**AMS 2008/09**

**HAVE YOU MADE A CHOICE?**

With more than 100 AMS units to choose from, what is the right unit for you?

**Units on offer at the School of Population Health in 2008/09**

- Medical Humanities
- Social Health
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine
- Public Health Perspectives in Women’s Health
- Mental Health of Immigrants and Refugees
- International Mental Health Development
- Sexual Health
- Clinical Epidemiology of Rheumatic and Immunologic Disorders

**Spending a year being a ‘lab rat’ was seriously lacking in appeal, so I chose the School of Population Health for my AMS**

**My AMS year at the School of Population Health has offered me the freedom and flexibility to develop my own ideas and explore the ideas of others!**

**I have always had a niggling feeling that perhaps not everything that happens in medicine is necessarily good (what about cosmetic surgery or genetic manipulation of your kids). I set out to investigate this idea through my AMS unit at SPH**

**Do you want to know more? Meet with us in person**

**School of Population Health**

**AMS Information Session and Lunch**

**Tuesday 21st August**

1:00 – 2:15pm

Rooms W726/727, Level 7 West Wing

Medical Faculty Building

After your lecture, come and visit us for lunch and a chat with unit coordinators and supervisors. Discover more about what is on offer. We can help you develop your ideas further.

For more information about what is on offer, go to our website [http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/undergrad/ams/](http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/undergrad/ams/)
AMS Units available at the School of Population Health

Centre for International Mental Health

**Mental Health of Immigrants and Refugees**  
(Unit Code 00401)  
This unit introduces the student to issues relevant to mental health of immigrants and refugees, and the relationships between mental health and culture, language and the migration process. It explores theoretical and practical problems of study design and data gathering across different language and cultural groups.  

**Contact:** Assoc Prof Steven Klimidis  
**Email:** s.klimidis@unimelb.edu.au  
**SPH AMS Unit Homepage:** http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/undergrad/ams/perspective/unithomepages/cimh.html  
**CIMH Website:** http://www.cimh.unimelb.edu.au  
**Unit Description – Faculty AMS Website**  

**International Mental Health Development**  
(Unit Code 01482)  
This unit provides an opportunity for students to learn methods in mental health systems research and to make a contribution to research that will assist in developing mental health systems that are effective and equitable. Students will be involved in existing collaborative research projects that are being undertaken by CIMH academic staff in Melbourne or with colleagues in countries in Asia and Eastern Europe.  

**Contact:** Assoc Prof Steven Klimidis  
**Email:** s.klimidis@unimelb.edu.au  
**SPH AMS Unit Homepage:** http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/undergrad/ams/perspective/unithomepages/cimh.html  
**CIMH Website:** http://www.cimh.unimelb.edu.au  
**Unit Description – Faculty AMS Website**  

Centre for Health and Society

**Medical Humanities**  
(Unit Code 01077)  
Medical Humanities is a broad field of study that focuses on the intersection between health care, health and illness, and the humanities and social sciences. Some of the disciplines included in the medical humanities are History, Anthropology, Ethics, Sociology, Health Policy and Aboriginal Health. Projects in this unit are usually theoretical, based on academic literature, or a study of non-academic written material, such as websites, newspapers and magazines.  

**Contact:** Dr. Ali Brookes  
**Email:** abroo@unimelb.edu.au  
**CHS Website:** http://www.chs.unimelb.edu.au  
**Unit Description – Faculty AMS Website**  

**Social Health**  
(Unit Code 01248)  
Social Health is the study of the experience of illness and health care from the perspective of both patients and health care providers. Projects involve primary data collection, such as interviews with patients or doctors about a specific issue, such as their reaction to their health condition, or the challenges they encounter in their work.  

**Contact:** Dr. Ali Brookes  
**Email:** abroo@unimelb.edu.au  
**CHS Website:** http://www.chs.unimelb.edu.au  
**Unit Description – Faculty AMS Website**  

**Complementary and Alternative Medicine**  
(Unit Code 01536)  
This unit provides students with the opportunity to conduct a research project related to Complementary and Alternative therapies, such as naturopathy, Chinese herbal medicine, acupuncture, and so on. The aim is not to scientifically investigate the effectiveness of alternative therapies, but rather to understand them as a medical system in a social context.  

