Contents

School of Population Health Summary Report .................................................. 1
Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology ................................................................. 25
Centre for Health and Society ........................................................................... 31
Key Centre for Women's Health in Society ......................................................... 35
Program Evaluation Unit .................................................................................. 43
Centre for International Mental Health ............................................................ 57
Sexual Health Unit ............................................................................................ 61
Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre ............................................................ 65
Vaccine and Immunisation Research Group ..................................................... 69
2005 Publications Report .................................................................................. 71
HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

2005 was a year of challenges and achievements for the School. We were active participants in the University’s strategic consultation process that resulted in “Growing Esteem”, a document that outlines the University’s future goals. Three equal priority areas of activity were outlined – research, learning and teaching and knowledge transfer that will assist in defining priorities beyond 2005 for the School of Population Health.

This report is about achievements in 2005 and demonstrates our capacity to meet the challenges both internally and externally.

Interviews for three very important Chairs for the School were held during the year. The Chairs are:

• The Chair in Epidemiology and Biostatistics.
• The Chair in Health Promotion and Director of the McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing. Their appointments commenced in 2006.
• The Chair in Social Research in Alcohol.

The amalgamation of the Centre of Genetic Epidemiology and the Epidemiology and Biostatistics unit to the Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic (MEGA) Epidemiology was achieved during 2005 under the direction of Professor John Hopper. In addition there is opportunity to create another Centre from the Program Evaluation Unit which would focus on the evaluation and economics of population health systems, services and policies.

Sadly, Professor Jeremy Neil Anderson, MSc, MD, FRANZCP, was diagnosed with colon cancer in May 2004, less than a year after starting a new job. He continued academic and clinical work until November 2004. He died five days after his 52nd birthday.

Jeremy was appointed Foundation Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Melbourne in mid-2003. His vision was to create a program of epidemiology teaching and research skills that would be internationally recognized, particularly in the areas of implementation of research in clinical settings, consumer participation in health, and the influence of the information revolution. He is missed by all of us.

At the end of 2005 Federation Fellow Professor Lenore Manderson and her team of Dr Milica Markovic, Dr Roseanne Misajon, Dr Bhensari (Poy) Naemiratch, Narelle Warren and Kathleen Nolan all moved to Monash University where Professor Manderson took up a professorial appointment with the Department of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine. We wish them well.

Our contribution to knowledge through our research activities continues to be recognised nationally and internationally. We received many new research awards that are listed later in this report. These again attest to the breadth and depth of quality research in the School. A Research Grant Development Framework was introduced during 2005 to help all our staff improve the quality and competitiveness of their grant proposals. This operates at the Centre and Unit level and is overseen by the School Research Committee.

The School’s major collaborations continue with the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute through our Vaccine and Immunisation Research Group, with the Centre for International Child Health, and with The Australian International Health Institute. Through the Victorian PHERP Consortium, we collaborate with Deakin, La Trobe and Monash Universities to deliver the Master of Public Health Program. Following a major review by the Australian Government, this funding has been renewed for a further five years. The School receives generous support for several core activities and educational and research programs from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging, from the National Medical and Health Research Council, from the Victorian Department of Human Services, and from the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.

During 2006 we will continue to implement initiatives to become the leading School of Population Health in the region and one of the best in the world by:

• Developing strategies to improve research quality and impact.
• Attracting more PhD enrolments and postgraduate coursework enrolments.
• Developing the coursework programs to enhance the student experience with the University and the community both nationally and internationally.
• Building additional links with the community, government and industry.

We hope you will find this report on the activities of the School in 2005 and the profile of its staff of interest.

- Professor Terry Nolan

Highlights of 2005

Review of the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society

In June, a team of five senior academics, from both within and outside the university, spent two days interviewing staff and students and measuring the performance of the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society (KCWHS) in relation to its stated aims and objectives. It was an outstanding result for Professor Doreen Rosenthal and the staff of the KCWHS as it was the view of the review team that the Centre will continue as a leader in education and research in women’s health nationally as well as in the Asia Pacific region. The Centre held a
planning day late in 2005 to address recommendations of the Review and to consider strategic directions for research and teaching in 2006.

Staff Promotions/Appointments

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 Marilys Guillemin (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. In addition Peter has been appointed Chair of the NHMRC's Health Advisory Committee.

Professor Janet McCalman (Centre for Health and Society) has been elected to the Academy of Social Sciences.

The School of Population Health’s Head, Professor Terry Nolan, is driven by a passion and commitment for achieving real health outcomes in the community through primary prevention of disease and injury, and the promotion of health and wellbeing.

The School’s Foundation Professor, Professor Nolan’s career reflects the professional and personal involvements that he has found most rewarding: working with children and immunisation were key elements. “After finishing my medical training, I was attracted to the opportunity to prevent illness and treat children at a young age who were suffering from conditions that could lead to either lifelong disability or complete loss of life.

“And the immunisation work was because vaccines are the most powerful and cost-effective way to give protection from very significant life-threatening illnesses.”

A paediatrician whose research interests were epidemiology and biostatistics, Professor Nolan is also head of the Vaccine and Immunisation Research Group, which is a joint initiative of the University of Melbourne and the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, located within the School of Population Health.

From children’s public health, the chance to head the new School of Population Health in 2001 was a logical next step.

“The School offered the opportunity to broaden these public health efforts,” he says. “Within one of the world’s leading medical faculties, we’re drawing together superb biomedical and social science expertise, in a form that is multi-disciplinary, collaborative and harmonising. That’s what the School is about.”

School of Population Health Management and Governance

Accountability for the implementation of the strategic and operational plans incorporated with the School’s management and governance framework and reinforced through the performance development framework.

School of Population Health Principal Committees

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<td>Dr Lynette Gillam</td>
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The School Staff Profile

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3
Enrolments 2001 – 2005
From second semester 2005 there were 300 continuing students within the SPH postgraduate coursework programs. There have been substantial reviews within the postgraduate teaching programs that have taken place in 2004-5 and a number of these changes will come into effect in 2006. Briefly the changes are:

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<td>PGCertPubHlth(SexHlth)</td>
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Note that shaded cells represent programs that are no longer offered.
Postgraduate Certificate in Public Health (Sexual Health)

Dr Hennie Williams joined the School in 2005 and we welcomed 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) will be re-established for the 2006 teaching program.

Master of Epidemiology

With the closure of the Postgraduate Diploma in Epidemiology the Master of Epidemiology has been completely revised and no longer requires the Postgraduate Diploma for entry into the program. The new Master of Epidemiology incorporates a combination of core methods subjects and coursework or research project options for specialization. The degree is offered as a one year full time or two years part-time, and is open to local and international medical graduates, and graduates with a relevant honours degree, postgraduate diploma in Epidemiology, or two or more years of full-time equivalent work experience.

The epidemiology teaching revision developments include the creation of core epidemiology and analytic methods subjects for the Master of Epidemiology that also form the heart of the Master of Public Health (Sexual Health) and PhD. A specialist Biostatistics program (with a strong mathematical foundation) is offered in conjunction with the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia for those seeking professional training in biostatistics.

New Subjects in Epidemiology

These cover theory and practice of epidemiology, including its biostatistical underpinnings, have been developed for the core of our PhD, DrPH, MEpi and MPH programs, providing students with the essential theory and practical skills needed in quantitative epidemiology practice and research. These subjects are now delivered in intensive mode over half a semester or as 5 day blocks. These units include:
- Epidemiology & Analytic Methods I
- Epidemiology & Analytic Methods II
- Study Design in Epidemiology
- Linear & Logistic Regression
- Survival Analysis & Regression for Rates
- Epidemiology in Practice
- Specialty Subjects in Epidemiology
- Genetic Epidemiology (classroom or distance)
- Molecular Epidemiology
- Infectious Disease Epidemiology
- Infectious Disease Epidemiology – special topics
- Database Systems in Epidemiology

Social Health Degrees

The Social Health postgraduate programs underwent major review in 2004, and the changes streams and subject offerings are 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.

Health Program Evaluation

The School no longer offers the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Services Research and Evaluation but has added a Health Program Evaluation stream to our offerings in the Master of Public Health. The new subjects include using Evaluation in Program Design and Environmental Health Service Evaluation.

SPH Teaching and Learning Excellence Awards

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, AIHW; Early Career Special Commendation) gave presentations on their innovative approaches at the School Awards Seminar. Last year’s Open Category in our Teaching and Learning Excellence Award was made to Lynn Gillam and Marily 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.

STUDENT SERVICES

New Graduates

The end of 2005 marks the course completion for many graduates across SPH postgraduate teaching programs, and we were very pleased to see the number of students graduating with outstanding academic records. A course completion questionnaire has been introduced and will be sent to all our new graduands along with a letter from the School congratulating them on the successful completion of their degree. We already have an intensive student evaluation program at the subject level, but this survey is designed to tell the School more about how our graduates view the entire course, what attracted them into the program in the first place, whether the program lived up to expectations, what worked, and what could work better. We are also very interested in how the course has and/or will shape our graduates professional development and career opportunities. As with all our evaluations, we take these very seriously and look forward to continuing to evolve and strengthen our programs with the benefit of this additional student input.
SPH Alumni

We are also inviting our new graduates to keep in touch with us via an alumnus email address sph-alumni@unimelb.edu.au so that we can begin to grow an active network of graduates. We also invite past students to contact us at this email address with their current contact details so that we can add these to our alumnus list.

Undergraduate News

The School of Population Health has extensive involvement in the undergraduate medical curriculum. This has been a particularly exciting and challenging year in that we completed the roll out for the revised Health Practice subject. The aim in revising the subject was to make it more clinically relevant and better aligned with the rest of the curriculum. Evaluations indicate we have achieved our aim. We have also identified some great ideas on how to improve this. This revision has required an enormous amount of work and dedication from:

• Katie Dumas (HP 1-5 Administration) for all her hard work, initiative and keeping us on track.

• Heather Rowe (HP 3 co-ordination) – despite being new to this, Heather has risen to the challenge with great dedication and enthusiasm.

• John Waller (HP 2 co-ordination) – for his willingness to start the semester from scratch with a terrific outcome.

• Peter Greenberg (EBP co-ordination and teaching in HP 2 and HP 3) – we are grateful to Peter for his expertise and enthusiasm in taking up the Evidence Based Practice co-ordination on short notice, following the excellent lead of Jeremy Anderson.

Advanced Medical Science

There have been a wide range of options from the various coursework and research units on offer from SPH. Dr Lyn Gillam (AMS coordinator) and Anita Lucas (AMS Administrator) have organised a program of academic support and social events, including work in progress presentations and the final conference that involves all students. Students have been very successful with many obtaining H1 results; some presenting their work at academic conferences or published in academic journals.

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Quality of Teaching and Learning

SPH has continued to maintain excellent teaching evaluations in 2005. The evaluation focussed on three main areas as shown below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Enrolments</th>
<th>Forms returned</th>
<th>Mean</th>
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<th>Agree</th>
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<th>Disagree</th>
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<tr>
<td>Question 2: “This subject was well taught”</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>4.45</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>92.7</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>5.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Question 7: There was effective use of computer-based teaching materials in this subject.</td>
<td>651</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>3.94</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>69.7</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>23.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Question 9 : Overall, I was satisfied with the quality of the learning experience in the subject</td>
<td>753</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>4.37</td>
<td>0.56</td>
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<td>2.1</td>
<td>6.7</td>
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SPH Research Excellence Awards

The School Research Award in the Open Category was presented to A/Prof Rob Carter (Program Evaluation Unit) Assessing Cost Effectiveness (ACE) in Prevention and a Special Commendation was made to the Project i Team led by Doreen Rosenthal and Shelley Mallet (Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society). An Early Career Category, Special Commendation was made to Tessa Keegel (CHS).

ausMHLP (Australian Mental Health Leadership Program)

In July 2005 the School hosted the first seminar of a new professional development program for Australian Psychiatrists – the Australian Mental Health Leadership Program.

Supported by Eli Lily Australia, the ausMHLP is run by the Centre for International Mental Health in partnership with 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.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>G4 - Major Reports</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G5 - Minor Reports/Working Papers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G5 - Minor Reports/Working Papers</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M5 - Computer Software Products</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q10 - Awards (Prizes, Medals etc)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q8 - Research in Progress (RIP)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q9 - Substantial Grants Received</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R11 - Thesis Passed for Higher Degrees</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R12 - Thesis in Progress for Higher Degrees</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>259</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Research Training – PhD Completions – 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>THESIS TITLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Shelley Louise Beer</td>
<td>Chinese herbal medicine and the hot flush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Suzanne Belton</td>
<td>Borders of fertility: unwanted pregnancy and fertility management by Burmese women in Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Helen Suzanne Cox</td>
<td>Tuberculosis treatment and control in Uzbekistan: DOTS and drug resistance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Clare Maree Delany</td>
<td>Informed consent: ethical theory, legal obligations and the physiotherapy clinical encounter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Elizabeth Anne Donohue</td>
<td>Postnatal debriefing did not improve health outcomes after operative birth: an investigation of possible explanatory factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Bella Ellwood-Clayton</td>
<td>When the land breeze and sea breeze were married: young women’s lived sexualities in Kalibo, the Central Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Atika Farooqui</td>
<td>Tobacco use during pregnancy and perinatal health in rural Kanataka, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Giuliana Fausta Fuscaldo</td>
<td>Genetic ties: are they morally binding?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Penelope Johnson</td>
<td>Theoretical diasporas: a multicultural clinic and the experience of tuberculosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Sokrin Khun</td>
<td>Community participation in the prevention and control of dengue fever in Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Johana Rosalina Kristyanti</td>
<td>Understanding the dynamics of violence and exploring the potential application of logotherapy for women survivors of domestic violence in Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Robert Jeffrey MacInnis</td>
<td>A prospective study of body size and composition and the risk of cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Rosemary Helen Mann</td>
<td>Look wide - Searching for health in the borderlands: Experiences of disease prevention and health promotion in a Central Australian indigenous settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Renee Louise Manser</td>
<td>Screening for lung cancer with spiral CT: Costs, harms and expected health gains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Susan Mary Peake</td>
<td>Changing the subject: a sociology of the enacting self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Margaret Patricia Staples</td>
<td>A population-based family study of prostate cancer in an era of prostate-specific antigen testing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Anonh Xeuavongsang</td>
<td>Public ignorance, silent killer: An ethnographic study of tuberculosis control in the Lao People's Democratic Republic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Research Grants

**SCHOOL OF POPULATION HEALTH RESEARCH INCOME 2005 (UNAUDITED)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Competitive Grants - Non-Commonwealth Schemes</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>$20,837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Donations, Bequests and Foundations</td>
<td>$104,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other - Local Gov: $20,837; Aust Donations &amp; Bequests: $104,009</td>
<td>$124,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Competitive Grants - Commonwealth Schemes</td>
<td>$3,766,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>$1,901,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Government (other)</td>
<td>$3,127,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Contracts</td>
<td>$1,066,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Grants</td>
<td>$563,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Funding</td>
<td>$2,544,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,094,098</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health risk screening of adolescents in primary care: a cluster randomised controlled trial</td>
<td>AHMC Priority Driven Research Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Risk screening and counselling of adolescents in Primary Care: A cluster randomised Controlled Trial</td>
<td>Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing modernity: capitalism, globalisation and governance in Melanesia</td>
<td>Discovery Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazard identification, risk assessment and decision analysis for conservation and management of Australian marine parks</td>
<td>Linkage Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and citizenship: democracy in the age of science-mediated risk</td>
<td>Linkage Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From colonisation to conciliation: A collaborative examination of social work practice with Indigenous populations</td>
<td>Linkage Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Paediatric Cancer Family Study</td>
<td>Grant in Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular epidemiology of ovarian cancer: the Australian ovarian cancer study - clinical follow-up core</td>
<td>Grant in Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the continuing effectiveness of the United Kingdom’s Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib) National Immunisation Programme</td>
<td>Australian Part-time Research Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The risk of breast cancer: translating ‘expert’ knowledge into everyday decision-making</td>
<td>Australian Part-time Research Fellowship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin Wise: A work place intervention to reduce occupational contact dermatitis in hairdressers</td>
<td>Dora Lush Biomedical Postgraduate Scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A RCT in General Practices of a computer alert to prompt GPs to discuss Chlamydia testing with women aged 16-24 years</td>
<td>Project Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology of genital Chlamydia infection in Victoria</td>
<td>Public Health Fellowship (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic epidemiology of chronic respiratory diseases</td>
<td>Public Health Fellowship (Australia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC Short Term Exchange/Study Funding Scheme</td>
<td>Short Term Exchange/Study Funding Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate means for providing STI screening results to clients attending Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, a randomised control trial</td>
<td>Novartis Scholarship for Sexual Health Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless, young, pregnant and parenting women project</td>
<td>Community Development Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using haplotypes to detect rare high-risk genetic mutations</td>
<td>Melbourne Early Career Researcher Grants Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microbial exposure and fungi in the home environment and asthma severity in children</td>
<td>U of Melb Collaborative Research Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genetic epidemiology of chronic respiratory diseases</td>
<td>Grant Preparation Support Scheme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using the internet to enhance Chlamydia partner notification for General Practitioners in Victoria</td>
<td>Victorian Department of Human Services Public Health Research Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Grants Commencing 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Grantor</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Amount Awarded 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improving local areas to increase physical activity and healthy food choices</td>
<td>Victorian Department of Human Services Public Health Research Projects</td>
<td>Victorian Department of Human Services</td>
<td>Anne Kavanagh</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$79,959.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing chlamydia screening: attitudes of General Practitioners and young women</td>
<td>Victorian Department of Human Services Public Health Research Projects</td>
<td>Victorian Department of Human Services</td>
<td>Christopher Fairley, Jane Hocking</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$68,480.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian women’s childbearing decisions: the role of gender beliefs, psychosocial and health factors</td>
<td>Public Health PhD Research Scholarships</td>
<td>Victorian Health Promotion Foundation</td>
<td>Jane Rosamond W Fisher, Sara Holton</td>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>$20,837.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intervening early: young people, families and community</td>
<td>Senior/Public Health Research Fellowships</td>
<td>Victorian Health Promotion Foundation</td>
<td>Shelley Mallett</td>
<td>2005-2009</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Australian Health Inequities Program - a program addressing social and economic determinants of health (AHIP)</td>
<td>The Australian Health Inequities Program</td>
<td>Victorian Health Promotion Foundation</td>
<td>Anne Marie Kavanagh</td>
<td>2005-2009</td>
<td>$15,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aging in Indonesia III</td>
<td>Health Consequences of Population Change Programme</td>
<td>Wellcome Trust</td>
<td>Marilys Guillemin</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>$43,215.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$1,621,443.50</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**School of Population Health Seminar Series 2005**

The School seminar series was well received throughout 2005 with increasing attendance levels. It provided opportunities for staff and visitors to showcase their research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title/General topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>Professor Terry Nolan, Head, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Preventing cervical cancer with a human papilloma virus vaccine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Professor Rob Moodie, Chief Executive Officer, VicHealth</td>
<td>The politics, economics, commerce and culture of public health: why we need a “newer” public health?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Dr Alex Cohen, Assistant Professor, Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School</td>
<td>Social inequalities in suicidality and response to antidepressant treatment in older adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 16</td>
<td>Professor Andy Dawson, School of Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Embodied disembodiment: community and physiological ageing amongst the post-industrial working class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>Professor Terry Dwyer, Director, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Melbourne</td>
<td>The search for preventable causes of sudden infant death syndrome and multiple sclerosis during epidemiological research in Tasmania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>A/Professor Anne Kavanagh, Key Centre for Women’s Health, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Does where you live affect what you do? Insights from the Victorian Lifestyle and Neighbourhood Environments Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Professor Paul Dieppe, Director of Medical Research Council, Health Services Research Collaboration, University of Bristol</td>
<td>Can any of our research make any difference to anything?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>A/Professor Rob Carter, Deputy Director, Program Evaluation Unit, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>GODS Analysis of Priority Setting in Health Care (Goals, Obstacles, Deficiencies, Solutions) - What help from the Dismal Science?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>Professor Ross Bailie, NHMRC Senior Research Fellow, Menzies School of Health Research</td>
<td>Improving Primary Care Services for the Prevention and Management of Chronic Illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>A/Professor Dallas English, Associate Director, Cancer Epidemiology Centre, The Cancer Council Victoria</td>
<td>Diet and Cancer: have we learned anything at all?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Title/General topic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>Professor David Fox, Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Environmetrics - Beyond the p-value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22</td>
<td>Professor Sandy Gifford, Director, Refugee Health Research Centre, La Trobe University</td>
<td>When worlds collide: applying ethno-epidemiology in researching the social determinants of refugee well-being and settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Dr Margaret Kelaher, Senior Research Fellow, Program Evaluation Unit, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Supply of PBS medicines to remote area Aboriginal communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Professor Melanie Wakefield, Director, Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer, The Cancer Council, Victoria</td>
<td>Media influences on smoking behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>A/Professor John Fitzgerald, Principal Research Fellow, Centre for Health &amp; Society, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>More than just evidence: public health policy makers speak on the development of Australian needle and syringe policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>Dr Rob Hall, Director, Public Health, Chief Health Officer, Department of Human Services</td>
<td>New Directions in Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>Professor Steve Harrap, Head, Department of Physiology, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Genetics - The Devil is in the Details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>Professor Anthony Scott, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Incentives in medical careers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>Dr Shyamali Dharmage, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Chronic respiratory diseases in middle age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 14</td>
<td>Dr Mark Jenkins, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>The Colorectal Cancer Family Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## School of Population Health Seminar Series 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title/General topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 28</td>
<td>Dr John Waller, Lecturer in the History of Science &amp; Medicine, Centre for Health and Society, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Myth in the Time of Cholera: John Snow’s removing of the pump handle and other legends in the history of medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Professor Hugh Taylor, Head, Department of Opthalmology, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Impact of Vision Loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td></td>
<td>SPH teaching and research awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>Dr Jane Freemantle, Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, University of Western Australia</td>
<td>Let the data speak! Stories from the Maternal and Child Health Research Database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 26</td>
<td>Dr Dorota Gertig, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>The molecular revolution and epidemiology: promises and pitfalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 9</td>
<td>Dr Therese Riley, VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Social Wellbeing, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Looking Inside a Community Based Intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>Professor Judith Lumley, Director, Mother and Child Health Research, Latrobe University</td>
<td>Preterm birth in 1st births: the contribution of prior spontaneous and induced abortion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## A Fair and Healthy Future: The Right to Health in Australia

A series of four public seminars were arranged to bring together experts in health and human rights to critically examine pressing health issues in Australia and their human rights dimensions. The series was supported by the SPH, University of Melbourne Law School’s Human Rights Program and VicHealth. It was attended by legal professionals, policy makers, academic staff, students, health consumers and interested members of the public. The first two seminars were:

- **Advertising Health Inequalities: the Victorian Governments Response**
  - Chair: Fran Baum, Professor and Head, Department of Public Health Flinders University
  - Speakers: Bebe Loff, John Thwaites and Haydn Rasmith.

