28 June 2006

There has now been a decision have a Bachelor of Bioscience degree. It is anticipated that this degree will commence in 2009 or 2010. This means that Health Practice teaching will continue in its current form until the last intake of undergraduate medical students for this current curriculum commence in 2008. The establishment of the new undergraduate generalist degrees, and especially the Bachelor of Bioscience degree, presents the School of Population Health with some exciting possibilities for curriculum input and teaching. We will keep you updated as developments unfold. However, any ideas on how the School could contribute at the undergraduate level are most welcome.

The current AMS students have now completed their projects and their results are being finalised. Thank you to all the School staff who co-ordinated units, supervised students and examined reports. Special thanks to Anita Lucas and Lynn Gillam for once again making the whole thing such a success; evidence of this was the AMS conference held on Friday 26th May. This was an opportunity for the AMS students to present their research to their family, friends and peers, and the day was a huge success.
The AMS Review, chaired by John Collins, with Janet McCalman and Doreen Rosenthal as part of the review panel, is completed and the review report is now available. If you are interested in seeing a copy, please contact Marilys Guillemin or Lynn Gillam.

The next AMS cohort commences in mid July. At this stage there will be 14 local AMS students at SPH (9 - Medical Humanities /Social Health/ Complementary Medicine; 4 - Public Health Perspectives in Women’s Health; 1 - Sexual Health). It is anticipated that the School will also host a number of Universitas Indonesia AMS students in Public Health and Models of health care delivery units.

3.3. RHD News (J. Fisher)

3.4. SPH Postgraduate Group – “Lofty Thoughts” (eds. Jennifer Stone and Kelsi Kriitmaa, Co-Presidents)

3.5. SPH Academic Programs Office (Liz Lagias)

*4. Research Committee News

All SPH STAFF and FRIENDS are ENCOURAGED and WELCOME to attend WORK IN PROGRESS fortnightly seminars. This series is now a School-wide Research Committee initiative.

Next month's offerings are:-

July 13 Jane Visvader, WEHI "Breast cancer and stem cells"
27 John Mathews, SPH "Explaining age dependence of hazard ratios"

The following dates are confirmed:-

October  5 PhD (John Burgess/Adrian Lowe), MEGA Epidemiology
November 2 Trevor Kilpatrick, Centre for Neuroscience, MS

Full program to be advised in July eNews as some speakers are yet to be confirmed, however there are a few spare spots on August 10th and 14th, and Dec 14th. If you'd like to present at any of these times or 'sometime in the future' and/or you know of someone from a collaborating group who would like to take the opportunity to present/discuss some work in progress please contact Nick Osborne at nos@unimelb.edu.au to organise the time.

Venue: Room 515, Lvl 5, 207 Bouverie Street
Time: 12noon - 1pm fortnightly Thursdays
Reminder notifications are sent via email and flyers will be posted in lifts during the week prior.

5. Centres/Units News

*5.1 School Office (L.Taylor)

5.1.1 Environment, Health & Safety - Call for Nominations - Health and Safety

The School’s Health and Safety Representative, Kim Dorell has advised
us that she wishes to resign from this position effective from 27
July 2006. Kim has been the SPH Health and Safety Representative
since October 2002 and has done an excellent job in this role.
There is now a vacancy for a Health and Safety Representative in the
School of Population Health (Designated Work Group).

All Staff are eligible to nominate for this position.

The suggested process for nominations will be that staff can complete
the nomination form (emailed to all staff on Tuesday 27 June) and be
seconded by a staff member who supports their nomination.Nomination
forms can then be forwarded to Alison Hunt-Sturman (Faculty
Environmental Health & Safety Officer, Medical Building) who will act
as the returning officer for the nomination process. If there are any
objections to this process please contact Leanne Taylor.

Nominations will close on Friday 14 July 2006 at 5:00pm.

*5.2 Centre for Health and Society (D. Scobie)
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New grants:
Congratulations to Shaun Ewen who is the recipient of a NH&MRC Short
Term Study grant. The award will fund comparative Indigenous health
research in New Zealand and Canada in the second half of 2006.

Staff news - arrivals:
The Centre for Health and Society has recruited two Trainees funded
by the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health under a
program to develop Indigenous capacity in administration in
health/higher education fields. Adam Moffatt and Dennellie Ricardo-
Fraser will undertake twelve month traineeships in Website
Administration and Business Administration respectively, commencing
Monday 3 July.

Staff news – departures:
John Waller is (sadly) leaving CHS to take up a position at Michigan
State University in the United States of America. Juan Baeza has
completed his post doctoral fellowship (co located with the
department of Political Science) and is returning to the United
Kingdom.

See also 8.2 Publications.

