interest
In August DVDC again called for new expressions of interest (EoIs) both locally and internationally, emphasising DVDC's interest in supporting projects still in the late stages of research, as well as those it had previously focused on exclusively, that is, those either already in the clinic or just about to enter clinical trials. EoIs received provided an interesting range of projects with the majority being from Australia. All EoIs were reviewed by the DVDC Board as part of the selection process to submit a full application, and two of the proposers have been asked to submit complete development proposals.
4.7. CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH (ed. J.Burchill)

2005 Publications:


(Non-peer reviewed publication)

(Reports)

Research Activities:
The development and evaluation of an intervention aimed at improving the mental health of a group of refugee women presenting to the Royal Women's Hospital for obstetric care.
Investigators: Dr Schwarz, R.G., Royal Women's Hospital; Dr Fisher, J., Key Centre for Women's Health in Society, University of Melbourne, A/Professor Minas, I.H., CIMH
Funding body: Beyondblue

The Emotional and Lifestyle Impact of Type 2 Diabetes: Exploring the association between diabetes and depression
Investigators: Professor Manderson, L., The Key Centre for Women's Health in Society, University of Melbourne; Dr Kokanovic, R. CIMH; A/Professor Klimidis, S., CIMH
Funding body: Beyondblue

Caring for the depressed elderly in the emergency department: Establishing linkages between sub-acute, primary and community care
Investigators: Dr Joubert, L., School of Social Work, University of Melbourne; Dr Hunter, P. & Ms Anderson, P., Integrated and Sub-acute Care Directorate, St Vincent's Health; A/Professor Klimidis, S., CIMH; Prof Dent, A., Emergency Department, St Vincent's Health, Prof Chiu, E., Department of Geriatric Psychiatry, St Vincent's Health; Dr Isaac, D., GP Consultant, St Vincent's Health
Funding body: Beyondblue

Extending the Emotional and Lifestyle Impact of Type 2 Diabetes Pilot Project: Exploring the association between diabetes and depression in rural Italian, Asian and Anglo Australians
Chief Investigators: Professor Lenore Manderson (Key Centre for Women's Health in Society), Dr Renata Kokanovic (Department of General Practice), Associate Professor Steven Klimidis, Associate Professor Harry Minas, Dr Suresh Bohra (GV Health, Shepparton), Professor Dawn De Witt (School of Rural Health)
Associate Investigators: Gloria Kilmartin (GV Health, Diabetes Centre, Shepparton), Vickie Clowes (School of Rural Health)
Funding body: Beyondblue: the National Depression Initiative

The mental health of primary school children in Hanoi
Chief Investigators: Associate Professor Harry Minas, Dr Ngo Thanh Hoi, Mai Huong Hospital Hanoi, Associate Professor Steven Klimidis
Funding body: Hanoi Department of Health

Conferences:
The 4th International Mental Health Development Conference - Disaster to Development will be held on the 4 & 5 December at the Wright Theatre, The University of Melbourne. For more information contact Jenny Burchill at burchill@unimelb.edu.au or x40908

Staff News:
Dr Renata Kokanovic resigned after three years at the CIMH to take up a position as Senior Research Fellow in the Department of General Practice, The University of Melbourne.

Dr Lucy Chen Yu has been at the CIMH for 12 months as a Visiting Scholar and will be returning to China at the end of November. While at the CIMH, Lucy has been investigating occupational stress among professionals working in the mental health field.

Mr Frank Deans resigned from the CIMH after 5 years as Centre Manager.

Ms Kate Johnston commenced at the CIMH in March as a Research Fellow. Kate’s main responsibility at the Centre is co-ordinator of the ausMHLP (Australian Mental Health Leadership Program) leadership course which commenced in 2005.
Ms Tania Miletic commenced at the CIMH in July as a Research Fellow working on research and education programs in international mental health.

Dr Je Chun Yu, a Visiting Scholar, from the Eulji University School of Medicine, Daejeon, Korea has been at the CIMH since May, 2005. Dr. Yu is especially interested in the Mental Health System reform that has occurred in Australia and mental health for the elderly.

Dr Lou Querubin from the Philippines and a former fellow of the iMHLP leadership program took up the position as Senior Lecturer in the iMHLP program at the beginning of 2005.

CIMH Students:

Dr Marion Bailes completed her Masters by research on the topic "Mental illness concepts and attitudes in the Somali community in Melbourne."

CIMH Courses:

4th iMHLP (International Mental Health Leadership Program)
Eight Fellows from Samoa, China, Mongolia, Japan, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam completed the 4th iMHLP which was run in March, 2005.