- **Violence Against Women: a Health and Human Rights Issue**
  - Chair: Jenny Morgan
  - Speakers: Dianne Otto, Rob Moodie, Christine Nixon, Andrew Demetriou.

Another two seminars are scheduled for 2006: Indigenous Australian’s Right to Health and The Mental Health of Refugees and Asylum Seekers.
Staff
School of Population Health
Head of School and Associate Dean and Professor
Terence Michael Nolan, MB BS W.Aust. PhD McG. FRACP FAFPHM
Deputy Head of School and Professor
Ian Philip Anderson, MB BS Melb. MA LaTrobe
Professional Staff
School Manager
Leanne Taylor, BSc Deakin BHA NSW PGDipDietetics Deakin AFACHSE CHE
IT Manager
Nick Golovachenko
Academic Programs Manager
Elizabeth Lagias
Finance and Resources Officer
Fiona Kostidis
PA to Head of School
Nora Li
Public Health
Head of Department and Professor
Terence Michael Nolan, BMedSc MB BS W.Aust. PhD McG. FRACP FAFPHM
Deputy Head of Department and Professor
Ian Philip Anderson, MB BS Melb. MA LaTrobe

Professors
Dallas English, BSc Melb. MS Wash. PhD Wash. Christopher Kincaid Fairley, MB BS Melb. PhD Monash FRACP FAFPHM FAcSHM Helen Edith Herrman, BMedSc MB BS Monash, MD Melb. FFPHUK FRANZCP FAFPHM
*Janet Susan McCulman, BA Melb. PhD ANU FAHA Robin Room, BA Princeton MA(English) MA(Sociology) PhD Berkeley (Chair of Social Research in Alcohol)
John Richard Wiseman, BA Melb. BSW Melb. PhD LaTrobe (from 2006)

Professorial Fellows
*John Brooke Carlin, BSc W.Aust. PhD Harv. John Hopper, BA Melb. BSc Monash MSc Monash PhD LaTrobe (National Health and Medical Research Council Senior Principal Research Fellow)

Associate Professors
Robert Carter, BA Macq. MAdmSt ANU PhD Monash GDipEpi&PopH ANU David Dunt, MB BS Melb. MAPrelim LaTrobe PhD Monash FFPHM
Jane Rosamond Fisher, BSc Qld. PhD Melb. *Donita Gertig, MB BS Monash MSc(ClinEpi) UBC ScD(Epi) Harv. FAFPHM

Anne Kavanagh, MB BS Flinders PhD ANU FAFPHM Steven Klimidis, BSc Monash PhD ANU Harry Minas, MB BS Melb. BMedSc Melb. DPM FRANZCP Jane Pirkis, BA Tas. MPsych Tas. MAppEpi ANU PhD Melb.

Senior Lecturers
Catherine Marie Bennett, BSc LaTrobe MAppEpi ANU PhD LaTrobe
Lans Casimiro-Querubin, BA Ateno de Manila MD Philippines FPPA
*Steven Crowley, BAppSc Curtin MSc York MBA Monash GDipDietit Deakin Lynn Gilliam, BA Melb. MA Oxf. PhD Monash
*Julie Simpson, BSc Melb. PhD Open Uni UK PGDip(MathStat) Cambridge UK
*Henrietta Williams, MB BS Lond. MPH Monash DRCOGUK DOH MRCGP MFFP DipGUM FRCGP

Joint Senior Lecturer With Asia Institute
Andrea Whittaker, BA Qld. PhD Qld. (on transfer to 2008)

Lecturers
Lisa Amir, MB BS Monash MMed Melb. PhD LaTrobe IBCLC (on leave to 2008)
Alison Brookes, BA Deakin PhD Deakin Angela Clarke, BA VUT MPHillith Deakin
*Jennifer Anne Livingston, BSc Melb. MEd Melb. DipEd Melb. Heather Rowe, BA LaTrobe PhD Melb.
*John Waller, BA Oxf. MSc Oxf. PhD Lond. (to 30 June 2006)

Senior Tutor
Ann Brothers, BA Melb.

Principal Research Fellows

Senior Research Fellows
Elizabeth Sutherland Bennett, MTrOpHlth Qld. PhD Melb. *Grant Blashki, MB BS Monash MD Monash FRACGP RACGP *Andrew Dalton, BEd Monash MEc Monash DipEd Monash GDipHEcEval Monash Shaymal Dharmage, MB BS Colombo MSc Colombo MD Colombo PhD Monash Yuan Gao, BSc China PhD Monash (to 30 April 2006)
Margaret Kelaer, BSc(Psyche) NSW PhD NSW Jodie McVernon, MB BS Monash BMedSc Monash PhD
*Catherine Mihalopoulos, BBSc LaTrobe, GDipEpid Eval Monash, PhD Monash
Priscilla Pyett, BA Monash, PhD Deakin
Kevin Rowley, BApp Sci RMIT, PhD Melb, GDip Epid Melb.

**Research Fellows**
Carmel Apicella, BSc Monash, MSc Melb, GDip Epid Bio Melb, PhD Melb.
*Rebecca Bentley, BBSc LaTrobe

Graham Byrnes, BSc Syd, PhD Syd, PGDip(AppStats) Melb.
Marcus Chen, MB BS Melb, PhD Syd, DipVen Monash
RMCP UK FACHSM FRACGP DTM&H Lond.
*Stephen Colgan, BNurs Deakin

Claire Constantine, BSc WAust, PhD WAust, GDip(CompSci) Murd.
Kylie Cripps, BA SAust, PhD Monash
Gillian Dite, BSc Melb, PhD Melb, GDip Epid Biostat Melb.
James Dowty, BSc Melb, PhD Melb.
*Bircan Erbas, BSc Melb, MSc Melb, PhD Melb.

*Peter Feldman, BA Tas.

Kate Rawson Johnston, BA Melb, BComm Melb.
BAsianStudies ANU MPubPol GRIPS Tokyo
*Louise Keogh, BSc WAust.

MA Monash PhD LaTrobe
*Deborah Keys, BA Deakin PhD LaTrobe

Tania King, BA Melb, BSc Melb, (on maternity leave to 30 June 2006)

Maggie Kirkman, BA Melb, PhD LaTrobe
*Fay Kohn, MA Deakin DEd

Medit Pty Deakin GDipTESOL Deakin
Melanie Matheson, BSc
Monash MAppSc RMIT PhD
Monash
James Matthew McCaw, BSc Melb, PhD Melb.
*Rosemary McKenzie,

BA Monash MPH Curtin
PGDipEpid Prom Curtin
Tania Nadalina Mletic,

BA Melb, PGrad Psych Melb.
MCertificatestudies ICU Tokyo
MPubAdmin ICU Tokyo
Johanna Monk, BA Melb, MA Monash
Majorie Moodie, BA Monash
*Belinda Morley, BA Monash

*Lucio Naccarella, BSc Adel.

GDipMH(Transcult) Melb.
Nicholas Osborne, BSc Adel.
BSc Flinders MagSc Qld, PhD Qld.

*Michael Otim, BSc Makerere

Uni, Uganda MECOn
Monash GDipEc Newcastle
PGDipHlthEcol&Eval Monash
Gregory Phillips, BA Qld.
MMedSc Qld.
Therese Riley, BSocSci RMIT

MA RMIT PhD RMIT
*Ting Fang Shih, BS CMC

Taiwan MPH Tulane USA DrPH Melb.
Paul Stewart, GDipIndigSt Syd.
*Theonie Tacticos, BBus

Monash GDipCommDev RMIT

*Kui-siang Tay-Teo, BPharm

Monash MPH(HlthEco) Melb.
David Thomas, BM BS Syd.
MMedSci Newcastle PhD NTU

Lyndal Thomas, BSc Monash
*Michelle Williamson, BHlthSc

LaTrobe

**NHMRC Postdoctoral Research Fellows**
Jane Simone Hocking, BAppSci(MLS) RMIT MPH Melb.
MHSc(PHP) LaTrobe PhD Melb.
Michelle Kermode, BA Macq.
MNS LaTrobe MPH Melb.
Maggie Kirkman, BA Melb, PhD LaTrobe

Cathy Segal, BA Melb, PhD LaTrobe

R. Douglas Wright Research Fellow
Deborah Warr, BA Deakin MA Monash PhD Monash

**VicHealth Public Health Research Fellow**
Shelley Mallett, BAppSc LaTrobe BA LaTrobe PhD LaTrobe

**Research Officers**
Christopher Thomas McCaw, BA Melb, BSc Melb.
Cathryn Whaton, BAppSc Deakin

**Research Assistants**
Melanie Adams, BAppSci Deakin
Paul Chang, BSc Auck, MSc Auck.
PMDipSci Auck.
*Claudine Chionh, BA Melb.

*Jennifer Foord

*Alan Headey, BA Qld.

Lucinda Johnson, BComm Melb.
BSc Melb: MPH Melb.
Lauren Matheson, BA Calif.
MHS Melb.
*Joan McPhee, BA Rutgers

MNutr&Diet Deakin
Alan Rob Moodie, MB BS Melb. MPH Harv. FAFPHM FRACGP
DRACOG DTM Paris FAIM
Robert Power, BSc Lond. PhD Lond. PGCE Lond.
Edward William Russell, BA Melb. BSc Lond. PhD Lond. MSc Lond. DipArchSt Lond. FAIM
Robert Scott, BA Northumbria MSc York PhD Aberdeen
Julian Savulescu, MB BS LaTrobe BMedSc LaTrobe PhD LaTrobe

Principal Fellows with the title Associate Professor
Donald Alexander Campbell, MBBS Monash MMedSc(Clin Epi) Newcastle MD Monash FRACP
Christopher John Clements, MB BS Lond. MSc Manchester DipChildHlth, RCP Lond. DipObst Auck. FAPPH MFPH
MCCM LRCP MRCS
Alex Cohen, BA NY MA NY PhD UCLALondon.
Joan Cunningham, BA Harv. PhD Harv.
Peter William Deutschmann, MB BS MPH FRACS
William Hart, MB BS Monash MBScPrelim GDipCH LaTrobe
Fumi Horiguchi, BMED
TokyoWmMed-College PhD Keio
Damien John Jolley, BSc Melb. MSc Lond. MSc LaTrobe DipEd SCVic.

Heath Kelly, BSc MB BS W.Aust. MPH W.Aust. FAFPHM
Vikram Patel, MB BS Bom. MSc Ox. MRCPsych RCP (UK) PhD Lond.

Senior Fellows with the title Senior Lecturer
James Francis Patrick Black, MB BS Monash MCommH Lond. MSc Lond.
Liv. PhD Monash DTM&H Liv. FAFPHM
John Carnie, MB BS Melb. MMed Melb. MPH Harv. DipCH Ceylon DipCH Lond. MRCP(UK) FRACMA FAFPHM
John Condon, MB BS Monash MPH Harv. CertHlthEcon Monash PhD Charles Darwin Jisheng Cui, BSc Shandong MMedBiostat Shanghai PhD LaTrobe
Louisa Flander, BA G.Wash. MA G.Wash. MA RMIT PhD Colorado
Wendy Holmes, MB BS Lond. MSc Lond.

Krishna Philip Hort, MB BS Syd. DRACOG Lond DTCM Liverpool
MCH NSW FAFPHM
James Kimberley Humphreys, BA MA MPhil Camb. PhD
Robin Hyndman, BSc PhD Rosemary Ann Lester, MB BS Melb. MPH Monash MS(Epid) UCLA FAFPHM
Duncan MacGregor, MB BS BMedSc PhD Melb.
Catherine Louise Mead, PSM MB BS Syd. DPH Syd. FRACMA FAFPHM

Michael Montalto, MB BS Melb. PhD Melb. DipRACOG Melb. FRACGP
Daniel Reidpath, BA Swinburne PhD W.Aust. DEdPsych
Monash
Mohammad Siahpush, BS Utah MS Utah MBiostats Melb. PhD Ohio
Julie Thacker, BSc W.Aust. PhD ANU GDipEd Curtin UCLES/ RSC XLFLA Lond. Susan Treloar, BScSydSyd. MSc Lond. MScW Aust PhD Qld.
Godfrey Woeil, BSc(Soc) MCommH PhD Wash.

Fellows with the title Lecturer
Karyn Alexander, MBChB Leicester MPH Monash
Laura Baglietto, BSc Italy MSc Italy PhD Birmingham UK
John Biviano, BAppSc RMIT
MBus RMIT GDipBus RMIT
Michelle Boglis, RN
Janet Briggs, BAppSc LaTrobe DipAppSc LaTrobe RN RM
Clare Teresa Brophy, RN

Elizabeth Dawson, BAppSci(Physio) Lincoln BEd
LaTrobe PGDipHlthResMethods LaTrobe MPH Monash
Richard Di Natale, MB BS Monash MPH LaTrobe MSc Lond.
LaTrobe FAFPHM FACRRM
Ashley Fletcher, BSc Monash M Epidemiol Melb. GDipEpiBio Melb.
Susan Foxman-Feldman, BA LaTrobe MA

Jane Freemantle, PhD W.Aust. Craig Lindsay Matthew Fry, BSc Monash
Jane Gibson
Elizabeth Hoban, BA Edith Cowan MTPH Lond Qld PhD Melb.
Sonja Hood, BA Melb. MSc Penn.
Cecily Hunter, BA Monash MSc Melb. PhD Melb.
Marita Kefferd, DipAppSc PhillipIT
Ruth Lawrence, RN
FRCA MFCN
Stephanie Lenko, GDipOHP LaTrobe RN RM
Tania Lewis, MB BS Otago BA
Canterbury MA Canterbury PhD Melb.
Betty Yar Lim, BNSW Deakin RN
Tamara Mackean, MB BS NSW MB BS W.Aust. MPH Adel.
Ethna Mary Macken, BA Swinburne DipAppSc PhillipIT RN
Milica Markovic, BSc Belgrade MSc Belgrade PhD Qld.
Brian McCoy, BA Melb. BTheol Melb. PhD Melb. GCert
CommMentalHlth Flinders
DipCrim Melb.
Elizabeth McGrath, BA Melb. Roger Laughlin Milne, BA Melb.
BSW Melb. BComm Melb.
GDipClinEpi Monash
Penny Mitchell, BSc Psych
NSW MPH Syd.
Alison Morgan, MB BS Syd. DRANZCOG DTM&H Liverpool

Michael Monteiro, PhD W.Aust. Craig Lindsay Matthew Fry, BSc Monash
Jane Gibson
Elizabeth Hoban, BA Edith Cowan MTPH Lond Qld PhD Melb.
Sonja Hood, BA Melb. MSc Penn.
Cecily Hunter, BA Monash MSc Melb. PhD Melb.
Marita Kefferd, DipAppSc PhillipIT
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FRCA MFCN
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Elizabeth McGrath, BA Melb. Roger Laughlin Milne, BA Melb.
BSW Melb. BComm Melb.
GDipClinEpi Monash
Penny Mitchell, BSc Psych
NSW MPH Syd.
Alison Morgan, MB BS Syd. DRANZCOG DTM&H Liverpool
Vanessa Wood, BAppSc
Nga LaTrobe GDip Mgmt VU
AdvSexualHealth Nurse
Tiam Yap BAppSc RMIT

Adjunct Staff

Professors
Sidney Bloch, MB ChB
CapeTown PhD ECFMG
DipPsyMed
Sioban Nelson, BA LaTrobe
PhD Griff.
Loane Skene, LLM Monash LLB
Barrister & Solicitor Victoria

Senior Research Fellows
Jenny Lewis, BSc MEnvSc
GDip RecPling
GDipPubPol

Senior Lecturer
Tim Marjoribanks, PhD Harv.

Lecturer
Rosemary Robins, BA PhD NSW

Centre for Health and Society

Director and Professor
Ian Philip Anderson, MB BS Melb. MA LaTrobe

Professor
*Janet McCalman, BA PhD ANU FAHA

Associate Professor
Marlyss Guillemine, BAppSc
RMIT MEd Murd. PhD Melb. DipEd

Senior Lecturers
Lynn Gillam, BA Melb. MA Oxf.
PhD Monash
Martha Adele Macintyre, BA
PhD ANU CertSocAnth Camb.

Lecturers
Alison Brookes, BA Deakin PhD Deakin
Angela Clarke, BA VUT
MPublHlth Deakin
Shaun Ewen, BAppSc S.Aust.
*John Waller, BA Oxf. MSc Oxf.
PhD Lond. (to 30 June 2006)

Senior Tutor
Ann Brothers, BA Melb.

Principal Research Fellow
John Lawrence Fitzgerald, PhD
Monash PhD Melb.
Anthony LaMontagne, MSc
Harv. MEd Mass. PhD Harv.

Senior Research Fellows
Priscilla Pyett, BA Monash PhD Deakin
Kevin Rowley, BAppl Sci RMIT
PhD Melb. GDipEpid Melb.

Research Fellows
Kylie Cripps, BA S.Aust. PhD
Monash
Johanna Monk, BA Melb. MA
Monash
Gregory Phillips, BA Qld.
MMed Sc Qld.
Therese Riley, BSocSci RMIT
MA PhD RMIT
Paul Stewart, GDipIndigSt Syd.
David Thomas, MB BS Syd.
MMedSci Newcastle PhD NTU

R. Douglas Wright Research Fellow
Deborah Warr, BA Deakin MA
Monash PhD Monash

Honorary Appointments
Professorial Fellows
Warwick Hugh Anderson, MB BS BMedSc MA MD Melb. PhD
Penn.
Ross Ballie, MBChB
CapeTown MPhil CapeTown
MD(CommHlth) CapeTown
MRNZCGP FCCH(FA) FAFPHM
Alan Rob Moodie, MB BS Melb.
MPH Harv. FAFPHM FRACGP
DRACOG DTM Paris FAIM
Robert Power, BSc Lond. PhD Lond. PGCE Lond.