**Contact:** Dr. Ali Brookes  
**Email:** abroo@unimelb.edu.au  
**CHS Website:** http://www.chs.unimelb.edu.au  
**Unit Description – Faculty AMS Website**  
Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society

Public health perspectives in Women’s Health (Unit Code 01338)
The Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society recognises the importance of viewing women’s health and wellbeing within the broader social, cultural and economic contexts of their lives. Women's health is not limited to reproductive and sexual health but encompasses health and illness, broadly understood, across the lifespan. Public health aspects of women’s health incorporate the determinants of health and wellbeing, illness and disease; the prevention, appropriate diagnosis and management of ill health; and the promotion of physical and mental wellbeing in women.
This unit provides an understanding of the multiple determinants of women’s health and the skills to evaluate health policy, programs and clinical practice in women’s health.

Contact: Dr Heather Rowe
Email: h.rowe@unimelb.edu.au

SPH AMS Unit Homepage: http://www.sph.unimelb.edu.au/undergrad/ams/prospective/unithomepages/kcwhs.html
KCWHS Website: http://www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au/
Unit Description – Faculty AMS Website http://www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/ams/units/descriptions/01338.html

Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic (MEGA) Epidemiology

Clinical Epidemiology of Rheumatic and Immunologic Disorders (Unit Code 00069)
This unit offers the opportunity for students to participate in the clinical research activities of the Department of Rheumatology, Austin Health in conjunction with the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit. Major interests of the department include ankylosing spondylitis, rheumatoid arthritis and connective tissue disorders. Basic training in clinical research methods through coursework in epidemiology and biostatistics will be provided. You will then be able to apply these tools by undertaking a fully mentored research project

Contact: Dr Melanie Matheson
Email: mcmat@unimelb.edu.au

MEGA Website http://www.epi.unimelb.edu.au/
Unit Description – Faculty AMS Website http://www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/ams/units/descriptions/00069.html

Sexual Health Unit

Sexual Health (Unit Code 01004)
This unit provides students with experience in the clinical or public health aspects of sexual health research. Students are invited to engage in existing programs or develop their own unique ideas. They may include the effectiveness of community outreach programs into brothels, non-English speaking sex workers, street sex workers, or sex on premise venues or "beats" for men who have sex with men. They may involve programs to remote indigenous communities or clinic based programs dealing with issues about access and equity to services. The work may involve HIV prevention programs, clinical services and trials with individuals with HIV. A number of community prevalences are planned and as is work involving the effectiveness of different types of partner notification.

Contact: Prof Christopher Fairley
Email: c.fairley@unimelb.edu.au

SHU (Melbourne Sexual Health Centre) http://www.mshc.org.au/professional/content_prof.cfm?categoryld=101&topicid=112Unit
Unit Description – Faculty AMS Website http://www.medicine.unimelb.edu.au/ams/units/descriptions/01004.html
A short note from Dr Ali Brookes  
School of Population Health’s AMS Academic Coordinator

The various AMS units in the School of Population Health offer a wide range of options for research topics, and different mixes of research and coursework. Doing an AMS unit in the School of Population Health (SPH) offers you a lot of support and access to facilities. It is worthwhile thinking about these things, because they can make a very big difference to your experience in AMS. There is a dedicated AMS administrator (Anita Lucas) and an AMS co-ordinator (me) to help you navigate through the year. We have specific responsibility for AMS students – you will not get lost in the system. You will have individual supervision meetings with experienced supervisors, who are familiar with the AMS program.

There is an organised AMS program of academic support and social events, including work-in-progress presentations and the final conference. AMS students have access to facilities in the unit or dept where they are located (all within the Parkville/Carlton university precinct). In any year, there are 20 to 40 AMS students in different units across the school. In SPH, you can work independently on an interesting project, and be socially connected as well. Past AMS students in SPH units have been very successful. Many have obtained H1 results; some have presented their work at academic conferences, or published in international journals.

Introducing Anita Lucas  
School of Population Health’s AMS Administrator

If you decide to enrol in one of the wide range of AMS units offered within the School of Population Health, I will be available to provide you with support to make sure that you not only survive the year, but it is an enjoyable experience from which you will benefit in the future.

Throughout the year, I will circulate regular email bulletins keeping you up to date and on track. These bulletins will also inform you of social events and activities of interest within the School and University. You will have the opportunity to share your experience with other students and academic staff, or post your own social items. Past students will provide tips on how they got the most out of their year.

The type of skills you will draw on to complete the AMS year will be different to those you have relied upon in the medical course so far. I will be able to put you in touch with additional support programs across the University, to ensure you have a successful year.

ams-sph@unimelb.edu.au