Very special congratulations to recently announced promotions for two of our distinguished colleagues from the Centre for Health and Society. Effective January 1 2007, Dr Martha Macintyre will be Associate Professor and Reader, and Dr Lynn Gillam will be Associate Professor. Martha's achievements and recognition at national and international levels for scholarship in anthropology, and Lynn's for her contributions to scholarship and knowledge transfer in health ethics bring enormous credit to themselves and to the School of Population Health. (T.Nolan)

See notes from School meeting held 18/10/06 available at http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/staff/sphdocuments/sphdocuments.html

Re-enrolments are currently underway for our continuing students (over 330 across all postgraduate programs), and the 2007 SPH handbook is now available on line, and in hardcopy by the end of October. There are a number of changes to our programs following the introduction of new subjects and changes to the structure of SPH courses that have resulted from the ongoing review of teaching programs across our teaching Centres.

A major development in 2007 will be the introduction of our revised
programs in Women’s Health (PGDip, MWH and MPH(WH)), offering an exciting new program of purpose built subjects and a new streamlined program structure.

The structure of the Biostatistics programs (PGDipBio, MBio) have also been revised to include a new core subject (Probability and Distribution Theory) to further build the theoretical core of these programs.

The streams within the Master of Social Health Programs have also been revised, and 2007 will see the introduction of a new Health Policy stream.

2007 will also see the last stage of closure for remaining Epidemiology subjects from the now-retired Postgraduate Diploma program, with the transition now completed into the already very successful new Masters level programs (M Epidemiology and MPH).

3.2. Undergraduate News (M. Guillemin)
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3.3. RHD News (J. Fisher)
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3.4. SPH Postgraduate Group – “Lofty Thoughts” (eds. Jennifer Stone and Kelsi Krititmaa, Co-Presidents)
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3.5. SPH Academic Programs Office (Liz Lagias)
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*4. Research Committee News
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NOVEMBER WORK IN PROGRESS SEMINARS:

“Multiple Sclerosis: genetic and environmental factors”

Professor Trevor Kilpatrick, Director, Centre for Neuroscience, University of Melbourne; Senior Principal Research Fellow, Howard Florey Institute; Neurologist and Head, MS Unit, Royal Melbourne Hospital

Currently, in collaboration between the Centre for Neuroscience and the Howard Florey Institute, Professor Kilpatrick leads a research group focused on MS. His group is investigating the cellular and molecular events that influence the capacity of the demyelinated brain to remyelinate. The particular emphasis is to identify growth factors that can increase the survival of the oligodendrocyte, the cell that is responsible for producing myelin, the insulating coat that protects nerve cells, and which is targeted in demyelinating disease. The work is also directed to identifying mechanisms to promote the capacity of the brain’s endogenous precursor or stem cells to repopulate demyelinated regions with newly derived oligodendrocytes. Professor Kilpatrick and his colleagues are also attempting to unravel the cause of MS by studying the genetic and environmental factors that contribute to the disease.

Thursday 2nd November, 2006
12.00 – 1.00pm
SPH Seminar Room 515, Level 5
207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

THEN:
9 November: John Burgess and Adrian Lowe
16 November: TBA
30 November: Jen Stone and Melissa Russell

5. Centres/Units News
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5.1 School Office (L.Taylor)
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5.2 Centre for Health and Society (D. Scobie)
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5.3. Centre for MEGA Epi (M.Lenaghan)
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RECENT GRANT AWARDS ON WHICH CENTRE STAFF AND COLLEAGUES ARE NAMED (not
previously listed in SPH eNews):

NHMRC #454425 (Dharmage, Hopper, Walters, Matheson, Abramson, Byrnes) $840,113
Genetic epidemiology of chronic respiratory diseases from childhood to
adulthood: A prospective study of sibships

NHMRC #454508 (Phillips, Hopper, Friedlander, Jenkins, McLachlan, Milne)
$698,575
kConFab Follow-Up Project: A prospective study of non-genetic risk
modifiers in women at high risk for breast cancer

NHMRC #454621 (Fisher, Rowe, Rosenthal, Quinlivan, Gurrin) $376,375
A randomized trial of an early parenting intervention to reduce maternal
mood disorder and infant behaviour disturbance

NHMRC #454645 (Mathews, Nolan, Bicker, McVernon, McCaw, McBryde) $264,713
Modelling the effects of immunity on influenza transmission – implications
for prevention and vaccine development

NHMRC #454671 (Hopper, Dharmage, Dite, Apicella) $442,838
A prospective study of the effects of early life growth on adult
mammographic density

NHMRC #454696 (Hopper, Jenkins, Byrnes, Baglietto, Phillips, Apicella)
$410,250
Statistical analyses of breast cancer risks for Australian BRCA1 and BRCA2
mutation carriers

NHMRC #454779 (Gurrin) $445,000
Career Development Award

ARC
Hopper, Flander et al. $282,000
Expert judgement of environmental health risks from exposures to
contaminants in urban water systems.

ARC
Maxwell Stewart, Kippen, McCalman, McCarthy, Shlomowitz, Venn, Meredith,
Dharmage. $800,000
Founders and survivors: Australian lifecourses in historical context
(administered by University of Tasmania)

NEW AUSTRALIAN TWIN REGISTRY WEBSITE HAS GONE LIVE!
with facility for online registration, see www.twins.org.au
STAFF NEWS:
Farewell to Cathryn Wharton, who has been the Research Officer with the Tasmanian Asthma Study for 4.5 years, during which time she has traced 80% of the original 8,500 1968 study participants; re-surveyed 5,800; contributed to the coordination of lab tests for 1,000; and much more besides (including producing newsletters and fridge magnets!). Cathryn is moving to a Data Manager role at the VCS. We will miss her and wish her the very best in her new job.