Principal Fellows with the title Associate Professor
Joan Cunningham, BA Harv.
MLibArts Harv. PhD Harv.
William Hart, MB BS Monash
MBScPrelim GDipCH LaTrobe

Senior Fellows with the title Senior Lecturer
John Condron, MB BS Monash
MPH Harv. CertHlthEcon
Monash PhD Charles Darwin
James Kimberley Humphrey, BA MA MPhil Camb. PhD
Duncan MacGregor, MB BS
BMedSci PhD Melb.
DipTropMedHyg Lond.

Fellows with the title Lecturer
Susan Foxman-Feldman, BA
LaTrobe MA
Jane Freemantle, PhD W.Aust.
Elizabeth Hoban, BA Edith
Cowan MTrOpHlth Qld PhD Melb.
Cecily Hunter, BA Monash MSc
Melb. PhD Melb.
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Canterbury MA Canterbury PhD Melb.
Tamara Mackean, MB BS NSW
MB BS W.Aust. MPH Adel.
Brian McCoy, BA Melb.
BTheol Melb. PhD Melb. GCert
CommMentalHlth Flinders
DipCrim Melb.
*Janet Townsend, BA LaTrobe
MA(AppSocRes) Monash
GDipWelfAdm Monash GDipEd
Deakin
Gael Trytell, BSc Monash BA
Swinburne
Christine Van Vliet, BSc NSW
MB BS NSW MPH Syd. DipEd
NSW

Honorary Appointments
Professorial Fellows
Ron Borland, BSc Monash MSc
Monash PhD Melb. MAPS
Graham Giles, BSc MSc Mich.
PhD Tas.
John Mathews, AM, BSc Melb.
MB BS Melb. MD Melb. PhD
Melb. Hon DSc NT FRACP
FRCPA FAFPHM

Senior Fellows
Louisa Flander, BA G.Wash.
MA G.Wash. MA RMIT PhD
Colorado
Mohammad Siahpush, BS Utah
MS Utah MBiostats Melb. PhD
Ohio
Susan Treloar, BSocStud Syd.
MSc Lond. MSw NSW PhD
Qld.

Fellows
Laura Baglietto, BSc Italy
MSc Italy PhD Birmingham UK
John Biviano, BAppSc RMIT
MBus RMIT GDipBus RMIT
Ashley Fletcher, BSc Monash
MEpi Melb. GDipEpiBio Melb.
Roger Laughlin Milne, BA Melb.
BSW Melb. BComm Melb.
GDipClinEpi Monash
Michaela Riddell, BAppSc RMIT
(from 1 May 2006)
Gianluca Severi, BSc Genoa
MSc Milan Italy PhD Milan Italy
PhD Birmingham UK

General Staff
Centre Manager
Maggie Lenaghan, BA
Monash BA(FineArt) Prahran
GDipFA VCA GDipBusAdmin
RMIT

Interviewer Coordinator
/Coordinator Of Family
Cancer Studies
Judith Maskieli, BAppSc(Nurs)
Monash GDipBusSt(Mgt)
Monash

Diabetes Vaccine
Development Centre

Key Centre for Women's
Health in Society
World Health Organization
Collaborating Centre for
Women's Health
Director and Professor of
Women's Health
Doreen Anne Rosenthal, AO BA
Melb. PhD Melb. FASSA

Associate Professors
Jane Rosamond Fisher, BSc
Qld. PhD Melb.
Anne Kavanagh, MB BS
Flinders PhD ANU FAFPHM

Senior Lecturer
Martha Morrow, BA Kalamazoo
MA Harv. PhD LaTrobe (on
secondment to 2007)

Joint Senior Lecturer with
Asia Institute
Andrea Whittaker, BA Qld. PhD
Qld. (on transfer to 2008)

Lecturers
*Lisa Amir, MB BS Monash
MMed Melb. PhD LaTrobe
IBCLC (on leave to 2008)
Heather Rowe, BA LaTrobe
PhD Melb.

Senior Research Fellow
Elizabeth Sutherland Bennett,
MTrophHlth Qld. PhD Melb.

Research Fellows
*Rebecca Bentley, BBSc
LaTrobe

*Louise Keogh, BSc W.Aust.
MA Monash PhD LaTrobe
Deborah Keys, BA Deakin PhD
LaTrobe

Maggie Kirkman, BA Melb. PhD
LaTrobe
Tania King, BA Melb. BSc Melb.
(on maternity leave to June
2006)
Lyndal Thomas, BSc Monash

VicHealth Public Health
Research Fellow
Shelley Mallett, BAppSc
LaTrobe BA LaTrobe PhD
LaTrobe

Community Liaison Officer
*Armanda Tattam, BA
(Journalism) Monash RN

Research Assistants
*Claudine Chionth, BA Melb.
Lauren Matheson, BA Calg.
MWH Melb.
*Carolyn Nickson, BA LaTrobe
GDipEpi&Biostat Melb.

Honorary Appointments
Professorial Fellow
Lenore Hilda Manderson,
BA(AsianSt) ANU PhD ANU
FASSA (Australian Research
Council Federation Fellow)

Principal Fellow with The
title Associate Professor
Fumi Horiguchi, BMed
TokyoWmMed-College PhD
Keio

Senior Fellows with the title
Senior Lecturer
Wendy Holmes, MB BS Lond.
MSc Lond.
Julie Thacker, BSc W.Aust. PhD
ANU GDipEd Curtin UCLES/
RSA CLEFLA Lond.
Godfrey Woelk, BSc(Soc)
MCommH PhD Wash.

Fellow with the title Lecturer
Milica Markovic, BSoc Belgrade
MSc Belgrade PhD Qld.

General Staff
Manager
Felice Rocca, BA Melb.

VicHealth Centre for the
Promotion of Mental
Health and Social
Wellbeing
Research Fellow – to June
2005
Therese Riley, BScSci RMIT
MA RMIT PhD RMIT

Research Assistant – to June
2005
Bree Rankin, BCom Melb.
Program Evaluation Unit

Head and Associate Professor
David Dunt, MB BS, MAPrelim LaTrobe PhD Monash FFPHM

Deputy Head and Associate Professor
Robert Carter, BA Macq. MAdmSt ANU PhD Monash GDipEpi&PopH ANU

Associate Professor
Jane Pirkis, BA Tas. MPsych Tas. MAppEpi ANU PhD Melb.

Senior Lecturer
*Steven Crowley, BAppSc Curtin MSc York MBA Monash GDipDietit Deakin

Lecturers
*Helen Jordan, BSc Melb. GDipEd Melb. GDipEpi&Biostat Melb.
*Jennifer Livingston, BSc Melb. MED Melb. DipEd Melb.

Senior Research Fellows
*Grant Blashki, MB BS Monash MD Monash FRACGP RACGP
*Andrew Dalton, BEc Monash MEd Monash GDipHEC Eval Monash
Margaret Kelahe, BSc Psych) NSW PhD NSW
*Catherine Mihalopoulous, BBSc GDipEcSt PGdipHithEic&Eval Monash

Research Fellows
*Stephen Colgan, BNdurs Deakin
*Peter Feldman, BA Tas.
*Fay Kohn, MA Deakin DED Melb. DipPT Deakin GDipTESOL Deakin
*Rosemary McKenzie, BA Monash MPH Curtin PGdipHithProm Curtin
*Belinda Morley, BA Monash
*Lucio Naccarella, BSc Adel. GDiplMHS(Transcult) Melb.
*Michael Otien, BSc Makerere Uni. Uganda MEdcon Monash GDipEc Newcastle PGdipHithEic&Evln Monash
*Ting Fang Shih, BS CMC Taiwan MPH Tulane USA DrPH Melb.
*Theonie Tacticos, BBus Monash GDipCommDev RMIT
*Kui-siang Tay-Teo, BPharm Monash MPH(HthEco) Melb.
*Michele Williamson, BHitheSc LaTrobe

NHMRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Cathy Segan, BA Melb. PhD LaTrobe

Research Assistants
*Alan Headey, BA Qld.
*Bree Rankin, BCom Melb.

Honorary Appointments
Senior Fellow

Fellows
Sonja Hood, BA Melb. MSc Penn.

General Staff
Manager
*Tracey Mayhew

Sexual Health Unit

Director and Professor Of Sexual Health
Christopher Kincaid Fairley, MB BS Melb. PhD Monash FRACP FAFPHM FAChSHM

Senior Lecturer
*Henrietta Williams, MB BS Lond. MPH Monash DRCOGUK DCH MRCGP MFFP DipGUM FRACGP

Senior Research Fellow
(Proc-Chancellor's Fellow)
Yuan Gao, BSc Chia PhD Monash (to 30 April 2006)

Research Fellow
Marcus Chen, MB BS Melb. PhD Syd. DipVen Monash MRCP UK FACHSHM FRACGP

Honorary Appointment Fellows
*Jenny Ford, MB BS Melb.

Recipient of the 2005 Research and Teaching Awards: Back Row (L to R) Professor Terry Nolan, Dr Alison Morgan, Dr Deborah Keys, Mr Shaun Ewen and Ms Tess Keegal. Front Row (L to R) Associate Professor Rob Carter and Dr Shelley Mallet.
MEGA
Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology
School of Population Health
Department of Public Health
ANNUAL REPORT 2005
In May 2005 the Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic (MEGA) Epidemiology was created by combining two of the School of Population Health’s key research and teaching sections – the former Centre for Genetic Epidemiology and the former Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit. Launched by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science, Professor James Angus, the new Centre’s aim is to develop, promote and consolidate epidemiologic research and teaching. The Centre houses the Australian Twin Registry and has strong links to the Genetic Epidemiology Laboratory in the Department of Pathology, University of Melbourne.

The new name, Centre for MEGA Epidemiology, reflects the rapid progression of science in the field of epidemiology especially in relation to disentangling Molecular and Genetic mechanisms from Environmental co-determinants of disease. The term Analytic is code for the biostatistical and other mathematical methods that underpin these developments. Environmental epidemiology includes communicable disease, social and clinical epidemiology.

The philosophy of the Centre is that 21st century epidemiology is multi-disciplinary, utilises molecular and genetic technology as well as traditional approaches such as questionnaires, is built on sound design principles, and can involve very large sample sizes.

Also in May 2005 the Centre gratefully received a University Joint & Capital Works grant which provided funds to refurbish three purpose-built teaching rooms into one large modular system work area, increasing occupancy numbers; creating a designated work area for key research groups, the Australian Twin Registry and the PhD students.

Vale

Professor Jeremy Anderson, inaugural Chair, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, became seriously ill during 2004 but continued to teach and manage through to the end of second semester when he went on extended sick leave. Professor Anderson died in February 2005. The enthusiasm and drive he brought to this new position is fully appreciated. Professor Anderson is warmly remembered.

Learning and Teaching

The Centre provides two core programs in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. The program in Epidemiology, including substantial applied biostatistics, was redesigned during 2005 to provide a solid but flexible core for a new Master of Epidemiology commencing 2006, and the core subjects for students enrolled in the Master of Public Health, Doctor of Public Health and PhD. A specialist Biostatistics program (with a strong mathematical foundation) is offered in conjunction with the Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia for those seeking professional training in biostatistics.

New Subjects

New Subjects covering theory and practice of epidemiology, including its biostatistical underpinnings, have been developed for the core of our PhD, DrPH, MEpi and MPH programs, providing students with the essential theory and practical skills needed in quantitative epidemiology practice and research. These subjects are now delivered in intensive mode over half a semester or as five-day blocks.

- Epidemiology & Analytic Methods I
- Epidemiology & Analytic Methods II
- Study Design in Epidemiology
- Linear & Logistic Regression
- Survival Analysis & Regression for Rates
- Epidemiology in Practice

Specialty Subjects in Epidemiology

- Genetic Epidemiology (classroom or distance)
- Molecular Epidemiology
- Infectious Disease Epidemiology
- Infectious Disease Epidemiology – special topics
- Database Systems in Epidemiology

In 2005 the Centre’s postgraduate coursework teaching load was the equivalent of 39 students completing a full year of study. This equated to 38% of total SPH postgraduate coursework teaching in that year. In addition, the Centre teaches students from other Universities who are enrolled in the Master of Public Health Consortium, which in effect increased the teaching load to approximately 50 or 42% of School total.

Research

For latest updates see www.epi.unimelb.edu.au

The Centre is research intensive and holds substantial grants from the NHMRC and the US National Institutes of Health. Many of the programs are large collaborations with researchers from other states and countries. Below we have summarized four major research programs coordinated by the Centre. Staff in the Centre also coordinate other discrete research projects not listed (e.g. infectious disease epidemiology). The Centre also participates in other collaborative projects coordinated by researchers elsewhere.

Major Research Programs

Cancer

This program involves more than 10 research fellows, two PhD students and more than 20 research support staff based at The University of Melbourne, as well as a number of researchers employed at other institutions funded by NIH, NHMRC, VBCRC, NBCF and TCCV.
The Centre has pioneered population-based family studies of cancer that are emerging as a standard for genetic epidemiological research. The Australian Breast Cancer Family Registry, the Australasian Colorectal Cancer Family Registry, the Australian Melanoma Family Study, the Victorian Paediatric Cancer Family Study, Australian Prostate Cancer Family Study (in conjunction with The Cancer Council Victoria), and The Twins and Sisters Study of Mammographic Breast Density (in conjunction with the University of Toronto and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research) are large population-based and clinic-based case-control family studies funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), VicHealth, NSW Cancer Council and the National Institutes of Health (USA). The analysis of genetic mutations and variants is a common thread to all studies and much of this work is being conducted in the Genetic Epidemiology Laboratory in the Department of Pathology at The University of Melbourne. The Australian Breast Cancer Family Registry and the Australasian Colorectal Cancer Family Registry both are parts of large international collaborations on the genetics of these diseases.

In 2005, the key findings from these projects include:

- Immunohistochemistry is the best method to determine which people diagnosed with colorectal cancer are likely to carry specific genetic mutations (see publication highlight).
- A new detection method, conversion analysis, can identify mutations in colorectal cancer.
- A new high risk mutation for breast cancer in a gene called CYP17.
- In colorectal cancer families without mutations in mismatch repair genes, there is no increased risk of other cancers.
- Breast density and bone density are unrelated and unlikely to be caused by the same genes.

**Asthma, Allergy and Other Respiratory Disease**

This program involves three NHMRC-funded research fellows, four PhD students and approximately 10 research support staff.

Studies in this area include:

- A study, in collaboration with Monash University and the University of Tasmania, of the natural history, environmental and genetic risk factors for asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease using a large population-based prospective study of the 1961 birth cohort enrolled in the 1968 Tasmanian Asthma Survey, their parents and siblings.
- A study investigating the impact of air pollutants and pollen on asthma hospital admissions in collaboration with the CSIRO, which is providing air pollution simulations for modelling.
- A clinical trial in collaboration with Monash University examining the effect of dehumidification on levels of indoor fungi and symptoms of asthma among atopic asthmatics.
- A prospective cohort study, in collaboration with the Royal Children's Hospital, of the natural history and risk factors for allergy in children who are genetically predisposed to allergy (the Melbourne Atopic Cohort Study). This is a prospective study conducted on a cohort of 620 atopy-prone infants from birth to 10 years and is currently funded by the Victorian Asthma Foundation and the Royal Children Hospital.
- A study of prognostic indicators for occupational contact dermatitis in collaboration with the Occupational Dermatology Research & Education Centre (Skin Watch Study). The Centre is also part of an international working group investigating early-life risk factors for asthma in collaboration with Haraldsplass Hospital, Bergen, Norway and Department of Public Health Sciences, King’s College London.

**Hereditary Haemochromatosis**

The Healthiron project involves five University of Melbourne researchers and one PhD student, along with 10 researchers from other institutions. Healthiron is a study to investigate the genetic (NIH funded) and environmental (NHMRC funded) modifiers of hereditary haemochromatosis, an iron overload disease. It involves collaborators at several other institutions in Australia and the USA. Almost 1500 participants (n=1458) were selected and invited for clinic attendance based on preliminary HFE genotyping of the 31,078 Northern European participants in the Melbourne Collaborative Cohort Study, run by The Cancer Council Victoria. This includes all C282Y homozygotes who are at risk of developing iron overload and random subsets of other genotypes.

SNP discovery in candidate genes involved in iron metabolism by resequencing of 94 random individuals has been completed for six genes with another six genes.
due for completion shortly. Analysis of the sequencing results comparing both allelic frequencies and haplotypes with published HapMap caucasian population is being carried out. Selected SNPs from both HealthIron resequencing and other data sources including HapMap will be typed in all ~1050 participants using the Illumina GoldenGate platform in 2006.

**Australian Twin Registry (ATR)**
The ATR supports numerous research projects involving twins. It has been housed in the forerunners to the Centre for many years and is supported by a NHMRC Enabling Grant. During 2005, the ATR reviewed its operating and governance structures and constituted a new Advisory Board to ensure it complies with NHMRC policies regarding access to Enabling Grant facilities. It also implemented a new database system and website, mailed a newsletter to 50,000 households and convened two symposia on twin research. Four new research projects were approved, adding to 29 existing research projects.

**Statistical methods**
Methodological research in biostatistics has focused on the development and refinement of methods for genetic epidemiology. These included methods of clustering and data reduction for extracting relevant information from pathology data, optimising design of genome-wide scans and methods for analysing data from families, for both continuous and binary outcomes. These studies help to understand the aetiology of disease and provide opportunities for public health interventions such as targeted screening of high risk individuals and families.

**Publication Highlights**
Staff from the centre published 60 refereed publications during 2005 (see separate report School of Population Health 2005 Publications Report).

The publication below is likely due for completion shortly. Analysis of the sequencing results comparing both allelic frequencies and haplotypes with published HapMap caucasian population is being carried out. Selected SNPs from both HealthIron resequencing and other data sources including HapMap will be typed in all ~1050 participants using the Illumina GoldenGate platform in 2006.

**SELECTED LIST OF CURRENT 2005 RESEARCH PROJECTS and GRANTOR/S**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Grantor(s)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asthma, Allergy and Other Respiratory Disease</td>
<td>ANZ Charitable Trust; Asthma Foundation Vic; Convoy for Kids; CSIRO; Dairy Australia; NHMRC; University of Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australasian Colorectal Cancer Family Registry</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Breast Cancer Family Registry</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Melanoma Family Study</td>
<td>National Institutes of Health, USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Twin Registry</td>
<td>NHMRC Enabling Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epidemiology of Chronic Disease, Health Interventions and DNA studies (ECHIDNAS)</td>
<td>NHMRC Program Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthiron</td>
<td>USA Dept of Defense; NIH; NHMRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mammographic Density in Twins and Sisters</td>
<td>NIH; NHMRC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Platform for Young Public Health Researchers To Upgrade Their Scientific Experience And Independent Status (PLATYPUS)</td>
<td>NHMRC Capacity Building grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmanian Asthma Study</td>
<td>NHMRC Project Grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using haplotypes to detect rare high-risk genetic mutations</td>
<td>The University of Melbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Breast Cancer Research Consortium</td>
<td>Victorian Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Paediatric Cancer Family Study</td>
<td>The Cancer Council Victoria</td>
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</table>

The paper reported a new procedure for detecting inherited bowel cancers that has proven to be twice as effective as previous ones and could save many lives. The method has been labelled as the “Melbourne Criteria”. The researchers looked for the loss of cancer-preventing chemicals called “mismatch repair proteins” in the tumours of people who had previously been diagnosed with bowel cancer. The loss of mismatch repair proteins is an indication of whether the cancer was caused by an inherited genetic fault in the genes that code for the proteins – known as mismatch repair genes. Individuals with a faulty mismatch repair gene are at high risk of developing bowel cancer as well as other cancers. Analysis of the DNA of patients in the study showed that the new procedure identified all the bowel cancers caused by an inherited genetic fault. The new method is quicker and much less expensive than the previous method of identifying mutations using patients’ DNA.

As a result of this work, The Victorian Clinical Oncology Group have recommended that all bowel cancer cases diagnosed before age 50 years have immunohistochemistry testing.

This is a key example of how population-based epidemiological studies of new molecular and genetic technologies can inform government and clinicians about how health dollars can best be spent.