*5.3. Centre for MEGA Epi (M.Lenaghan)
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See 8.3 Publications below

*5.4. Program Evaluation Unit (T. Mayhew/J.Yeadon)
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New Contract Research:
Jane Pirkis has secured a contract of $401,514 from the Department of
Health and Ageing to conduct a follow-up to the Media Monitoring
project, conducted in 2000/01. The original study provided a baseline
picture of how the Australian media report suicide and mental
illness. The new study will examine whether this has changed over
time and, if so, whether the changes are related to the roll-out of a
kit designed to encourage responsible reporting among journalists.

PEU Seminars:
These seminars will be held in room 405A, level 4, 207 Bouverie
Street building from 12.30-1.30pm. A light snack will be served from
12 noon.
4th July     Michelle Williamson  Recruiting GPs and maintaining their interest in a large-scale intervention study.

18th July    Dominique Cadilhac  Undertaking economic evaluation of blood pressure lowering interventions in stroke: Selecting interventions and modelling implications.

1st August   Bree Rankin       Improving GPs’ assessment and treatment of coronary heart disease.

15th August  Theonie Tacticos  Why self-reported health status is important.

5th Sept.    Belinda Morley    Evaluating the Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care Program.


Short Courses:
The second of this year’s workshops in Health Program Evaluation – Planning, Negotiation, Evaluation Approaches, Criteria Selection and Program Modelling was held over three days, ie 13th, 14th and 15th June. This course was well attended and will be repeated on 1st to 3rd November this year.

Short course two – Data Collection, Analysis & Reporting in Health Program Evaluation will be held on 12th to 14th July and repeated again 4th to 6th December 2006. Places are still available for the July course at a cost of $680 per participant.

See also 8.4 Publications below.

5.5. Key Centre for Women's Health in Society (A. Tattam)
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5.6. Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre (MJ. Gleeson)
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5.7. Centre for International Mental Health (J.Burchill)
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5.8. Sexual Health Unit (K.Fairley)
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*5.9. VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Social Wellbeing (J.Wiseman/J.Campbell)
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The VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Social Wellbeing has commenced operation, with Centre Director John Wiseman joining the School of Population Health on the 28th May, and Centre Manager Janine Campbell coming on board on the 5th June.

The Centre’s goal is to create and share knowledge which strengthens the foundations of healthy and sustainable communities, leading to improved mental health and wellbeing. To achieve this goal the Centre will undertake policy research, workforce development and advocacy which increases understanding of the social, economic and environmental determinants of community wellbeing and mental health.

The Centre is supported by and will collaborate closely with the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth). The Centre’s work will therefore be informed by the VicHealth definition of mental health as 'the embodiment of social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Mental health provides individuals with the vitality
necessary for active living, to achieve goals and to interact with one another in ways that are respectful and just’.

Research underpinning the development of the VicHealth Strategic Plan has identified the following key determinants of mental health and community wellbeing: Freedom from violence; Freedom from discrimination; Economic participation and security; and Social inclusion. The Centre’s initial focus will therefore be on policy research, workforce development and advocacy leading to improvements in:

- Freedom from violence
- Freedom from discrimination
- Economic participation and security
- Social inclusion

The initial phase of Centre development is an exciting time, and includes getting to know the local landscape and its inhabitants; consulting with key stakeholders and potential partners; appointing core staff and developing the detailed centre work-plan. In relation to staff appointments we envisage advertising a number of initial research positions in the near future and will make sure information about these positions is widely publicised within and beyond the School.

Early project priorities for the Centre will include preparing and publishing:

- an integrated set of Victorian Local Community Wellbeing Reports, (providing evidence of local social, economic, environmental, cultural and governance trends and outcomes)
- an integrated set of Community Wellbeing Trend and Policy Reviews, providing accessible overviews of the most promising Australian and international policy initiatives in relation to the promotion of mental health and community wellbeing.

Whilst Centre directions are very much a work in progress, we welcome your queries and input, and invite you to join the Centre’s e-mail list to receive news and Centre updates by forwarding your details to Janine at camj@unimelb.edu.au. The Centre’s website at http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/vcpmhsw/ , also a work in progress, will provide details of the Centre’s research profile as this develops and grows over the coming months.

6. Seminars/Events

see http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/seminars/

7. IT News (N.Golovachenko)

*8. Publications (since last issue)

8.1 School

*8.2 Centre for Health and Society


Guillemin, M.; Gillam, L. 2006. “Attitudes to genetic testing for


*8.3 Centre for MEGA Epidemiology
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Hodge AM, English DR, O'Dea K, Giles GG. Alcohol intake, consumption pattern and beverage type, and the risk of Type 2 diabetes. Diabetic Medicine 2006;23:690-697


Scurrah KJ, Byrnes GB, Hopper JL, Harrap SB. Sex differences in genetic and environmental determinants of pulse pressure Genetic
Epidemiology 2006;30:397-408


*8.4 Program Evaluation Unit
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Refereed Journal Articles:


8.5 Key Centre for Women's Health in Society
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8.6 Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre
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8.7 Centre for International Mental Health
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8.8. Sexual Health Unit
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8.9. VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Social Wellbeing
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