PUBLICATIONS:
See 8.3 below

5.4. Program Evaluation Unit (T. Mayhew/J.Yeadon)
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RESEARCH NEWS:
Rob Carter is involved with a number of collaborative groups that have been awarded NHMRC grants:
· Swinburn, B. Waters E, Carter R, McCabe M – Capacity Building grant in Childhood and Adolescent Obesity Prevention $1,958,075 (administered through Deakin University)
· Doran C, Carter R, Richardson J, Barendregt J, Lim S Hall W. Capacity Building Grant in Health Economic Evaluation $1,877,500 (administered through University of Queensland)
· Waters E, Swinburn B, Song Kai Lo, Carter R, Project grant – “A Cluster randomised controlled trial of knowledge translation methods for obesity prevention”. $270,613 (administered through Deakin University)

PEU SEMINARS:
21 November: Sonja Hood Implementing evidence in health care
This seminar 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.

PUBLICATIONS:
See 8.4 below

*5.5. Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society (A. Tattam)
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LATEST NEWS:
The new-look Spring edition of the Key Centre newsletter is now available at

The Key Centre has recently been redesignated as a World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Women’s Health (Asia Pacific) for four more years.

“Moving out, moving on young people’s pathways into and through homelessness” contains the Key Findings from Project i, the longitudinal study of youth homelessness in Melbourne. The DHS Office of Housing funded the printing of the publication and copies are available by contacting atattam@unimelb.edu.au

GRANTS:
Health Services) “The effects of an early parenting intervention to reduce maternal mood disorder and infant behaviour disturbance,” National Health and Medical Research Council $376,376.


STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS:
Dr Caroline King was a joint winner of the University of Melbourne top Master of Public Health graduate award in 2005. Caroline’s MPH Research Report entitled ’Pre-pregnancy information in General Practice settings. Development and design of an intervention’ was supervised at the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society by Dr Heather Rowe.

The Victorian Lifestyle and Neighbourhood Study (VicLANES) has won the 2006 Victorian Public Health Award for innovation. VicLANES is a VicHealth funded research project led by Associate Professor Anne Kavanagh examining the individual and environmental factors that influence physical activity and food purchasing. A report summarizing VicLANES findings is due to be published later in 2006.

www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au/viclanes
http://uninews.unimelb.edu.au/articleid_3719.html

NEW STAFF:
Karin Hammarberg has joined the Key Centre staff as research Fellow. Karin, who has just submitted her PhD on birth and mothering after assisted conception, is working on two research projects with Associate Professor Jane Fisher, “Health and development of young adults conceived with ART: a pilot and feasibility study” and a study on the long term psychosocial impact of male infertility on men.


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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RECENT GRANTS:
$255,425

PUBLICATIONS:
see 8.8 below.
CENTRE NEWS:
The VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Social Wellbeing is pleased to announce the approval of its name change to the McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing. The McCaughey Centre is named in honour of two outstanding Victorians, Davis and Jean McCaughey. Their commitment to ‘knowledge for common good’ – to creating and sharing knowledge about the values and actions needed to build healthy, just and resilient communities – is at the heart of all of the work of the Centre. Further details regarding Davis and Jean McCaughey will be available in the next week or so, when the new McCaughey Centre website is launched.

NEW STAFF:
The Centre has had a busy period of recruitment, and an impressive team has been assembled to tackle the tasks at hand. The McCaughey Centre team is:
Professor John Wiseman - Director
Dr Marion Frere - Deputy Director: Research and Policy
Associate Professor Tony Lamontagne - Principal Research Fellow
Dr Melanie Davern - Research Fellow (Wellbeing Indicators and Data)
Dr Gabrielle Berman - Research Fellow (Policy Analysis and Review)
Sue West - Research Fellow (Community & Workforce Development Coordinator)
Dr Kathleen Brasher - Research Fellow
Tessa Kegel - Research Fellow
Janine Campbell - Centre Manager
Centre Administrator - TBA.

FORTHCOMING SEMINAR:
Topic: Promoting wellbeing: A change strategy for communities
Presenters: Isaac and Ora Prilleltensky, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
Details: Monday 20 November, 9am-1pm, VENUE TBA. To register, go to the NAPCAN flyer for contact details (see website below).
Jointly hosted by the McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Social Wellbeing and the NAPCAN Foundation

Other events of interest are flagged on the Centre’s website at http://www.vcpmhsw.unimelb.edu.au/newsandevents/partner_events.html

PUBLICATIONS:
see 8.9 below

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

7. IT News (N.Golovachenko)
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*8. 2006 Publications (not listed previously)
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8.1 School
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8.2 Centre for Health and Society
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Baglietto L, English DR, Hopper JL, Powles J, Giles GG. Average volume of alcohol consumed, type of beverage, drinking pattern and the risk of death from all causes. Alcohol & Alcoholism 2006; (epub)


Ginige S, Chen MY, Fairley CK. Are patient responses to sensitive sexual health questions influenced by the sex of the practitioner? 2006; Sexually Transmitted Infections. 82(4): 321-322.


Lee DM, Chen M, Bradshaw C, Fairley CK. Is routine vaginal examination necessary for asymptomatic women attending sexual health services? 2006 International Journal of STD & AIDS. 17(9): 631-632

8.9. McCaughey Centre {VicHealthCPMHCW}
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