**Community Activities**
Staff of the Centre have many varied and influential external advisory roles related to research policy, policy and practice of public health and policy related to teaching of public health. These include advising on publication of informational material for the National Asthma Campaign, participating in panels reviewing grant applications for the US National Institutes of Health, participating in boards and sub-committees of national organisations such as the National Breast Cancer Foundation and National Breast Cancer Council, participating as members of Human Research Ethics Committees and representing the University in setting policy for public health education in Australia.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRANTOR/S</th>
<th>INVESTIGATOR</th>
<th>SCHEME</th>
<th>PROJECT TITLE</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Dharmage, S</td>
<td>Collaborative Research Grant Scheme with Massey University, NZ, Monash University, Melbourne</td>
<td>Microbial exposure and fungi in the home environment and asthma severity in children</td>
<td>05/06</td>
<td>$11,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Erbas, B</td>
<td>Collaborative Research Support Scheme</td>
<td>Unravelling the joint adverse effects of air pollution and pollen on childhood asthma in Australia, Stage 1: Melbourne Study</td>
<td>05/06</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Gurrin, L</td>
<td>Early Career Research Grant</td>
<td>Using haplotypes to detect rare high-risk genetic mutations</td>
<td>05/06</td>
<td>$18,808</td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Melbourne</td>
<td>Matheson, M</td>
<td>Grant Preparation Support Scheme</td>
<td>Microsatellite marker genotyping (with Department of Physiology)</td>
<td>05/06</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>Matheson, M</td>
<td>Public Health Training Fellowship</td>
<td>Genetic and Environmental Risk Factors for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease</td>
<td>05/09</td>
<td>$264,000 over 4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>Erbas, B</td>
<td>Public Health (Australia) Fellowship</td>
<td>Novel applications of statistical methods to breast cancer data</td>
<td>05/09</td>
<td>$264,000 over 4 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>Dharmage, S</td>
<td>Public Health (Australia) Fellowship</td>
<td>Epidemiology of chronic respiratory diseases: 35 year follow-up of the Tasmanian Asthma Study</td>
<td>05/08</td>
<td>$294,000 over 4 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>Hopper, J</td>
<td>Equipment Grant</td>
<td>Biospecimen repository for large prospective studies of molecular and genetic epidemiology</td>
<td>05/06</td>
<td>$88,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANZ Charitable Trusts</td>
<td>Erbas, B</td>
<td>Medical Research &amp; Technology in Victoria</td>
<td>The adverse effects of air pollution and pollen on childhood asthma in Victoria</td>
<td>05/06</td>
<td>$11,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asthma Victoria</td>
<td>Erbas, B</td>
<td>Convoy for Kids</td>
<td>Unravelling the joint adverse effects of air pollution and pollen on childhood asthma in Australia</td>
<td>05/06</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Cancer Council Victoria</td>
<td>Hopper, JL</td>
<td>Grant in Aid</td>
<td>Victorian Paediatric Cancer Family Study</td>
<td>05/07</td>
<td>$140,000 over 2 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Research Training (2005 PhD students whose primary supervisor’s University appointment is in the Centre)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Burgess</td>
<td>Risk factors for chronic respiratory diseases in middle age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayantha Dassanyake</td>
<td>Ethnicity and cardiovascular disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison Hodge</td>
<td>Risk factors for type 2 diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adrian Lowe</td>
<td>Allergies in children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert MacInnis</td>
<td>Obesity and risk of cancer (submitted December)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Russell</td>
<td>Risk of falls among the elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Staples</td>
<td>Genetic epidemiology of prostate cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Stone</td>
<td>Determinants of mammographic breast density</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine van Vliet</td>
<td>Family history and colorectal cancer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staff 2005

ACESKA, BILLIE, Research Assistant, ABCFS
ADAMS, MELANIE, Interviewer, Mammography Density Study
ALLEN, PENNY, Administration Officer
ANGELAKOS, MAGGIE, Assistant Data Manager
APICELLA, DR CARMEL, Research Fellow
ARBUCKLE, JACKIE, Research Assistant
AUJARD, KELLY, Data Programmer
BENNETT, DR CATHERINE, Senior Lecturer in Biostatistics
BOADLE, JENNY, Australian Twin Registry, Admin Asst
BYRNES, DR GRAHAM, Senior Research Fellow
CARLIN, PROF JOHN, Professorial Fellow
CHANG, JIUN-HORNG (Paul), Statistician
DHARMAGE, DR SHYAMALI, NHMRC Senior Research Fellow & Senior Lecturer
DITE, DR GILLIAN, Research Fellow
DORRELL, KIM, Australian Twin Registry, Coordinator
DOWTY, DR JAMES, Statistician
ERBAS, DR BIRCAN, NHMRC Research Fellow
FLANDER, DR LOUISA, Senior Lecturer
FOORD, JENNIFER, Interviewer, ACCFS
GERTIG, ASSOC PROF DOROTA, Principal Research Fellow, Associate Professor
GURRIN, DR LYLE, Senior Lecturer
HOPPER, PROF JOHN, NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow
JENKINS, DR MARK, Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology
KING, VICKI, Finance and Resources Officer
LENAGHAN, MAGGIE, Centre Manager
MASKIELL, JUDI, Studies Coordinator
MATHESON, DR MELANIE, NHMRC Public Health Fellow
MCPHEE, JOAN, Interviewer
MITCHELL, DR ANNE, Senior Research Officer
MOON, DEBORAH, Interviewer
MURPHY, DR KERRY, Interviewer
NISSELLE, AMY, HealthIron Clinical Coordinator
O’BRIEN, KAREN, Administration Assistant
PRIOR, LEANNE, Administrative Assistant
RICHARDSON, AMANDA, Phlebotomist
ROCHE, SANDRA, Research Interviewer
RODAIS, HELEN, Interviewer
SIMPSON, DR JULIE, Senior Lecturer
TOWNSEND, JANET, Interviewer
TRYTELL, GAEL, Research Assistant
VAN VLIET, DR CHRISTINE, Research Assistant
VIZARD, MS KELLIE, Personal Assistant to the Director
WHARTON, MS CATHRYN, Research Officer

Honorary Staff and Visitors

Professorial Fellows
Ron Borland, Cancer Council Victoria

Victoria

John Mathews AM
Principal Fellow
Dallas English, Cancer Council Victoria
Senior Fellows
Mohammad Zahid Ansari, University of Melbourne
Mohammad Siahpush, Cancer Council Victoria
Susan Treloar, Queensland Institute of Medical Research;
and Deputy Director, Australian Twin Registry
Fellows
Laura Baglietto, Cancer Council Victoria
John Biviano, VicHealth
Clare Constantine, Walter & Eliza Hall Institute
Roger Milne, National Cancer Centre, Madrid, Spain
Gianluca Severi, Cancer Council Victoria
Obioha Ukoumunne, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute
Visitors
Nick Osborne, Cancer Council Victoria
The key focus for the Centre for Health and Society (CHS) is the interdisciplinary study of health, illness and healthcare in local, national and international settings.

The Centre brings perspectives from the humanities and social sciences to the study of medical science, clinical and public health practice and health policy.

The Centre is administratively located in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, but is also a Faculty of Arts Centre.

It is unique in its integration of a variety of humanities and social sciences perspectives on health, disease and health care delivery and uses disciplinary approaches from the history of health and medicine, medical anthropology, health ethics, sociology of health and illness, and health policy analysis in its examination of health and health care.

This cross-Faculty structure has enabled the continuing development of new initiatives in both teaching and research; for example initiatives in teaching include the Social Health postgraduate program and the Advanced Medical Science (AMS) medical undergraduate program that incorporates a number of Arts Faculty subjects; and for example in research, the Social Histories and Health Research Program draws from expertise in social history and the history of medicine and healthcare.

Within the CHS are a number of key teaching and research programs. These include the Aboriginal Health, Medical History and Social Health programs. In addition to these are a number of developing but significant programs in Work and Health, led by Associate Professor Tony LaMontagne, and in Drugs and Addiction, led by Associate Professor John Fitzgerald.

Aboriginal Health Programs

The VicHealth Koori Health Research and Community Development Unit was established in 1999 under the directorship of Professor Ian Anderson. In 2005 the unit had a change of name to the Onemda VicHealth Koori Health Unit. The Unit has an integrated research, teaching and community development program through which it aims to bring together the academy, the community and policy-makers around issues of Aboriginal health. The Unit is organised within a community framework, with collaborations and partnerships with Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO), with whom we have developed a Memorandum of Understanding; the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service; Koorie Cultural Heritage Trust; Institute of Koorie Education (Deakin University); and the Co-operative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health. Staff of the Unit also work with a number of non-Aboriginal organisations, including the Australian Institute of Primary Care at La Trobe University and the Menzies School of Health Research, on Aboriginal-related projects. It has also been important for us to develop working relationships with the key policy stakeholders in Aboriginal health: Koori Services Unit at the Department of Human Services; and the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The Unit has research themes in:

1. Aboriginal health policy and systems.
2. Aboriginal health research and ethics.
3. Aboriginal community development and health.
4. Aboriginal health and professional practice(s).
5. Aboriginal health needs and services in a social context.
6. The evaluation of aboriginal health services, programs and interventions.
7. Capacity building for Aboriginal health research.

In 2005 Onemda completed the strategic and research process until 2009. In particular seven research themes were developed to capture current research activities and expand them, particularly with respect to community development, service and program evaluation and capacity building. In addition recruitment of new staff that was planned in the original funding submission for the second phase of Onemda’s development was completed. Dr Kevin Rowley was appointed to the position of Senior Research Fellow. This will greatly enhance the research capability and capacity development of the Unit. Onemda, in collaboration with the Committee of Deans of Australian Medical Schools (CDAMS), hosted the Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) connection conference in Perth in June in order to facilitate the implementation of agreed national framework for Indigenous health.

The Centre for Excellence in Tobacco Control (CEITC) was established in September 2003 and is led by Viki Briggs. CEITC is funded from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging. It seeks to improve health outcomes related to tobacco smoking among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by building national capacity for effective Indigenous tobacco control programs. The Centre is working in a variety of ways to boost the profile of Indigenous health. The CEITC’s largest projects focus on health worker training and resource development. In 2005 CEITC launched its website and published Galnyoa Angin (Good Air).

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Aboriginal Health is a partnership between Aboriginal people, communities and organisations, health policy makers, planners and service delivery organisations, and educational and research institutions. It supports
Community partnerships are fundamental to the success of the Centre for Health and Society, according to its Director, Professor Ian Anderson. The end of 2005 provided an opportunity to celebrate these partnerships with a gathering to thank the Centre’s many supporters of the past five years. The end of this year marked another milestone: Professor Anderson’s first five years as Director. It prompted him to briefly reflect on what had motivated the former GP to change career in the mid 1990s. He is still deeply involved in Aboriginal health but his hands-on work now involves policy, not patients. “My experiences of the difficulties of running an Aboriginal health organisation started me thinking about how we might have a policy framework that could improve the delivery of services to Aboriginal people.” But he discovered that lack of evidence was a critical gap: “In order to effect long-term change, we needed the evidence that we could put on the table to really drive policy and practice development.”

The Centre now generates and disseminates that evidence about Aboriginal health, work and health, social health and more. “What is really exciting about working in the Centre is that it’s truly a multi-disciplinary environment in which we draw from areas as diverse as history, moral philosophy, anthropology, sociology, as well as epidemiology,” he says. “And it provides potential to bring the best of those disciplines to apply to contemporary problems in public health.”

research that will improve Aboriginal health outcomes. Professor Ian Anderson is Research Director for the CRC, and oversees the CRC’s research direction and staff. Like all CRCs, the CRC seeks to make links between industry and research and promotes research transfer – getting research findings into policy, practice and service delivery. The University of Melbourne is one of the 12 core partners of the CRC for Aboriginal Health.

Medical History Programs

The Centre for Health and Society also includes the Medical History Program. This includes the Johnstone-Need Medical History Unit, the Medical History Museum, the Gateways to the History of Medicine, and the Australian Witness to Science and Medicine, a series of seminars aimed at contributing to the public understanding of science and medicine. The Medical History program is also responsible for the publication of the Health and History journal. The Johnstone-Need Medical History Unit (JNMHU), with Professor Janet McCalman as its director, is the focus at the University of Melbourne for the study of the history of health, disease, medicine, nursing, and other areas of health care. It coordinates teaching and research for undergraduate and postgraduate students in the history of health and medicine. It includes the Medical History Museum with the university’s rich library holdings and rare books in medical history, and digital historical compendia of medical, dental, nursing and allied health history.

Social Health Programs

The Social Health programs are the key teaching programs of CHS. These are offered at undergraduate level through the Faculty’s medical curriculum, and at postgraduate level through the School of Population Health’s suite of postgraduate programs. Although the Social Health programs focus primarily on teaching, CHS staff have been successful in achieving a teaching-research nexus, that integrates key components of their teaching within their research. This is illustrated through a successful ARC Discovery Grant (Gillum, Guillemin and Rosenthal) in 2005 that is focused on research ethics, and is drawn from teaching of research design and research ethics in the Social Health program.

Undergraduate

CHS staff members continue to play a major role in curriculum development, subject coordination and teaching in the University of Melbourne’s undergraduate medical curriculum. The Centre contributes to the teaching of ethics, Aboriginal health, sociology of health and illness, the history of medicine, health policy, and medical anthropology in the Health Practice subject of the undergraduate medical curriculum. Key CHS staff have made a major contribution to the revision of the Health Practice subject. This revised subject was rolled out in 2005 and has proved to be successful in meeting its aims of ensuring that the teaching of Health Practice is clinically relevant and fits coherently into the curriculum. CHS staff continue to lead the development of the national framework for inclusion of Indigenous health into medical curricula via the Committee of Deans of Australian Medical Schools (CDAMS) project, which is examining and further developing the inclusion of Aboriginal health in the medical curricula of Australian medical schools. CHS has the largest academic program at the University in Indigenous studies, and the largest academic program in medicine in Australia and over half the CHS is now focused on our Indigenous program. It is therefore well placed to ensure that Aboriginal health is not only visible but is taught as an integrated part of the curriculum.

The CHS also offers a number of units, including Medical Humanities and Social Health units, as part of the Advanced Medical Science research year of the undergraduate medical course. As with previous years, in 2005 a considerable number of undergraduate medical students worked with CHS supervisors on a variety of research projects, both in Australia and overseas, that covered the different disciplinary approaches of the Centre.

Postgraduate

The Centre offers a comprehensive postgraduate coursework program in Social Health that reflects the Centre’s unique interdisciplinary environment. Within the Social Health program, students can undertake a comprehensive interdisciplinary program, or choose streams in Ethics, Medical Anthropology, Aboriginal Health, or Health Care History. Following the piloting of new curricula in Aboriginal health through the Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP), this curriculum has continued to be further developed. These innovations aim to fill gaps in the existing Master of Public Health curricula and draws broadly on social sciences/ humanities theory and method to address issues in Aboriginal health.
CHS Higher Degree Research Completions 2005

PhD-
Clare Delany: Informed consent: ethical theory, legal obligations, and the physiotherapy clinical encounter.
Rony Duncan: “Holding your breath” predictive genetic testing in young people.
Giuliana Fuscaldo: What is the role of genes in determining parenthood?
Rosemary Mann: Look wide – searching for health in the borderlands.

Key Achievements
Staff
Marilys Guillemin was promoted to Associate Professor.
John Waller was confirmed in his position as Lecturer Level B as recognition of his high achievements.
Shaun Ewen was awarded the School of Population Health Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Marilys Guillemin and Lynn Gillam received the prestigious University of Melbourne David White Award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and were nominated for the Australian Awards for University Teaching.

CHS Staff

Academic Staff
Professor Ian Anderson – Director
Dr Alison Brookes
Ann Brothers
Dr Kyllie Cripps
Shaun Ewen
Associate Professor John Fitzgerald
Dr William Genat
Dr Lynn Gillam
Dr Marilys Guillemin – Deputy Director
Dr Cecily Hunter
Tessa Keegel
Associate Professor Anthony LaMontagne
Dr Tania Lewis
Dr Martha Macintyre
Professor Janet McCalman
Johanna Monk
Michael Otim
Gregory Phillips
Dr Priscilla Pyett
Dr Therese Riley
Paul Stewart

Dr David Thomas
Dr John Waller
Dr Deborah Warr

Professional Staff
Viki Briggs
Angela Clarke
Sue Gielnik
Nicole McMillan
Judy Pryor – PA to CHS Director
Doug Scobie – Manager, Centre for Health and Society
Helen Smallwood
Nicole Waddell
Jane Yule
The Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society, since its foundation in 1988, has been at the forefront of thinking, researching, teaching and disseminating information about women’s health. The vision for the Key Centre is that it will be the leading centre for research, education and advocacy in women’s health, gender and society in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. The Key Centre’s work recognises that women’s health and wellbeing is integral to the health and wellbeing of their families and the whole community.

Overview
A comprehensive Review conducted in June 2005 has confirmed that the Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society (KCWHS) is a thriving hub of research and teaching excellence and has undergone considerable growth and change over the past five years. The review team, chaired by Professor John Funder, looked at the performance of the centre including:

- 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 produced a report which 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 Review Team
- Professor John Funder, Professorial Associate at the Centre for Neuroscience, MDHS, The University of Melbourne; chair of team.
- Associate Professor Susan Elliott, Associate Dean (Academic Programs) and Director, Faculty Education Unit, The University of Melbourne.
- Dr Cathy Mead, Executive Officer of the Victorian Public Health Research and Education Council
- Professor Jenny Morgan, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Law, The University of Melbourne.
- Professor Sally Redman, Director of the Institute of Health Research, Sydney.

Teaching and learning
Students Enrolled in KCWHS Courses
Postgraduate
- Doctor of Philosophy, 35
- Doctor of Public Health, 2
- Master of Women’s Health (Research), 5
- Master of Medicine (Research), 1
- Master of Women’s Health (Coursework/Research Report), 5
- Master of Public Health (Coursework/Research Report), 8
- Master of Women’s Health (Coursework only), 8
- Master of Women’s Health (Coursework, Japanese language), 8
- Postgraduate Diploma of Women’s Health, 6

Undergraduate (12 month enrolment spanning two calendar years)
- Advanced Medical Science – University of Melbourne, 11
- Advanced Medical Science – University of Indonesia, 7

Research Students completing Doctor of Philosophy
- Shelley Beer Chinese herbal medicine and the hot flush.
- Lisa Donohue Postnatal debriefing did not improve health outcomes after operative birth: An investigation of possible explanatory factors.
- Bella Ellwood-Clayton When the land breeze and sea breeze were married: young women’s lived sexualities in Kalibo, the Central Philippines.
- Susan Peake Changing the subject: A sociology of the enacting self.

Doctor of Public Health
- Dorothy Akindele Depression and pathways to care: Perceptions and experiences of Australian mothers of young children in receipt of Government benefits.
- Master of Women’s Health (Research Report)
- Samia Baho Providing reproductive rights health promotion to resettling refugee women: An evaluation of the Family and Reproductive Rights Education Program (FARREP).
- Theresia Citrangingtyas Educating young people against sexual assault: A study of the underlying ideas in CASA’s educational sessions in secondary schools.
- Wahdini Hakim Psychological health of international students in higher education: Factors influencing Indonesian students at the University of Melbourne.
- Huong Thi Thu Tran Marital relationship and emotional well being during pregnancy in Vietnam.
- Thi Kim Qanh Tran Listening to female sex workers: Understanding the factors that influence their safe sex practices.
- Master of Public Health (Research Report)
- Caroline King Preconception counselling in general practice.
The Director of the Key Centre for Women's Health in Society, Professor Doreen Rosenthal, has always been vitally interested in issues linked to gender and health. “The opportunity to direct a centre based on a social model of women’s health was an extremely attractive one, particularly at the University of Melbourne and its newly established School of Population Health. “The School offered a great many possibilities because it provided opportunities to work with people from different disciplines and areas of health that I hadn’t worked with before.” The HIV epidemic was the key impetus behind Professor Rosenthal’s career direction. “Having worked for many years as a developmental psychologist interested in various aspects of adolescence, I became aware of the real, potential risks to adolescents when of the implications of this new epidemic became clear,” she says. “And that caused me think about adolescent sexual behaviours and sexual practices, and their knowledge about issues like HIV. I became very concerned and immersed in the whole area.” “From this initial focus on HIV, I broadened my work out into sexual health more generally and became very concerned about ensuring that the outcomes of the research provided an evidence base for changing policy and practice.”

Dr Jamila Ali Mohamed The effects of programs against Female Genital Mutilation in the Sudan: A literature review.

Angela Steele Maternal-fetal emotional attachment: A comparison of teenage and adult women.

Research Students commencing Doctor of Philosophy

Riana Nugrahani Risk management of Tuberculosis in the work place (transferred to Monash Dec 2005 with Federation Fellowship Project).

Badri Panta Examining the access and utilization of maternal health services: Attributes and determinants.

Lukar Thornton Geographical influences of health.

Anthony Williams Disability in Post-Secondary Education (converted from MPH Research August 2005).