Masters of International Mental Health
Three students from Australia enrolled in the Masters of International Mental Health.

ausMHLP (Australian Mental Health Leadership Program)
In July 2005 the School of Population Health hosted the first seminar of an exciting new professional development program for Australian psychiatrists - the Australian Mental Health Leadership Program, or ausMHLP.

Supported by Eli Lilly Australia, ausMHLP is run by CIMH in partnership with four other organisations - the Department of Psychiatry (University of Melbourne), Barwon Health, the Brain and Mind Research Institute (University of Sydney), and the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (University of Queensland).

ausMHLP is a part-time program run as a series of 2-4 day residential seminars held around Australia across a period of 12 months aimed at equipping early career and senior trainee psychiatrists to take on leadership roles within mental health in Australia. Participants' clinical training and experience is supplemented with:

formal teaching about the 'bigger picture' of mental health in Australia (system, policy and political issues);
exposure to individuals who have demonstrated leadership in mental health (ranging from former Federal Health Minister Brian Howe to Executive Director of Orygen Youth Health Pat McGorry to veteran State Mental Health Director Aaron Groves (currently Queensland, formerly WA); and
personal leadership skills development through individual mentoring, a leadership behaviour assessment, and a workplace-based leadership project.
The program generated strong interest from the psychiatrist community when first advertised, indicating a clear need for such an initiative, and has been very well received by the 13 participants who have been accepted into this year's intake. Three seminars have been held to date, with a fourth going ahead in Canberra in November, and the final seminar scheduled to be held back-to-back with the 2006 RANZCP Congress in Perth.

Master of Medicine (Melbourne) and Master of Psychological Medicine (Monash)

Associate Professor Harry Minas again delivered the six-week selective subject Transcultural Psychiatry. This subject continues to attract the largest number of students of all the selectives offered as part of this joint Melbourne/Monash academic program for trainee psychiatrists.

Introduction to Community Mental Health Practice

Associate Professor Harry Minas completed the design of a new curriculum - Introduction to Community Mental Health Practice – to be delivered to new community mental health staff in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and Serbia-Montenegro as part of the South East Europe Mental Health Project.

4.8. SEXUAL HEALTH UNIT (ed. K.Fairley)

New Grants:

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre was part of a successful NIH grant for 28 million dollars (AUS) to evaluate a microbicide for the prevention of HIV infection. The consortium was lead by Starpharma on the Alfred site, and MSHC will be the Australian site for the phase 2 studies. Other partners include Burnet Institute and National Centre in HIV Clinical and Epidemiological Research.

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, in collaboration with the Department of General Practice, Family Planning Victoria, Burnet Institute and General Practice Division of Victoria were successful in a tender to carry out a pilot study of Chlamydia screening. The study funded to $352,000 was awarded by DHS Victoria and complements the existing NHRMC Chlamydia screening project at MSHC.

October Publications;


5. SEMINARS/EVENTS

SPH Staff Meeting
Nov 23 (11am, the Hub)

SPH 2005 Research Seminar Series:

Nov 23
Professor Judith Lumley
Director
Mother and Child Health Research
Latrobe University
"Preterm birth in 1st births: the contribution of prior spontaneous and induced abortion"

Dec 14 (Note - Change of Date from Dec 7)
End of Year Quiz and Party

6. IT NEWS (ed. N.Golovachenko)

During 2005 IT have been busy consolidating and standardising the School's IT infrastructure and processes.

Some key infrastructure events include:

Increasing SPH network storage and backup by commissioning a Network Attached Server (NAS) and an automated tape backup library device. The NAS server has increased the School’s storage to 750 Gigabytes and the backup tape library has an automated backup capacity of 3.2 Terabytes.

Installation of hardware and firewalls to protect data on each of the School’s File and application servers. This became a critical issue due the increasing number of security attacks directed toward the university. It should be noted that University currently has no central firewall.

Successful migration of all CHS computers and staff from ArtsIT over to SPH servers. Work so far has involved migrating 20 Gigabytes of data from the arts servers over to the SPH servers. As well as migrating all locally stored email and data files onto the School's network servers.

Installation of MUWireless at 207 Bouverie Street on Levels 4 and 5. MUWIRELESS aims to provide a medium to support and encourage collaborative and flexible learning techniques and their development. All University of Melbourne students and staff have access to MUWIRELESS by using their central email username and
password, and a portable computing device such as a laptop that has been computer fitted with an 802.11b compliant wireless networking card.

SPH Server Room and Hardware Standardisation involved rack mounting all SPH Data servers. Rack mounting provides a better use of space and management of server infrastructure such as effective cooling and cable management and reduces risk physical damage to the servers.