Sappaporn Wirattanapokin Health promotion in diabetes type 2 patients.

Doctor of Public Health

Victoria Team Care-giving experiences of Russian-speaking women migrants.

Master of Women’s Health (Research)

Kunikio Ishihara What are the future needs of older Japanese war brides in Australia?

Sudirman Nasir The health seeking behaviour of female commercial sex workers with STD-related symptoms in Makassar, Indonesia.

Raelene West Social hierarchies of compensable and non-compensable disability: an ecological perspective.

Student Scholarships (external) & Awards


Holton, Sarah To have or not to have? A study of Australian women’s childbearing decisions. VicHealth 2005-2006.

Team, Victoria Care-giving experiences of Russian-speaking women migrants. Doctor of Public Health candidate: three year Postgraduate Equity Scholarship.

Warren, Narelle together with Kate Bourne (Melbourne IVF), Nicole Oke (Melbourne IVF), 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.’


Advance Medical Science Enrolments

In July 2005, 14 AMS students began studying at KCWHS. This AMS cohort included seven students from Universitas Indonesia who are enrolled in an international stream and are taught in English. The Centre offers a range of research options for AMS students who are in the final year of the Bachelor of Medical Science degree at the University of Melbourne. Students chose to study topics from one of the five research themes: Chronic disease & disability; Health & welfare services; Mental health & wellbeing; Reproductive & sexual health; and Social & economic inequalities in health.

Japanese Master of Women’s Health

The first students to complete the Japanese-based Master’s Degree in Women’s Health graduated in April in Oyama, Japan, where the course was taught in April by Associate Professor Jane Fisher, and in August by Drs Heather Rowe and Deborah Keys.

This course, taught by KCWHS academics is unique in that it allows Japanese students to be taught in English, via an interpreter, in intensive blocks using teaching materials that have been translated into Japanese. The program began more than 10 years ago as a Graduate Diploma in Women’s Health for health professionals and has evolved to provide a qualification at Master’s level.

The course was previously run by KCWHS in collaboration with Melbourne University Private, and will continue in partnership with the School of Enterprise.

Short Courses

Harnessing the power of the camera

Using film can unleash endless opportunities for researchers and teachers, and this theme was explored at a one-day workshop (5 August 2005) with acclaimed Australian Filmmaker Debra Kingsland. The workshop “Using Film in Development, Advocacy and Evaluation”, explained how to integrate the use of film into social action projects and research.

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 (9-10 August 2005) 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 KCWHS. The course (6-10 June 2005) was facilitated by internationally renowned academics Professor Ichiro Kawachi and Associate Professor SV Subramanian from the Harvard School of Public Health, as well as Associate Professor Anne Kavanagh and Dr Milica Markovic, School of Population Health. 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.

Solving Breastfeeding Problems

Sixty participants attended this jointly run half-day seminar presented by Dr Lisa Amir, Key Centre Lecturer, and Dr Jenny James from the Royal Women's Hospital (8 September 2005). Topics included breast infections, clinical guidelines for breastfeeding problems and tongue tie.

Research

New Grants received

Fisher, JRW, Rowe, H. Mothers, fathers and newborns: Preventing distress and promoting confidence. Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services, 2005-2008, $481,000.


Rosenthal, D. & Mallett, S. Project i follow-on research analysis. Office of Housing, Department of Human Services. 2005, $40,000

Major international exchanges

In January Professor Lenore Manderson visited Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos to teach and to further Federation fellowship collaborations. In February 2005 Dr Judith Fitzpatrick from the University of California USA arrived to spend two weeks on collaborative work with Professor Manderson. Dr Fitzpatrick has worked previously in Australia at the University of Queensland, specialising in medical anthropology research in the Torres Strait Islands.

In March Professor Lenore Manderson visited University of Witswatersrand South Africa as visiting professor at the School of Public Health, to conduct PhD & research supervision and to develop research protocols.

Associate Professor Jane Fisher visited Hanoi Vietnam in March to present at the country's first conference on the mental health of mothers and children organized by the government's National Committee for Population Families and Children and by UNICEF. This was followed in June by a visit by Associate Professor Fisher and Professor Doreen Rosenthal to Hanoi to contribute to the first technical workshop on mental health of mothers and young children. As a result, the University of Melbourne now has a formal partnership with the Training Centre for Community Development in Hanoi for improving primary mental health care among mothers and very young children.

Professor Doreen Rosenthal was in Geneva Switzerland in April-May to meet with senior WHO officials regarding ongoing collaboration, and to attend the Board of the Bertarelli Foundation, to discuss research in infertility and reproductive health education.

In April-May Professor Lenore Manderson visited Myanmar and Malaysia to further Federation fellowship collaborations.

Dr Lorraine Greaves, British Columbia Centre for Excellence in Women's Health Canada, visited KCWHS in April 2005 to discuss common areas of interest and collaboration.

Following Dr Shelley Mallett’s visit to Los Angeles USA in February, Project i collaborators at UCLA, Center for Community Health, Mary Jane Rotheram-Borus and Norweeta G Milburn, also visited the Centre in June.

Dr Elizabeth Bennett travelled to Thailand and Laos in June to carry out Federation Fellowship research training and collaborative activities.

Professor Ichiro Kawachi & Assistant Professor SV Subramanian from Harvard University spent five days at the Centre in June, presenting at two short courses and working on joint projects with Associate Professor Anne Kavanagh, including participation in the launch of the Australian Health Inequalities Program.

In July Professor Lenore Manderson was the invited keynote speaker at the SexO conference, Montreal Canada. From August to September while on long study leave, Associate Professor Jane Fisher, as part of professional collaboration, visited the Department of Psychiatry, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Department of Psychiatry, the University of Reading, UK. She then spent two weeks at WHO Geneva on collaborative maternal mental health activities.

In August Drs Heather Rowe and Deborah Keys presented papers at a Japan-Australia Women's Health Symposium held at the Tokyo Women's Medical University Japan.

Ms Lynne Norazit, a lecturer and linguist in the Department of English Language at the University of Malaya, visited KCWHS from August to November. She has a special interest in communication in health and is working with Professor Lenore Manderson on the language of coping in the RESILIENCE project. Visiting from Khon Kaen University, Thailand, during September to December to work with the Federation Fellowship Project on research and training activities were: Professor Siriporn Chirawatkul Dr Nuttaset Manimmanakorn Ms Praneet Pongra Ms Pensri Rukwong Ms Boonsurb Sosome.

Ms Siman Shelley, MA candidate from the University of Denver, USA, spent September-November working with the Federation Fellowship project.

In September Professor Lenore Manderson was an invited speaker on disability and chronic illness at the Global Forum for Health Research, Mumbai, India.

Dr Bhensri Naemiratch travelled to Canada and Thailand during September-November to participate in various research activities for the Federation fellowship program.

In April-May Professor Lenore Manderson visited Myanmar and Malaysia to further Federation fellowship collaborations.

In September a delegation of eight high-level government health officials from the People's Republic of Korea (North) visited KCWHS for a two-hour seminar presenting Key Centre research on
women’s health issues, as part of a reproductive health study tour organised by Marie Stopes International.

Dr Milica Markovic and Ms Narelle Warren travelled to Malaysia in November for workshops, research collaborations and to attend the 3rd Asia & Pacific Conference for Sexual & Reproductive Health.

In December a delegation of 18 high-level government health officials from Anhui Province, the People’s Republic of China, visited KCWHS for a two-hour seminar presenting Key Centre research on women’s health issues, as part of a family planning and sexual health study tour organised by Besco Enterprises.

Community activities

Getting Out – young people’s true stories

Getting Out – a moving collection of true stories by eight young homeless people was launched in March 2005 at the Council to Homeless People. Welfare agencies, youth workers and school nurses are among the scores of professionals and groups within Australia and overseas who have welcomed its publication.

The booklet draws on qualitative data from Project i, the international longitudinal study of young homeless people in Melbourne and Los Angeles.

The booklet was reprinted with assistance from the Department of Human Services Office of Housing and the Besen Family Foundation.

Getting Out is available at


Maternal Mental Health report

A longstanding partnership between KCWHS and Tweddle Child and Family Services in Footscray was further strengthened with release of the report “Building an evidence base for practice in early parenting centres” in April 2005.

Written by KCWHS researchers, Drs Jane Fisher and Heather Rowe, the report includes a systematic review of the literature and a follow-up study of 79 women admitted to residential programs at Tweddle. Their work reveals generally poor physical and mental health among mothers with unsettled babies.

The report’s publication also generated considerable media interest with national and international coverage. A copy of the executive summary is available on our website, http://www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au/news/tweddle_executive.pdf

National Women’s Health Conference

Twelve centre staff and students presented at the 5th National Women’s Health Conference in Melbourne in April.

Topics covered in the 12 different presentations included:

- Do women adapt differently to having a chronic illness or disability?
- How does gender affect diagnosis, access to care, treatment and adaptation to chronic health problems and depression?
- Are new mothers who have fertility treatment more likely to have parenting problems?
- What are the unacknowledged psychosocial aspects of donor-assisted conception?
- Do women really give informed consent for prenatal genetic testing?
- How do women cope with hospitalisation for serious pregnancy complications?
- Do men who are caring for sick or disabled loved ones have a different approach to women carers?
- Antenatal care for immigrant women: is shared care a better option?
- What are young women’s pathways in and out of homelessness?
- What happens to women who seek medical attention for painful periods and heavy bleeding?

Australian Health Inequities Program

One of KCWHS’s largest research projects – the five-year Australian Health Inequities Program (AHIP) – had its Melbourne launch in June 2005 at VicHealth by Professor Ichiro Kawachi, from the Harvard School of Public Health.

AHIP is a five-year, $2.4 million NHMRC funded project addressing social and economic determinants of health. The joint University of Melbourne/Flinders University project comprises a Melbourne and Adelaide team. Two new staff, Rebecca Bentley and Lyndal Thomas, have been appointed to the Melbourne team. They, along with chief investigator Associate Professor Anne Kavanagh, will work in collaboration with Flinders University colleagues Professor Fran Baum, Professor Andrew Beer and Professor Sue Richardson.

For more information about AHIP go to http://www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au/AHIP_summary.jpg

Or read the feature on AHIP in Uninews at http://uninews.unimelb.edu.au/articleid_2582.html
Health resource for homeless young people

Young homeless people have a new resource to help with surviving on the street. ‘674 – A pocket guide to surviving on the street’ was launched at Frontyard, a service for young people in central Melbourne.

The production of the booklet has been distributed to key locations in Melbourne and beyond. The pocket guide contains up to date information on safe use of injecting drugs, Hepatitis C, mental health, sexually transmitted infections, contraception and pregnancy, plus a list of places where young people can get help. Designed for use by services who come into contact with homeless young people, ‘674’ has been distributed to key locations in Melbourne and beyond.

The launch was held at Frontyard, a service for young people in central Melbourne.

For more information, go to www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au/news/reports/674.pdf

Staff

**Director and Professor of Women’s Health**
Doreen Rosenthal, AO BA Memb. PhD Memb. FASSA

**Professor**
Lenore Manderson, BA(AsianSt) ANU PhD ANU FASSA (Australian Research Council Federation Fellow)

**Associate Professors**
Jane Fisher, BSc Qld. PhD Memb.
Anne Kavanagh, MB BS Flinders PhD ANU FAFPHM

**Lecturers**
Lisa Amir, MB BS Monash MMed Memb. IBCLC
Mridula Bandyopadhyay, BSc Calc. MSc Poona MPhil IIPSBombay PhD CityHK CPS IIPSBombay
Heather Rowe, BA LaTrobe PhD Memb.

**Joint Lecturer with Melbourne Institute of Asian Languages and Society**
Andrea Whittaker, BA Qld. PhD Qld. (maternity leave)

**Senior Research Fellow**
Elizabeth Bennett, MTropHlth Qld. PhD Memb.

**Research Fellows**
Sari Andajani-Sutijahbo, BSc Pharmacology MA MFSU PhD Memb.
*Rebecca Bentley, BBSc LaTrobe
Louise Keogh, BSc W.Aust. MA Monash PhD LaTrobe
Deborah Keys, BA Deakin PhD LaTrobe
Tania King, BA Memb. BSc Memb.
Maggie Kirkman, BA Memb. PhD LaTrobe
Milica Markovic, BBSoc Belgrade MSc Belgrade PhD Qld.
RoseAnne Misajon, BA BSc Deakin PhD Deakin

Bhensri Naemiratch, BSc KMITL (Thailand) PhD UQ
Lyndal Thomas, BSc Monash

**VicHealth Public Health Research Fellow**
Shelley Mallett, BAppSc LaTrobe BA LaTrobe PhD LaTrobe

**Community Liaison Officer**
Amanda Tattam, BA (Journalism) Monash RN

**Research Assistants**
Claudine Chionh, BA Memb. Lauren Matheson, BA Calg. MWH Memb.
Carolyn Nickson, BA LaTrobe GDipEpid&Biostat Memb.
Narelle Warren, BA (Hons) / BSc ANU PhD Candidate Memb

**Honorary Appointments**

**Principal Fellows with the title Associate Professor**

**Dr Heather Rowe** has been appointed Editor-in-Chief of International Breastfeeding Journal. This on-line, peer review journal with BioMed Central can be found at www.internationalbreastfeedingjournal.com. Dr Amir has also been awarded an NHMRC Health Professional Fellowship and will be taking extended leave from the centre to take up the fellowship at LaTrobe University; her study will focus on breastfeeding.

Dr Jane Fisher has been promoted to Associate Professor. She was also elected President of the Australasian Marcé Society for the period 2007-09.

**Associate Professor 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.


**Professor Doreen Rosenthal** and Dr Shelley Mallett (leading the Melbourne research team) received a SPH special commendation for excellence in research achievement for Project i – a study of homelessness in Melbourne and Los Angeles.

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

**Conference & public presentations 2005**

KAVANAGH AM, Agius P. In or out of shape: Weight, fitness and weight control practices of lesbian and bisexual Australian women. Health in Difference Conference, Melbourne, January.

MANDERSON L. Chronic illness and disability in Southeast Asia and Australia, Exploring issues of health and well-being of older people and their families in resource-poor settings, Invited paper, Burnet Institute, Monash University, 10 February.

MARKOVIC M. Immigrant women and antenatal care. Transcultural nursing: Caring for people of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, 10 February.


KEYS, D. Making a Place to Belong: Homeless young people, support, accommodation and

MANDERSON L. The absent breast: how women speak of their bodies after surgery. Public lecture, School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, and Department of Surgery, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, 16 March.


BENNETT E. Through the Gender Lens: Women, Men and Degenerative Disease. Fifth Australian Women’s Health Conference: Reflecting on Gender, Melbourne, April.

Hammarberg K, FISHER JRW & ROWE H. The impact of infertility and assisted conception on postpartum psychological functioning at 3 months. Fifth Australian Women’s Health Conference: Reflecting on Gender, Melbourne, April.


KAVANAGH AM. Gender and social disadvantage. Fifth Australian Women’s Health Conference: Reflecting on Gender, Melbourne, April.

KIRKMAN M. Branches on the family tree: A method for conceptualising relationships for parties to donor-assisted conception, confronting the evidence. Fifth Australian Women’s Health Conference: Reflecting on Gender, Melbourne, April.

MALLETTE S, ROSENTHAL D. Young women’s pathways into and out of homelessness. Fifth Australian Women’s Health Conference: Reflecting on Gender, Melbourne, April.


AMIR L. Into the mouths of babes: the influence of the baby’s oral anatomy on breastfeeding. New Zealand Lactation Consultants Annual Conference, Auckland 12-15 May.


FISHER JRW. Burnout in health professionals. Invited Public Lecture. Japanese Women’s Medical University Hospital, 2 May.

FISHER JRW. Perinatal mental health and the effectiveness of early parenting interventions. Invited Public Lecture. School of Midwifery, Kitosato University, Tokyo, 6 May.


AMIR L. Reliability of the Hazlabaeker Assessment Tool International Lactation Consultant Association Annual Conference, Chicago USA, July.


MANDERSON L. Quality of life and wellbeing, the Australian Social Policy Conference, University of New South Wales, Sydney, 20-22 July.
FISHER JRW. When parenting goes wrong. Invited keynote presentation. Australian Society for Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynaecology Annual Conference, Melbourne, August.

FISHER JRW. Health and social circumstances of mothers and infants admitted to Masada Private Hospital Mother Baby Unit: effects of admission on mother and infant. *Invited academic lecture* Department of Psychiatry, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 26 August.

FISHER JRW. Is assisted conception associated with early parenting difficulties? *Invited academic lecture* Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Chinese University of Hong Kong, 19 August.

KEYS, D. Young Women and HIV/AIDS in Japan. Sixth Meeting of the Japanese Society of Women’s Health. Japanese and Australian Symposium on Women’s Health, Tokyo Medical University, Tokyo, August.


Lam M, Quinlivan J and ROWE HJ. Can Teenage Mothers Make an Informed Decision Regarding Down Syndrome Screening? Australian society for Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Annual Scientific Meeting, Melbourne, August.


AMIR, L. Nasal carriage of Staphylococcus aureus in women with mastitis: A case-control study. Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, Annual Meeting, Denver, USA, October.

MANDERSON L. My experience is fairly typical: disruptive gynaecological symptoms and women’s search for diagnosis, 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, 17 November.

PEU
Program Evaluation Unit
School of Population Health
Department of Public Health

ANNUAL REPORT 2005
The Program Evaluation Unit is a multidisciplinary organisation, the core business of which is health services research. Its staff have expertise in program evaluation, health economics, economic evaluation, epidemiology, social sciences and research methodology, and many have clinical backgrounds. The mission of the PEU is to contribute to the health of the community through research and evaluation activities that advance knowledge about health programs and address relevant issues productively and flexibly, and to improve the community’s ability to evaluate health programs through methodological development, exemplary practice and a varied program of teaching and training.

2005 highlights

• PEU’s externally earned income in 2005 was $3.6 million ($1.9M to PEU). These figures represent a 50% increase on 2004 and a 100% increase on 2003.

• Publication numbers in 2005 were very good with 27 articles published and one book chapter plus 25 technical or other reports. Refereed publications rose by 50% compared with 2004.

• Four NHMRC project applications were successful.

• A/Prof Rob Carter was awarded the School of Population research award (open category).

• Rosemary McKenzie and Lucio Naccarella were short-listed finalist in the 2005 Victorian Public Health Awards, receiving a certificate of achievement for the Evaluation of the Well for Life Initiative, 2005.

• Very large numbers (200) of MPH students from both The University of Melbourne and other universities in the Consortium of Victorian universities take our postgraduate units in program evaluation and health economics. Fifteen MPH students completed their research reports in program evaluation and health economics. There are 21 Higher Degree students.

• The two short courses in Health Program Evaluation continue to attract enrolments from health professionals. Each course ran three workshops during 2005 with 38 and 29 participants respectively. The short course in Environmental Health Services evaluation was held twice in 2005. The two-day short course in Program Evaluation for DoHA policy makers and program managers in the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing is coordinated and taught by Helen Jordan and ran four times in 2005.

Staff

Associate Professor and Head
David Dunt, MB BS
Melbourne. MAPrelim LaTrobe
FFPHM PhD Monash

Associate Professor and Deputy Head
Rob Carter, BA (Hons) Macq. MAdmSt ANU GDipEpi&PopH ANU PhD Monash

Associate Professor and Assistant Head
Jane Pirkis, BA (Hons)
Uni of Tas, MPsych Uni of Tas, MAppEpi ANU, PhD Melbourne

Senior Research Fellows
Andrew Dalton, BEd Monash MEd Monash DipEd Monash GDipHEcEval Monash
Margaret Kelaher, BSc(Psych)
NSW PhD NSW
Catherine Mihalopolous, BBSc Monash GDipEcSt Monash PGDipHlthEc&Eval Monash

Senior Lecturer
Steve Crowley, BAppSc
Curtin MSc York MBA Monash GDipDiett Deakin

Research Fellow, PhD Student
Susan Day, BA Deakin, BSW
Melbourne, GradDipEval.
Melbourne, MA Monash

Research Fellows
Stephen Colgan, BNurs Deakin
Hons Monash
Peter Feldman, BA (Hons) Uni of Tasmania
Alan Headey, BA (Hons), (Double Major Psychology).
Uni of Queensland
Sally Kingsland, BAS, ANU.
BSc (Hons) ANU. MPH
(ongoing) Melbourne
Fay Kohn, Dip Primary Teaching (Deakin) Grad Dip TESOL Deakin
MA Deakin DED Melbourne
Rosemary McKenzie, BA Monash MPH Curtin
PGDipHlthProm Curtin
Marjory Moodie, BA (Hon)
DipTRP Melbourne. DrPH Melbourne.

Belinda Morley, BA Monash
Lucio Naccarella, BSc (Hon)
Adel. GDipMHS(Transcult) Melbourne

Michael Otim, GDipEc Newcastle,
PGradHlthEc&Eval Monash,
BSc (Hons) Makerere University, Uganda, MEcon Monash
Cathy Segan, BA (Hons)
Melbourne. PhD LaTrobe
Andrew Stewart, BA
Swinburne
Theonie Tacticos, BBus
Monash GDipCommDev RMIT
Tay, Kuisiang, BPharm (Hons)
Monash. MPubHlth (HlthEco) Melbourne
Ting-Fang, Sophy (Shih), BS
CMC (Taiwan), MPH Tulane
(USA), DrPH Melbourne

Lecturers
Helen Jordan, BSc Melbourne.
GDipEd Melbourne. GDipEpi & Biostat Melbourne
Jenni Livingstone, BSc
Melbourne. MEd Melbourne.
DipEd Melbourne

Research Assistant
Sarity Dodson, BSc (Hons)
Psychology) Melbourne
Bree Rankin, BCom Melbourne
Michelle Williamson, BHlthSc (Hons) LaTrobe

PEU Manager
Tracey Mayhew

Administrative Officer
Joy Yeadon

Administrative Assistant
Elizabeth Gwynne

Honorary Appointments
Honorary Fellow & PhD Student
But it's about making a difference, it's about getting the products of research into the delivery of services. Pursuing these goals takes him into potentially challenging territory: "I work in that area between university and governments." The unit's work includes public health epidemiology, health law, and health economics. The latter translates to "getting the most value for the public health dollar". "We are spending almost 10 percent of our GDP on health services, but we spend an absolutely tiny amount on the R&D of it," he says. "And that really is my fundamental focus – researching the delivery of public health programs and services."

Sonja Hood, BA Melbourne MSc, MSc Pennsylvania State University
Penny Mitchell, BSc (Hons 1) Psych UNSW, MPH USyd
Honorary Fellow
PhD (Medicine) Uni of Syd

Learning and Teaching
The PEU offers graduate health professionals the opportunity to pursue further study through both course work or research higher degrees, and professional short courses. Many of the subjects offered by the PEU in these courses are now available in both on-campus mode and off-campus distance mode, with students able to choose traditional semester length format or block mode of two to three days as their preferred study mode as well.

These subjects have been developed for health professionals working in government, health services and health support organisations who want to take a leadership role in the fields of economic evaluation, health economics, health program evaluation or health services research.

In addition to specialist teaching and research training opportunities within the Master of Public Health, the Doctor of Public Health and the Doctor of Philosophy degrees the PEU provides specialised short courses for clients outside the university. Highlights from the 2005 year include:

**Master of Public Health**
Our subject provided for the Victorian Consortium of Public Health, Health Economics and Program Evaluation introduces health economics and economic evaluation and health program evaluation for students from Deakin University, La Trobe University, Monash University and the University of Melbourne. Rob Carter and Cathy Segan coordinated each section, with David Dunt, Margaret Kelafer, Rosemary McKenzie, Cathy Mihalopoulos, Steve Crowley, Marj Moodie, Lucio Naccarella, Michael Otim and Andrew Dalton providing lectures and tutorials. There were 94 students enrolled in this class.

Second only to the epidemiology and biostatistics specialisation in numbers within the Master of Public Health, the PEU offers a range of subjects, with largely stable numbers in the established subjects and growing numbers in the newly introduced subjects.

In the health program evaluation field in 2005, Using Evaluation in Program Design taught by Jenni Livingston attracted eight MPH and two doctoral students in its first offering in semester 2. This subject was developed through funding from the Public Health Education and Research Program Innovations Grant

The number of students in Margaret Kelafer's Methods in Evaluating Health Services increased to 8 students whilst Health Program Evaluation 1 (Jenni Livingston) attracted 29 students, Health Program Evaluation 2 (David Dunt, Margaret Kelafer and Rosemary McKenzie) had 12 students, and Health Services Research (David Dunt) had 4 students.

In the health economics/ economic evaluation field, Health Economics (Cathy Mihalopoulos) attracted 8 students, Economic Evaluation 1 (Steve Crowley) had 11 students, and Economic Evaluation 2 (Steve Crowley and Rob Carter) had 6 students.

During 2005 15 students completed their two semester Research Project in either Health Economics/Economic Evaluation or Health Program Evaluation.

These students completed their studies in the following topics:
Jaithri Ananthapavan,
ACE obesity: Laparoscopic Adjustable Gastric Banding Surgery for the management of obese adolescents (Supervisor: M Moodie).
Claire Boardman, Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis in Selected Orthopaedic (Supervisor: A Dalton).
Chien Shern Jonathan Chew, An economic analysis of the Singaporean Health System as a model for developing East Asian Nations (Supervisor: S Crowley)
Susan Garner, Evaluation Protocol for a South Australian Chronic Disease Management Program (Supervisor: D Dunt).
Anggia Ismaini, Needs assessment for an Oral Health Program for Indonesian adolescents (Supervisor: J Livingston).
Andrea Jasper, Evaluation of the inpatient diabetes care coordinator component of the North East Diabetes Service (Supervisor: J Livingston).
Ana Jerak, An economic evaluation of drug-eluting stents (Supervisor: A Dalton).
Joanne Jordan, Capturing the impact of chronic disease self management programs: Does the transition question reflect the classical pre-post assessment? (Supervisor: R Osborne).
Natalia Elisabeth Machava, An Evaluation Protocol for an
AIDS program in Mozambique (Supervisor: J Livingston).

Margaret MacDonald, Intensive family therapy intervention for obese children: Assessing cost effectiveness in obesity project (Supervisor: M Moodie).

Robyn Minty, Juice bars in schools, healthy or not? A proactive evaluation of a possible health promotion program (Supervisor: M Moodie).

Anni Haji Mohamad Tuah, An evaluation of an Anti-smoking Program in Brunei (Supervisor: M Kelaher).

Rebecca Smithers, The Investigation of factors influencing the success of Pulmonary Rehabilitation programs in Australia (Supervisors: M Kelaher and A Holland).


Anni Haji Mohamad Tuah, An Evaluation of an Anti-smoking Program in Brunei (Supervisor: M Kelaher).

Michelle Vu, Protocol for an Asthma Self Management Program (Supervisors: C Mhalopoulos & M Otim).

Doctor of Public Health

There were eight students enrolled in the DrPH program in 2005. This included one in first year coursework, 4 in the research year, and 3 in the final year work placement.

Three students, Dorothy Akindele, Hanny Calache and David Lee successfully completed the program and have all since taken up new positions of employment.

One new student was welcomed to the program. Periodic meetings of the students were held to allow opportunities for networking and discussion. The review of the Doctor of Public Health program has been put on hold pending the outcome of the university-wide Growing Esteem review of its courses and subjects.

Short Courses

Health Program Evaluation

The two short courses in Health Program Evaluation (SC1 and SC2) continue to attract enrolments from health professionals working in a variety of areas. The short courses provide an opportunity for very practical, workplace oriented learning about program evaluation, with students also valuing access to evaluation expertise and making the most of opportunities to network. Each course ran three workshops during 2005 with Short Course 1 on Planning, Negotiation, Evaluation Approaches, Criteria Selection and Program Logic Modelling attracting 38 participants and Short Course 2 on Data Collection, Analysis & Reporting in Health Program Evaluation attracting 29 participants. These short courses were taught by Helen Jordan, Jenni Livingston, Theonie Tacticos, Michelle Williamson and Margaret Kelaher in 2005.

Environmental Health Services Evaluation

The short course in Environmental Health Services Evaluation incorporates a summary of the material contained within the module in Environmental Health Services Evaluation developed by Helen Jordan of the PEU in collaboration with other institutions across Victoria, and funded by the Public Health Education and Research Program.

Two short courses were held in 2005, both in Brisbane. The first was held in collaboration with Queensland Institute of Technology, and the second as a post-conference two-day workshop/short course for participants of the 2005 Australian Institute of Environmental Health Queensland State Conference.

Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing Short Course in Health Program Evaluation

The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) commissioned the PEU to deliver a two-day short course in Program Evaluation for DoHA policy makers and program managers across Australia. This two-day short course is coordinated and taught by Helen Jordan. Four short courses were run in 2005, twice in Canberra, and one each in the Perth and Queensland DoHA state based offices. More are planned in 2006.

Health and Ageing Postgraduate Studies Program

The Health and Ageing Postgraduate Studies Program (HAPS) was a course developed for employees of the Australian Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). The Program, in its final year in 2005, was delivered by a consortium of Universities across Australia. PEU offered three subjects within the Health and Ageing Postgraduate Program: Program Evaluation (biennially) and Health Economics and Economic Evaluation and a more advanced subject Economic Evaluation II. The latter two subjects were offered in 2005 with a total of 33 students enrolled in the two subjects. The subjects within the Corporate Postgraduate Studies Program are delivered by a combination of distance education and direct teaching modes. The direct teaching component involves 2-3 two-day sessions of seminars and tutorials in Canberra.

Higher Degree Completions

Christopher Milne Bolton, Evaluation of the quality of different forms of early postoperative care in children following tonsillectomy (Co-Supervisor: R Carter).

Renee Louise Manser, Screening for lung cancer with spiral CT: Costs, harms and expected health gains (Co-Supervisor: R Carter)
Research

The PEU undertakes evaluations of health programs at national, state and local levels. Since its establishment, the PEU has attracted over $25 million in funding from key granting bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and from organisations such as Commonwealth and state/territory health departments that fund contract research. Over half of this funding has come directly to the PEU with the remaining funds shared with collaborating agencies. PEU’s research income for 2005 was in excess of $1.4 million. Since 2004, the PEU has focussed its research around three work streams: Primary Care and Health Promotion; Health Economics; and Mental Health. Details of new and existing research activities are set out in the following tables.

Primary Care & Health Promotion
New research activities (includes Major Grants awarded)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Funding body</th>
<th>Chief Investigator(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review of Indigenous use of MBS-funded Medical Services</td>
<td>Department of Health and Ageing.</td>
<td>Urbis Keys Young, Margaret Kelaher.</td>
<td>This project involves a review of MBS utilisation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, with a view to policy formulation.</td>
<td>$510,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of the VicHealth Community Arts Development Scheme</td>
<td>VicHealth.</td>
<td>Lindy Joubert (Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning), Margaret Kelaher, David Dunt.</td>
<td>This project involves an evaluation of the VicHealth Community Arts Development Scheme on participants, audiences and the community.</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health Training Fellowship – Helping people with concurrent medical conditions quit smoking</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council.</td>
<td>C Segan.</td>
<td>This research program aims to develop and test models of integrating quitline services and health care services so that smoking cessation treatment can begin to be institutionalised into the health care system. Models under investigation include 1) health professional fax-referral of patients to the quitline and 2) doctor-quitline coordinated treatment for patients with comorbidities that interact with smoking cessation treatment.</td>
<td>$264,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Existing research activities carried over from 2003/2004.

- Evaluation of the Best Start Program.
- Career Development Award – Strengthening the relationship between policy and epidemiology in addressing social determinants of health.
- Support and Evaluation Component of the Department of Human Services Well for Life Initiative.
- Evaluation of the NHMRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in Neurosciences.
- Workforce Development Evaluation (Local Diabetes Service Development (LDSD) Program)
<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Assessing Cost Effectiveness (ACE) in Prevention</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council.</td>
<td>Rob Carter, Ian Anderson (Centre for the Study of Health and Society, University of Melbourne), Theo Vos (University of Queensland), Alan Lopez (University of Queensland), Chris Doran (University of Queensland), Andrew Wilson (University of Queensland).</td>
<td>This project applies the ‘ACE’ approach to priority setting to the prevention of non-communicable diseases in Australia, including the implications for Indigenous Australians and the most efficient ways of implementing priority interventions in primary care.</td>
<td>$3,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Alert to Increase Chlamydia Screening of High Risk Women in General Practice: An RCT</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council.</td>
<td>Christopher Fairley (Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, University of Melbourne), Jane Hocking (Macfarlane Burnett Institute for Medical Research and Public Health), Jane Gunn (Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne), Lyle Gurrin, Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit, University of Melbourne), Rob Carter.</td>
<td>Chlamydia trachomatis in young women is an increasing public health problem. The burden of subfertility has high economic costs as well as personal costs for those affected. This project involves a randomised controlled trial based in general practice and includes an economic evaluation.</td>
<td>$180,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority Setting in Aboriginal Health: Planning for the Prevention of Non-communicable diseases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities</td>
<td>The CRC for Aboriginal Health.</td>
<td>M Otim.</td>
<td>This PhD project applies the ‘ACE’ approach to priority setting to the prevention of non-communicable diseases in Indigenous Australian and how to contextualise Indigenous health.</td>
<td>$81,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring the Economic Implications Arising from the Proposed National Coronary Heart Disease Initiative in General Practice</td>
<td>National Heart Foundation of Australia.</td>
<td>Rob Carter.</td>
<td>Undertake literature review and economic analysis to develop an economic case for the National Heart Foundation proposed model of coronary heart disease management in general practice.</td>
<td>$81,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Funding body</td>
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<td>Description</td>
<td>Funding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic Evaluation of Primary Mental Health Care Pathways</td>
<td>Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute.</td>
<td>J Gun (Department of General Practice University of Melbourne) Grant Blashki (Department of General Practice, Monash University), Graham Meadows (School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine, Monash University), C Mihalopoulos.</td>
<td>The aim of this project was to conduct some preliminary economic analyses in three primary mental health care projects currently being undertaken in Victoria, namely the DIAMOND study (a cohort study of depression in general practice), the PANIC-Online study (a randomised trial of online psychological therapy for panic disorder) and the PEP project (a randomised trial of cognitive behavioural therapy training [called SPHERE CBT] for general practitioners).</td>
<td>$79,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The economics of Celiac Disease</td>
<td>Australian and New Zealand Celiac Research Fund Committee.</td>
<td>R Carter, S Colgan.</td>
<td>The aim of the project was to undertake initial research to describe the current health burden attributable to celiac disease, to assess the potential for the development of an economic model of the disease, and to suggest options for a future collaborative work program to further develop the economics of the disease.</td>
<td>$22,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The economic impact of Occupational contact dermatitis</td>
<td>Occupational Dermatology Research and Education Centre.</td>
<td>R Carter, S Colgan.</td>
<td>The aim of the project was to undertake initial research to describe the current health burden attributable to celiac disease, to assess the potential for the development of an economic model of the disease, and to suggest options for a future collaborative work program to further develop the economics of the disease.</td>
<td>$17,206</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial scoping and development of a work plan to investigate the economics of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)</td>
<td>The Gutsy Group.</td>
<td>R Carter, S Colgan.</td>
<td>The aim of the project was to undertake initial research to describe the health burden attributable to inflammatory bowel disease, to assess the potential to develop an economic model and to suggest options for a future work program.</td>
<td>$13,025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


- Burden of Disease and a Cost-Effectiveness of Intervention Options: Informing Policy Choices and Health System Reform in Thailand.
- Assessing Cost Effectiveness (ACE) in Prevention.
- The Pacific OPIC Study: A Four Country Study of Obesity Prevention in Communities.
- The Construction and Validation of the Assessment of Mental Health Related Quality of Life (PsyQoL) Instrument.
- Career Development Award: Priority setting in population health: past experience and future directions.
- Referral of Newly Diagnosed Prostate and Colorectal Cancer Patients to a Telephone-based Support Program.
- Assessing Cost Effectiveness (ACE) in Obesity.
### Mental Health
New research activities (includes Major Grants awarded)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Funding body</th>
<th>Chief Investigator(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Re-orientating general practice toward preventative mental health care for adolescents, utilizing the practice nurse: A pilot study.</td>
<td>Victorian Centre of Excellence in Depression and Related Disorders</td>
<td>L Sanci, K Hegarty (Department of General Practice University of Melbourne), E Patterson, (School of Nursing, Griffith University) J Pirkis, S Sawyer, G Patton (Department of Paediatrics University of Melbourne)</td>
<td>This project involves a randomised controlled trial of an opportunistic health-risk screening and counseling intervention for youth presenting to general practitioners. It includes an economic evaluation and an additional, stand-alone component that involves designing and piloting a general practice nurse-led intervention for improving pathways to care for youth at risk of depression and related disorders.</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health risk screening of adolescents in primary care: A cluster randomized controlled trial.</td>
<td>Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute:</td>
<td>L Sanci, (Department of General Practice University of Melbourne) A Shiell, (Centre for Health Economics, Monash University) G Patton, (Department of Paediatrics University of Melbourne) J Pirkis, K Hegarty (Department of General Practice University of Melbourne), E Patterson, (School of Nursing, Griffith University) P Chondra, (Department of General Practice University of Melbourne) S Sawyer (Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne)</td>
<td>See description for Re-orientating general practice toward preventive mental health care for adolescents, utilizing the practice nurse: A pilot study.</td>
<td>$499,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priority Driven Research Program: Health risk screening of adolescents in primary care: A cluster randomized controlled trial.</td>
<td>Australian Health Ministers’ Conference</td>
<td>L Sanci, (Department of General Practice University of Melbourne) J Pirkis, S Sawyer, G Patton (Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne)</td>
<td>See description for Re-orientating general practice toward preventive mental health care for adolescents, utilizing the practice nurse: A pilot study.</td>
<td>$499,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Mental Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Funding body</th>
<th>Chief Investigator(s)</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reducing Depression and Suicide amongst Older Australians: A Cluster Randomised Clinical Trial in Primary Health Care</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
<td>Osvaldo Almeida (University of Western Australia), Jon Pfaff (University of Western Australia), Ngaire Kerse (University of Auckland), John Snowdon (University of Sydney), Robert Goldney (University of Adelaide), A/Prof Jane Pirkis. Other Investigators: Michelle Williamson</td>
<td>This project involves a randomised controlled trial examining whether an educational intervention targeting Australian general practitioners (GPs) can reduce the prevalence of depression, suicide ideation and self-harm behaviour in older patients</td>
<td>$753,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ‘Learning’s From Suicide Prevention Initiatives’ Project</td>
<td>Auseinet</td>
<td>Jane Pirkis, Alan Headey. Other Investigators: Penny Mitchell, Jo Robinson (ORYGEN Youth Health), Philip Burgess (University of Queensland)</td>
<td>This project involves an analysis of the project and evaluation reports from 156 suicide prevention projects funded under the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.</td>
<td>$78,464</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Existing Projects carried over from 2003/2004.**

- Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classification Network – Analysis and Reporting Component.
- A national evaluation strategy framework for the Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care initiative.
- Career Development Award: Preventing suicidal behaviours - Ecological studies of systemic protective factors.
- Journalistic news values, and medical, health professional and lay discourses on suicide and mental illness.
- An evaluation of the introduction of Case Conferences for Consultant Psychiatrists as new item numbers on the Medicare Benefits Schedule.
## Major Grants awarded in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantor</th>
<th>Investigators</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>Rob Carter, Ian Anderson (Centre for the Study of Health and Society, UoM), Theo Vos (UQ), Alan Lopez (UQ), Chris Doran (UQ), Andrew Wilson (UQ)</td>
<td>Health Services Program Grant</td>
<td>Assessing Cost Effectiveness (ACE) in Prevention</td>
<td>2005-2009</td>
<td>$3,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>Osvaldo Almeida (UWA), Jon Pfaff (UWA), Ngaire Kerse (University of Auckland), John Snowdon (University of Sydney), Robert Goldney, Jane Pirkis</td>
<td>Project Grant</td>
<td>Reducing Depression and Suicide amongst Older Australians: A Cluster Randomised Clinical Trial in Primary Health Care</td>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>$753,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>Dr Cathy Segan</td>
<td>Public Health Training Fellowship</td>
<td>Helping people with concurrent medical conditions quit smoking</td>
<td>2005-2008</td>
<td>$264,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Centre of Excellence in Depression and Related Disorders</td>
<td>Lena Sanci, Kelsey Hegarty (Dept. of General Practice UoM), Elizabeth Patterson, (School of Nursing, Griffith University) Jane Pirkis, Susan Sawyer, George Patton (Dept of Paediatrics UoM)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Re-orientating general practice toward preventive mental health care for adolescents, utilising the practice nurse: A pilot study.</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute</td>
<td>Lena Sanci, (Dept. of General Practice UoM) Alan Shiell, (Centre for Health Economics, Monash University) George Patton, (Dept. of Paediatrics UoM) Jane Pirkis, Kelsey Hegarty (Dept. of General Practice UoM), Elizabeth Patterson, (School of Nursing, Griffith University) Patty Chondra, (Dept. of General Practice UoM) Susan Sawyer (Dept. of Paediatrics, UoM).</td>
<td></td>
<td>Health risk screening of adolescents in primary care: A cluster randomized controlled trial.</td>
<td>2005 –2008</td>
<td>$499,750</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Major Grants awarded in 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantor</th>
<th>Investigators</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute</td>
<td>Jane Gun (Dept of General Practice UoM) Grant Blashki (Dept. of General Practice, Monash University), Graham Meadows (School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine, Monash University), Cathy Mihalopoulos</td>
<td>Stream 1</td>
<td>Economic Evaluation of Primary Mental Health Care Pathways</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>$79,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Health Ministers’ Conference</td>
<td>Lena Sanci, (Dept. of General Practice UoM) Jane Pirkis, Susan Sawyer, George Patton (Dept. of Paediatrics, UoM).</td>
<td>Priority Driven Research Program: Health risk screening of adolescents in primary care: A cluster randomized controlled trial</td>
<td>2005 - 2010</td>
<td>$499,750</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC for Aboriginal Health</td>
<td>Michael Otim</td>
<td>Studentship</td>
<td>Priority Setting in Aboriginal Health: : planning for the Prevention of Non-communicable diseases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait (Islander Communities</td>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>$81,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Health Promotion Foundation</td>
<td>Lindy Joubert (Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning), Margaret Kelaher, David Dunt</td>
<td>Contract Research</td>
<td>Evaluation of the VicHealth Community Arts Development Scheme Funding Body: VicHealth</td>
<td>2005-2007</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian, Govt., Industry and Professional Associations</td>
<td>Jane Pirkis, Alan Headey</td>
<td>Auseinet - Contract Research</td>
<td>The ‘Learning’s From Suicide Prevention Initiatives’ Project</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>$78,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian, Govt., Industry and Professional Associations</td>
<td>Rob Carter</td>
<td>National Heart Foundation of Australia – Contract Research</td>
<td>Exploring the Economic Implications Arising from the Proposed National Coronary Heart Disease Initiative in General Practice</td>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>$81,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PEU Seminar Program**

Once again the Unit’s lunch time Seminar Series which is open to all colleagues and the general public proved to be extremely successful. The seminar topics are chosen to highlight current and key aspects of the Unit’s Research Program

**Indigenous Health Assessment, Margaret Kelaher, 10 May.**

Implementing evidence based heart failure guidelines in the treatment of heart failure, Sonja Hood, 10 May.

**Economics of Mental Health, Cathy Mihalopoulos, 7 June.**

Economics of obesity, Marjory Moodie, 7 June.

**Health Care & Health Promotion Stream, David Dunt, 5 July.**

Piloting a Novel Statewide Smaller Hospital Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program Noleen Bennett, 5 July.

**Mental Health Stream, Jane Pirkis, 2 August.**

Evaluation of the Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care Program, Belinda Morley, 2 August.

ACE prevention, Michael Otim/Sophie Shih, 4 October.

**Economics of Obesity, Kiwisang Tay Teo, 4 October.**

**Presentations**

Staff presented at a number of international and national conferences, as well as presenting at external seminars and workshops.

**International Conferences**


Dunt D. The impact of two after-hours model of GP services on patient satisfaction and access to care at a whole population level World Congress of Epidemiology Bangkok, Thailand, August.

Harris M, Burgess P, Chant D, Pirkis J, McGorry P. Suicide and other unnatural deaths following initial presentation to mental health services for treatment of psychotic disorders. International Association for Suicide Prevention XIII World Congress, Durban, 13-16 September.


**Invited Presentation**


**National Conferences**

Burgess P, Pirkis J, Coombs T, Clarke A. Routine outcome and casenmix measurement in Australia’s mental health services: Clinician and consumer perspectives. Paper presented to the World Psychiatric Association Section of Epidemiology and Public Health Meeting, Brisbane, 5-7 July.

Coombs T, Burgess P, Pirkis J, Clarke A. The challenge of routine outcome
measurement in mental health: The need for service and workforce development. World Psychiatric Association Section of Epidemiology and Public Health Meeting, Brisbane, 5-7 July.

Dalton A, Economic Evaluation of the reintroduction of School Milk Programs, Nutrition Society of Australia Scientific Meeting at Hilton Hotel, Melbourne, December.

Dunt D, The impact of standalone call centres and GP cooperatives on access to after hours GP care: a before and after study adjusted for secular trend. Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand, Canberra, ACT, November.


Moodie M, Big Brothers Big Sisters – Building an evidence base to practice. Invited paper, Launch, Monash Law Chambers, 29 June.


Pirkis J, Access to allied psychological services: Divisional service provision. Primary Mental Health Care Conference, Perth, 3 November.


Warr D, Kelaher M, Tacticos T, A good and sincere conversation: working with peer-interviewers for research in culturally diverse neighbourhoods, Centre for Culture, Ethnicity & Health (CEH) conference Consumer Participation and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities: Working Together Towards Good Practice, Melbourne, September.


Poster presentations

Jordan H, Venn A, Bruinisma F, Werther G Adolescent exposure to high dose estrogens and subsequent breast disease. 14th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Epidemiological Association 6-7th October, Newcastle, Australia. (Attendance supported by the Menzies Research Institute, UTAS).


Seminar Presentations

Morley B, Evaluating the Access to Allied Psychological Services component of the BOIMHC program: Minimum Dataset DoHA, Canberra, December.

Livingston J, Hepatitis C Educators’ Forum: Why do we evaluate, Hepatitis C Council of Victoria, June.

Invited Presentations

Naccarella L, General Practice Primary Health Care Research Evaluation & Development: Putting Evaluation into Practice Melbourne Division of General Practice, February.

Naccarella L, General Practice Primary Health Care Research Evaluation & Development: Putting Evaluation into Practice Melbourne Division of General Practice, February.

Tay-Teo K, Sibutramine therapy in Obese Australian adults, ACE-Obesity Working Group Department of Human Services, 31 March.

Tay-Teo K, Orlistat therapy in Obese Australian Adolescents, ACE-Obesity Working Group Department of Human Services, 2 September.
Community and Professional Involvement

During 2005 PEU staff continued to be active in the wider community as members of important advisory committees, reviewers of potential articles for a variety of referred journals and assessors of grant applications.

Committee Memberships

R Carter
- Member of the Victorian Policy Advisory Committee on Clinical Practice and Technology (Ministerial Appointment).
- Member of the Steering Committee for the Population Health & Use of Medicines Unit at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney.
- Member of the Australian Screening Advisory Committee (Ministerial appointment) and Member of the Evaluation Sub-Committee.
- Member, Advisory Committee for the Clinical Epidemiology and Health Service Evaluation Unit, Royal Melbourne Hospital.

R McKenzie
- Member of the Council on the Ageing (COTA) Advisory Committee for the Evaluation of the Living Longer Living Stronger Evaluation of Strength Training Programs.

L Naccarella
- Health Service Research Association of Australia & New Zealand (HSRAANZ).
- AAAGP participated in AAAGP Annual Research Meeting.
- Social Network Analysis Association.

J Pirkis
- Chair, Suicide and the Media Task Force, International Association for Suicide Prevention.
- Member, International Association for Suicide Prevention.
- Executive Member, Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand.
- Member, Australian Psychological Society.
- Member, Local Scientific Program Committee, World Psychiatric Association Congress.
- Member, Organising Committee, World Psychiatric Association Section of Epidemiology and Public Health Meeting.

C Segan
- Coordinator, Cessation Tobacco Strategy Group at The Cancer Council Victoria.
- Treasurer, Australian Health Prom9otion Association (AHPA) Vic Branch.
- General Committee member, AHPA (Vic Branch).
- Convener, Victorian Young Health Promotion Network.
- Local Organising committee, National Men's Health Conference.
- Local organising committee, National Men's Shed Conference.

Referee and Assessor Services for Grant Applications and Journals

Grant Bodies

R Carter, S Crowley and M Moodie have all reviewed National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants.

R Carter was also a reviewer of Public Health Committee of the New Zealand Health Research Council grants.

Journals

A Dalton,
- Reviewer – Medical Journal of Australia.

C Segan,
- Reviewer – Health Education Research & Health Promotion Journal of Australia.
- Member, Editorial Board, Crisis.
- Member, Editorial Board, Australian Journal of Primary Health – Interchange.

J Pirkis
- Member, Editorial Board, Crisis.
- Member, Editorial Board, Australian Journal of Primary Health – Interchange.

Awards

Both Rosemary McKenzie and Lucio Naccarella were short-listed finalist in the 2005 Victorian Public Health Awards, receiving a certificate of achievement for the Evaluation of the Well for Life Initiative, 2005.

R Carter was awarded the School of Population research award (open category).

Conference proceedings and published conference papers


The Centre for International Mental Health (CIMH) is dedicated to research, teaching, and policy and service development in the field of mental health, in Australia and internationally. The two broad areas of activity are capacity development for mental health in low-income and post-conflict societies, and development of culturally appropriate mental health services for multicultural societies.

In the international mental health arena CIMH works in close partnership with the Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School. In the area of transcultural psychiatry CIMH works closely with the Victorian transcultural Psychiatry Unit (VTPU) with a number of the senior academic staff of CIMH having joint appointments in the VTPU.

As part of the School of Population Health within the University of Melbourne’s Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, CIMH provides world-class teaching and research facilities fostering a multidisciplinary and cross-cultural understanding of mental health and wellbeing.

CIMH is a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre in Mental Health and is working in close collaboration with WHO as part of the Mental Health Global Action Program (mhGAP).

Teaching and Academic Activities
The Centre for International Mental Health has developed new curriculum in the fields of international mental health and transcultural psychiatry, and offers programs in a variety of teaching modes, including traditional on-campus teaching, intensive block seminars, on-line programs (such as the fully on-line course Transcultural Mental Health for Clinicians), and is increasingly developing NewMedia approaches to teaching and learning.

CIMH staff – in collaboration with colleagues from the Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Universities of Queensland and Western Australia – have developed an internationally unique qualification in international mental health, the University of Melbourne Master of International Mental Health program. Graduates with appropriate qualifications in a relevant mental health discipline can complete the Master of International Mental Health in the School of Population Health over one year of full-time study or two years part-time. The program is delivered in mixed mode, including intensive on-campus seminars and workshops, supported by on-line teaching and supervision and by senior colleagues who act as mentors in the students’ own countries.

CIMH is offering an increasing number of intensive workshops in the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond. Academic staff have lectured and taught in many countries, including Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam.

CIMH offers a two-year full-time research degree, the Master of Mental Health Science (Transcultural Mental Health) and a PhD program.

Research
Research Training Grants
1. beyondblue Victorian Centre for Excellence in Depression and Related Disorders
Professor L Manderson, School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine, Monash University; Dr R Kokanovic, Department of General Practice, A/Prof S Klimidis, CIMH
Extending the Emotional and Lifestyle Impact of Type 2 Diabetes: Exploring the association between diabetes and depression. $58,868, 2005-2006

2. Mayne Pharma
C Ng, S Klimidis, I Schweitzer, I., Nguyen, T. & Pratt, C.
Attitudes to psychotropic medications and adherence to treatment. $10,000, 2006

2. Mayne Pharma
C Ng, S Klimidis, I Schweitzer, I., Nguyen, T. & Pratt, C.
Attitudes to psychotropic medications and adherence to treatment. $10,000, 2006

The Centre for International Mental Health offers an exciting intellectual environment for Advanced Medical Science, Masters and Doctoral students, with opportunities to carry out research in Australia and throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
If the Centre for International Mental Health’s Director, Associate Professor Harry Minas, needed any reminder of what motivates his work, the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami was a powerful prompt. In 2005, the Centre devoted considerable resources to helping Sri Lanka and the Indonesian province of Aceh. “The tsunami created an opportunity to develop community-based mental health services where there were none before. “That has been exciting because it's actually going very well. People are getting access to treatment and care for the first time.” Developing mental health systems in low income and post-conflict societies, where such services are very poorly developed, is one of the Centre’s major areas of activity. “In the Asia Pacific region, there are many countries in which there is systematic neglect and serious abuse of the rights of mentally ill people,” he says. “The key motivation is to improve the quality of mental health care for people in Asia and in other regions. “It really is a response to the needs of one of the most vulnerable groups in any society but particularly in those societies where mental health is not a high priority.”

Education
Unrestricted Educational Grants
Eli Lilly Australia
A one-year unrestricted educational grant of $A250,000 has been obtained from Eli Lilly Australia for the delivery of a second year (2006-07) of the Australian Mental Health Leadership Program (ausMHLP) after a successful pilot in 2005-06. This program is a modification of the International Mental Health Leadership Program for Australian psychiatrists and is run in collaboration with Barwon Health, the Brain and Mind Research Institute (University of Sydney), the Queensland Centre for Mental Health Research (University of Queensland) and the Department of Psychiatry (University of Melbourne).

Community Activities
CIMH staff serve on a numerous national and international committees and advisory groups, and have been members of Scientific Program Committees for a number of international conferences.

A/Prof Minas is a member of the Immigration Detention Advisory Group, advising the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and is on the Editorial Boards of:
- Transcultural Psychiatry (Sage Publications).
- Anthropology and Medicine (Carfax Publishing).

A/Prof Harry Minas is a member of the following international organisations:
- Member of the Executive Committee (Treasurer) of the World Association for Social Psychiatry.
- Member of the Committee of the World Psychiatric Association Conflict Management and Resolution Section.
- Chairman, Section of Social and Cultural Psychiatry, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

Conferences
The 4th International Mental Health Development Conference was held in Melbourne on 5 December 2005. The one-day conference focused on mental health in Aceh and featured presentations from six Indonesian mental health specialists who have been working to provide and improve mental health services to Aceh in the wake of the December 2004 tsunami. Speakers included Dr Pandu Setiawan, Director of Mental Health in Indonesia’s national ministry of health, and Dr Imansyah, Head of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Indonesia. The Australian Mental Health Leadership Program was showcased at two afternoon sessions at the 41st Royal and Australian College of Psychiatrists Congress held in Perth in May 2006. Presenters included CIMH staff A/Prof Harry Minas and Ms Kate Johnston, along with participants in ausMHLP 2005-06.

Centre Staff
A/Prof Harry Minas
Director
A/Prof Steven Klimidis
Research Co-ordinator
Ms Jenny Burchill
Assistant to the Director and Centre Manager
Ms Tania Miletic
Research Fellow

Honorary Staff
Dr Alex Cohen
Harvard Medical School, USA
Prof. R Kantrowitz
Westfield State College, USA
A/Prof Vikram Patel
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK
Ms Erminia Colucci
University of Queensland
Dr Anura Jayasinghe
Ministry of Health Care & Nutrition, Sri Lanka
Dr Yutaro Setoya
National Institute of Mental Health, Japan
Dr Yvonne Stolk
Victorian Transcultural Psychiatry Unit
Dr Je Chun Yu
Chongqing University of Medical Sciences, PR China
Dr Yu Chen
Eulji University, RO Korea
SHU
Sexual Health Unit
School of Population Health
Department of Public Health
ANNUAL REPORT 2005
The University of Melbourne’s Sexual Health Unit (SHU) is situated at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (MSHC) which is also a division of the Bayside Health Network. The vision of the MSHC is to be a leader in the management and prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and its mission is to maximise sexual health through innovation and excellence in public health, education, clinical care and research.

### MSHC STATISTICS

#### 2005: CONSULTATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinic Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Transgender</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Clinic</td>
<td>21,130</td>
<td>11,399</td>
<td>9,695</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV (Referral)</td>
<td>2,063</td>
<td>1,868</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>1,078</td>
<td>816</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaccination</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>435</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>25,556</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,017</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,486</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE: One visit can include consultations with several services provided by MSHC*

#### 2005: SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinic Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Transgender</th>
<th>Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Clinic</td>
<td>11,707</td>
<td>6,670</td>
<td>5,019</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV Clinic</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaccination</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,588</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,106</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,460</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These statistics represent the number of individuals seen through each service at MSHC.

*NOTE: If an individual has accessed more than one service during a visit then they are counted in both services. Individuals who have accessed the service more than once are only counted once.*

### 2005: DIAGNOSES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Transgender</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dermatosis</td>
<td>1,039</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>583</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacterial Vaginosis</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhoea</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGU *</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>841</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post Coital Intervention</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warts</td>
<td>1,623</td>
<td>1,053</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Non-gonococcal urethritis

The MSHC has been in operation for more than 85 years. It is the only centre that provides full-time, free sexual health services to the people of Victoria. The services include general clinics for the detection and management of Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs), a variety of specialist clinics in HIV/AIDS medicine, dermatology and colposcopy. An on-site laboratory service is provided by the Public Health Laboratory-Microbiology Diagnostic Unit (PHL-MDU), University of Melbourne which provides assistance to clinicians in making rapid diagnoses to provide the most appropriate treatment at the initial visit.

Qualified counsellors are available for individuals or couples with concerns about Sexual Health and STIs including HIV. In addition to the doctors providing services, sexual health nurses play an instrumental role in the daily functioning of the clinical services, including screening for STIs, preventative education, counseling, providing results and follow-up of all positive and abnormal results, and contact tracing.

As the service has become increasingly sophisticated, so too has the challenge to remain easily accessible, not only to users of the service, but also to healthcare professionals. The MSHC website, which is frequently updated, provides a variety of sexual health education and other useful information for both healthcare professionals and the general population. To address concerns that users may have with the service, an annual client satisfaction survey is conducted.
Teaching and Learning Activities

The Centre has continued to maintain strong research and education activities through The University of Melbourne’s School of Population Health. In collaboration with the School of Population Health the Centre has developed a number of short courses and subjects in sexual and reproductive health. These have been extremely well-attended and will provide the Victorian community with a highly trained workforce that improves the quality of sexual health services outside the Centre.

Master of Public Health
- Development of Public Health control of STIs (subject)

Postgraduate courses / subjects under development
- Graduate Diploma in Sexual Health (for medical and nursing practitioners)
  - Semester 1 – Control of Sexually Transmissible Infections 505-431/531
  - Semester 1 – Sexually Transmissible Infections 505-432/532
  - Semester 2 – Sexual & Reproductive Health 505-433/533
- Short course series on clinical aspects of STI control.

Undergraduate Teaching
- Semester 5 – public health control of STIs
- Semester 8 – clinical aspects of STIs
- Semesters 6 and 7 – Advanced Medical Science (AMS) – clinical research projects
- Clinical attachments to Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

The research projects of higher degree candidates enrolled through the School of Population Health are aimed at enhancing the services and promotion of sexual health offered at MSHC.

Research
Postgraduate Courses Completed:

Risk factors for sexually transmitted infections (STI) among clients attending the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. David M Lee, DPH
Chlamydia screening. Jane Hocking, PhD

In progress:
Development of questionnaire to provide the greatest sensitivity and specificity in detecting non-adherence to antiretroviral therapy used in the management of HIV. Asiye Doxanakis, MPH
Recurrence rate of Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) after treatment with metronidazole over a 12 month period. Catriona Bradshaw, PhD

Efficacy of current strategies and the role of newer technology in partner notification. Jane Tomnay, PhD

HIV/AIDS prevention and management. Moshin Sidat, PhD

Screening programs for men who have sex with men (MSM) in male-only saunas and a specialist clinic in Melbourne. Nicky Lister, PhD

Using computers to improve sexual history. Robin Tideman, PhD

An investigation of interventions aimed at enhancing sexual satisfaction in women. Richard Hayes, PhD

Clinical Projects:
Clarity of the clinically heterogeneous condition of non-specific urethritis. Peter Iser (2002-2003)

Knowledge and behaviour for acquiring sexually transmitted infections through oral sex. Sarah Hancock (2003-2004)

Audit of the adherence to antiretroviral data collected at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. Angga Permana (2003-2004)

For Professor Christopher Fairley, being head of the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, which houses the Sexual Health Unit, is his ideal job. “I find combining clinical medicine with epidemiological research provides the absolute perfect balance between the ability to innovate in clinical medicine and to make a difference to the services we provide,” he says.

“I find it enormously satisfying because it provided me with the opportunity to make a difference.

“The area of sexual health and the delivery of sexual health services has had limited support for research in the past but it is and highly efficient.

“That means that we end up with improved STI control, principally through the more clever use of resources.”

Invited Presentations

1 Why Australia needs a Chlamydia screening program and how it might work. 2005 Scientific Meeting – AChSHM NSW Regional Committee. Sydney, Australia. 2005.

2 Sexual Health – i) How to maximise the efficiency of a clinic session ii) Bacterial Vaginosis – the most important STI of all iii) Why has Chlamydia screening not been more effective in reducing its prevalence.


5 Why has Chlamydia Screening not had a Greater Effect on the Prevalence of Infection? 9th IUSTI World Congress. Bangkok, Thailand. Nov 2005
Research Grants


4 Fairley CK, Tomnay J. Using the Internet to enhance Chlamydia partner notification for General Practitioners in Victoria. DHS Public Health Research Grant 2004-2005. $10,130


Major National/International Exchanges

Community Activities

There are considerable barriers such as embarrassment and stigma, which often prevent people from seeking sexual health advice and this coupled with the fact that many General Practitioners (GPs) are not comfortable dealing with sexual health, a novel online service ‘Check your risk’ was developed by researchers at MSHC. This service was incorporated into the MSHC website and launched in November 2005 to encourage people to be proactive about their sexual health. ‘Check your risk’ allows users to enter data about their sexual behaviour, and by using a specially developed algorithm, generates printer-friendly recommendations on sexual health tests based on the responses of users to a series of questions complete with technical advice to show to their GP.

Staff List

Christopher Fairley
Professor of Sexual Health

Hennie Williams
Senior Lecturer

Yuan Gao
Vice Chancellors Fellow – based in Beijing

Darren Russell
Senior Lecturer (moved to Cairns as Director of Sexual Health Service

Jane Hocking
Postdoc Fellow

Students

Catherine Bradshaw
PhD student

Marcus Chen
PhD student completed

David Lee
DPH student completed

Moshin Sidat
PhD student

Robin Tideman
PhD student

Jane Tomnay
PhD student

Samitha Ginige
Overseas Postdoc

Thiloma Manasinghe
Overseas Postdoc

John Marrone
DPH
The Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre (DVDC) is a joint initiative of the Australian Government’s National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the New York-based Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF). Administratively based within the School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne, this $10 million dollar initiative, which commenced in mid-2003, is part of a global coordinated effort to develop a vaccine to prevent the development of type 1 diabetes.

Type 1 or juvenile onset diabetes is one of the most costly and chronic of the childhood diseases. To stay alive, people with type 1 diabetes must test their blood sugar levels and take multiple injections of insulin daily. Even with insulin, this form of diabetes usually results in a drastic reduction in quality of life and shortens the average life span.

Type 1 diabetes occurs when the immune system attacks and destroys the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas resulting in a lack of insulin in the body. Without the hormone insulin, cells of the body are unable to use glucose, the level of glucose in the blood increases and symptoms of diabetes result.

Outcomes from a number of laboratory model systems and some preliminary clinical data have been sufficiently encouraging for there to be a real hope that it may be possible to prevent the development of type 1 diabetes using therapies analogous to vaccination programs traditionally used to prevent the development of a number of infectious diseases. Thus, DVDC’s mission is to identify the leading prospects for type 1 diabetes vaccines and to facilitate their development through early stages of clinical trialling.

DVDC bridges the gap between research and commercial product development. During 2005, apart from significant technical advances (as outlined below) DVDC successfully underwent a review of its progress commissioned by the Research Committee of the NHMRC. One outcome of this review was a strong endorsement of the procedures put in place by DVDC for carrying out its mission. A further outcome was a recommendation that an independent Administrative Review of DVDC be carried out, to investigate the governance arrangements of the DVDC and to make recommendations to the NHMRC’s Review Committee on the future of the DVDC. This was scheduled to take place during the first quarter of calendar year 2006.

**Staff**

**Chief Executive Officer**
David O. Irving, PhD, GAICD

**Centre Liaison Manager**
Mary Joy Gleeson

**Scientific program**

Following extensive global searches for projects applicable to DVDC’s mission and their subsequent reviews, several exciting projects were identified. Throughout 2005, DVDC focused on the initiation of two of those projects. The one furthest down the development path (INIT II) originated at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne. This project involves a large Phase II clinical trial to test the efficacy of delivering insulin via an intranasal route to individuals identified as being at risk of developing type 1 diabetes. The second (PI Peptide Vaccine) is a peptide vaccine approach proposed by investigators at the University of Bristol and King’s College, London, UK. This is a Phase I safety and immunogenicity study.

**INIT II**

The principal investigators for INIT II are Professor Len Harrison (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research) and Dr Peter Colman (Royal Melbourne Hospital). Towards the end of 2004, results from studies of relevance to the previously proposed INIT II trial protocol were released. In light of these results, the DVDC Board recommended that the entire project be reviewed again, taking into account these results, with the possibility that, although approved in principle by an ethics committee, the study might need to be redesigned. Thus, Professor Harrison was asked to present again at the DVDC project reviews held in Melbourne during April, 2005. DVDC assisted in the development of the revised proposal by working with Professor Harrison and appropriate opinion leaders and consultants such that a clinical trial protocol sufficiently robust to be acceptable to subsequent vaccine developers and regulatory authorities was developed. The DVDC Board approved the modified protocol and provisional approval to commence the trial was received from the Royal Melbourne Hospital Ethics Committee at its meeting in December, 2005.

As mentioned above, the INIT II Trial is designed to determine if exposure of the immune system to insulin delivered as a spray to the mucous membranes of nasal passages will prevent immune attack on the insulin-producing beta cells of the pancreas. The key aspect of this treatment is that intranasal insulin acts only on the immune system and is not absorbed into the body. Insulin given in this way does not affect blood glucose and will not cause hypoglycaemia.

Previous studies in mice that spontaneously develop type 1 diabetes showed that exposure of their mucous membranes to insulin resulted in a vaccine-like effect whereby protective immune cells were activated. These protective or regulatory cells counteract the “bad” immune cells that damage beta cells. In a recently-completed trial in children and young adults at risk of type 1 diabetes (the INIT I trial), insulin given via an intranasal spray was found to be safe and to result in immune changes similar to those seen in the mice that were protected from getting diabetes. It is now important to prove that along with these immune changes we can preserve beta-cell function and stop progression to diabetes in people.

Genes (DNA) play a significant role in type 1 diabetes. People with a close family member (blood relative) with type 1 diabetes have a 10-15 times greater risk of developing the disease than those without. The immune damage to the beta cells that results in type 1 diabetes is thought to begin months to years before the lack of insulin causes symptoms. This is the pre-clinical phase in which symptoms are not yet present.

A significant feature of INIT II is the recruitment of people at risk for type 1 diabetes. In order to find nearly 300 high-risk participants for the trial, over 13,000 first and second-degree relatives of people with type 1 diabetes need to
The Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre is a translational research organisation – helping to turn scientific promise into commercial product.

The Centre’s CEO, Dr David Irving, says, “Our role is to facilitate the translation of late-stage research from the research bench into early-stage product development and through to clinical trial. “It’s our raison d’être.

For type 1 diabetes, there is a lot of really exciting work being carried out at the research bench, but it often stops there. On the ‘D’ side of R&D you need to remain focused on the milestones you’re trying to achieve and keep on that track.”

There are about 140,000 Australians with type 1 diabetes, some of whom are as young as just a few months old. Since the 1950s, its incidence has been increasing at the rate of around 2.5 to 3 percent per year. A research scientist in biochemistry and cell and molecular biology, Dr Irving made what he saw as a natural progression into the biotechnology industry during the early 1990s. He notes the major difference between working at the research bench and product development.

“Genuine inquisitive, curiosity-driven research will obviously often go off on different tangents, but from a commercialisation point of view, once you’ve decided to head down that path, you really have to stay focused and minimise the distractions.

“Your ultimate aim is to produce that product and see it on the shelf. You must keep focused on that endgame.”

be screened for antibodies against components of the beta cells. This is because only about two percent of family members will have a high enough risk of diabetes to be eligible to enter the trial.

The INIT II Trial is divided into three phases: Screening Phase, Staging Phase and Clinical Trial Phase.

During the Screening Phase a person will be eligible to enter the trial if they: have a first-degree relative (mother or father, brother or sister, son or daughter) or a second-degree relative (grandmother or grandfather, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, half-sister or half-brother) with type 1 diabetes; are aged between 4 and 30 years; and have a positive blood test for antibodies against components of the beta cells known as autoantigens.

The Staging Phase will commence if a participant is found to have antibodies to a number of beta cell autoantigens. The small proportion of people who are eligible for this phase will receive further blood tests to see how their body handles glucose and how much insulin they make. These tests will refine the level of risk which the person has of developing type 1 diabetes.

The Clinical Trial Phase will test the treatment of the intranasal vaccine to see if it prevents type 1 diabetes. It involves self-administering treatment with a nasal spray every day for seven days and then once a week for one year. Follow-up visits to the nearest participating clinic will be required every three months in the first year and every six months for four years after that to monitor the effects of the vaccine.

During the Clinical Trial Phase two doses of treatment will be tested against a placebo (inactive dummy spray). During the trial neither the participants nor the researchers will be aware of which treatment is being used. INIT II is a three-arm trial in which two different doses of insulin will be compared with a placebo. Participants will be randomly assigned to one of three arms. Treatments of either 1.6mg insulin, 16mg insulin or placebo will be administered. All new conventional medicines and drugs are tested in this way before they can be approved by Government regulatory bodies.

Anyone wishing to find out more about this trial (or who are interested in participating) can phone 1300 138 712 or go to https://studies.thegeorgeinstitute.org/init/.

(ii) PI Peptide vaccine trial

This proposal involves the administration of T cell binding peptides that have been implicated in the onset of type 1 diabetes. T cell assays are then used to monitor the outcome of the immunotherapy. The first phase of this project is a safety study using a single peptide. Assuming this proves to be safe and generates an appropriate immune response, other peptides are proposed to be used in combination.

The principal investigators for this trial are Dr Colin Dayan (Bristol University) and Dr Mark Peakman (King’s College).

This project advanced significantly through 2005. Clinical trial grade peptide was manufactured by a Swiss company and provided to the investigators at Bristol University for use in a preclinical transgenic mouse study where doses and dosing regimes proposed for use in the human trial were tested. This was successfully completed with no adverse events recorded. The data generated from the mouse trial was forwarded (along with the proposed clinical trial protocol) to the hospital ethics committee for review. The trial was subsequently approved for commencement in early 2006.

(iii) Other projects

Several other projects, including a collaborative project based in the US, were monitored closely by DVDC through 2005. The US project aims to assess whether combinatorial treatment with an immunosuppressing antibody coupled with a diabetes autoantigen vaccine will be more efficacious than each entity (the antibody or antigen) alone, when administered to recent-onset diabetics. The outcomes from that work are due to be presented to the DVDC Board in April 2006 with an aim for DVDC to become more directly involved as the project progresses into human clinical trials. Community and professional involvement

Dr Irving has continued as a Director of AusBiotech Ltd, being re-elected to the Board in November 2005.

Dr Irving attended various local and international meetings and conferences through the reporting period, including FOCIS 2005 (the Federation of Clinical Immunological Societies) in Boston in May 2005; BIO2005 in Philadelphia in June 2005, and AusBiotech 2005, the National Conference of the Australian biotechnology industry, which was held in Perth in November 2005.

Major Collaborations

As per Scientific Program.
The Vaccine and Immunisation Research Group operates as a research collaboration with the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute with our staff based in the School of Population Health. Research focuses on clinical trials of new vaccines, mathematical modelling of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs), the epidemiology of vaccine-preventable viral diseases, and the evaluation of immunisation programs. VIRG contributes to the NHMRC National Capacity Building Program in Mathematical Modelling in Infectious Diseases, and works closely with the NHMRC Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Immunisation (MCRI and University of Melbourne consortium).

Research

Vaccine clinical trials
1: Phase I clinical trial of a Pandemic influenza (H5N1) candidate vaccine. The purpose of this research study is to identify a vaccine that may prevent the spread of “bird” (or avian) flu in the event of a human pandemic and to determine which of the four different formulations produces the best immune response. The results of this study will be integral to the production of the vaccine that could protect the Australian population in the event of a human influenza pandemic.

2: Phase II clinical trial of a combined Hib meningococcal serogroup C and Y conjugate vaccine. The purpose of this study is to provide data on the immunogenicity (immune response), reactogenicity (local reactions) and safety of a primary vaccination course with this new vaccine.


4: Phase II clinical trial of a new vaccine to prevent herpes simplex virus Type 2 (HSV2) infections, given in early adolescence.

Mathematical modelling

Mathematical modelling of the spread of infectious disease and possible epidemics is used to gain insights into potential public health interventions ranging from vaccines to community interventions such as border control measures and school and business closures. Contributing to an NHMRC-funded national infectious disease modelling network of scientists from mathematics, medicine, public health and health policy backgrounds, our studies have focussed on pandemic influenza as well as common bacterial infections.

Epidemiologic research

In collaboration with the University of Queensland, our studies continue on a community sample of families looking at the incidence of common and newly discovered respiratory viruses, including a novel human coronavirus, bocavirus and human metapneumovirus.

Evaluation of immunisation and screening programs

This program of research includes studies to evaluate the effectiveness of screening for chlamydia infection; evaluation of the prevention by conjugate pneumococcal vaccine of severe pneumonia in Australian Aboriginal children in the Northern Territory; and studies of the effectiveness of polysaccharide pneumococcal vaccine and inactivated influenza vaccine in preventing hospital admissions due to community-acquired pneumonia.

Staff

Group leader
Professor Terry Nolan

Researchers
Professor John Matthews
Dr Jodie McVernon
Dr James McCaw
Dr Jane Hocking
Dr Loretta Thorn
Dr Stephen Lambert
Kerry-Ann O’Grady

Field studies coordinator
Marita Kefford

Research assistants
Leonie Baker
John Bashour
Michelle Boglis
Janet Briggs
Clare Brophy
Elizabeth Christie
Lucy Cosentino
Monique Decortis
Debbie Gervovich
Jane Gibson
Ruth Lawrence
Stephanie Lenko
Betty Lim
Etha Macken
AnnMarie McEvoy
Liz McGrath
Paula Nathan
Jacinta O’Sullivan
Jane Ryrie
Kate Scott
Barbra Sherry
Serena Sims
Jacinta Sonego
Patricia Stag
Eve Urban
Sandra Walker
Marie West

Tiam Yap
Erin Hill
Deb Gercovich
Charan Sandhu
Deb Saunders

Study doctors
Dr Karyn Alexander
Dr Aleya Begum
Dr Ian Chao
Dr Gabi Dabscheck
Dr Lana Horng
Dr Benjamin Namdarian
Dr Shane O’Dea
Dr Briony Price
Dr Cameron Roberts
Dr Nicole Rose
Dr Claire Veith

PhD students
Dr Susan Skull
Kerry-Ann O’Grady
Dr Stephen Lambert

Major presentations


2005
PUBLICATIONS REPORT
School of Population Health
Department of Public Health
School of Population Health

A2 – Edited Books


B1 – Chapters in Research Books


B2 – Chapters in Books


C1 – Journal Articles


- Burrows M & Bird SR. 2005. Velocity at VO2max and peak treadmill velocity are not influenced within or across the phases of the menstrual cycle. European Journal of Applied Physiology. 93:575-580.


C2 – Unrefereed Journal Articles

C5 – Other Refereed Contributions to Refereed Journals

Q8 – Research in Progress (RIP)
• Fairley CK, Gurrin JM, Parker RM & Hocking JS. 2005. Implementing Chlamydia Screening: attitudes of general practitioners and young women.

Centre for Health and Society
A1 – Research Books

A2 – Edited Books

A6 – Authored Books
– Other

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia: Cancer Council Victoria.

B1 – Chapters in Research Books

B2 – Chapters in Books

C1 – Journal Articles
– Refereed


Warr DJ. 2005. “It was fun .. but we don’t usually talk about these things”: analyzing sociable insensitivity syndrome in adulthood. British Medical Journal. 331:628-630.


C3 – Unreferred Letters or Notes


C5 – Other Referred Contributions to Referred Journals


G4 – Major Reports


F4 – Major Reports


**Q5 – Minor Reports/ Working Papers**


**Q8 – Research in Progress (RIP)**


**Q9 – Substantial Grants Received**


**R11 – Thesis Passed for Higher Degrees**


• Fuscaldo GF. 2005. Are genetic ties morally significant.

• Mann RH. 2005. Re-imagining place and belonging: Health promotion in an indigenous community.

**R12 – Thesis in Progress for Higher Degrees**


• Clark CE. 2005. A social and medical history of alcoholism in Australia.

• Coles JY. 2005. Why doctors don’t ask. Understanding medical attitudes to abuse and violence.

• Davies GT. 2005. The applied ethics of HIV vaccines.


• Fetherstonhaugh DMA. 2005. Decision-making processes in respect to dialysis in elderly patients with end-stage renal disease.

• Furler JS. 2005. Theorising inequality in general practice: Exploring the role of social context and class in the experiences of GPs and patients in diabetes care.

• GrieW RW. 2005. Evaluating the transfer of Aboriginal health from ATSC to the Commonwealth Health Department.


• JohnSon P. 2005. A perspective on tuberculosis: an anthropological comparision between three communities, one in Melanesia, one in remote Australia and one in Melbourne.

• Keegel TG. 2005. Skin Wise: A workplace intervention to reduce occupational contact dermatitis in hairdressers.

• Kowal EE. 2005. Assessing change in public health research: An ethnography of an indigenous public health research institution.


• MacLean SJ. 2005. Social meanings of inhalant use in Melbourne: implications for the development of policy & intervention.

• Marriott P. 2005. Adverse events in health care: The experience from the patient and family perspective.


• Renkin PFB. 2005. From segregated institution to self-managed community;

• Community work towards indigenous self-management at Lake Tyers / Bung Yarra, Victoria.

• Tacticos TM. 2005. The limits and potential of community lead, place-based strategies to address health and social inequities.

• Tasker CE. 2005. To be advised.

• Tinney DJ. 2005. Sustaining sociality and a sense of self in residents in aged care.

• Van Der Sterren AE. 2005. From crisis care to population health: Developing public health practice in an Aboriginal community context.


• Westall CA. 2005. How do women and their partners understand and resolve postnatal depression?

**Centre for International Mental Health**

**C1 – Journal Articles**

– **Referred**


**C2 – Unrefereed Journal Articles**


**Q8 – Research in Progress (RIP)**

• Ng CH, Klumidis S, Schweitzer I & Pratt CJ. 2005. Attitudes to psychotropic medications and adherence to treatment.

**Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology**

**B1 – Chapters in Research Books**


**C1 – Journal Articles**

– **Referred**


C3 – Unreferred Letters or Notes


C5 – Other Referred Contributions to Referred Journals


B2 – Chapters in Books


C1 – Journal Articles – Referreed


C2 – Unrefereed Journal Articles


C3 – Unrefereed Letters or Notes


G4 – Major Reports


Q8 – Research in Progress (RIP)


VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Social Wellbeing

C1 – Journal Articles


Program Evaluation Unit

B1 – Chapters in Research Books


C1 – Journal Articles


F2 – Fully Written

Unrefereed Conference Papers


G4 – Major Reports


• Moodie ML. 2005. ACE-Obesity Study: Active After-School Community Program. For Department of Human Services, Victoria, Australia: Department of Human Services.


• Moodie ML, Galvin L & Swinburn B. 2005. ACE-Obesity Study: Active Transport Programs for primary school children: TravelSMART Schools. For Department of Human Services, Melbourne, Australia: Department of Human Services.


• Tay-Teo KS. 2005. ACE-Obesity Study working paper: Cost-effectiveness of sibutramine therapy in comparison to orlistat therapy in Australian Adults. For Victorian State Government, Parkville, Victoria, Australia: Program Evaluation Unit, The University of Melbourne.

• Tay-Teo KS. 2005. ACE-Obesity study working paper – Olistat therapy in Australian adolescents. For Department of Human Services, Melbourne, Australia: Department of Human Services.

G5 – Minor Reports/ Working Papers


Q8 – Research in Progress (RIP)


• Carter RC & Colgan SJ. 2005. Referral of newly diagnosed prostate and colorectal cancer patients to a telephone-based support program (COISS).


• Otim ME. 2005. Priority Setting in Aboriginal Health: Planning for the prevention of non-communicable diseases in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.


• Pirkis JE & Blood RW. 2005. Journalistic News Values and Media and Health Professional and Lay Discourses on Suicide and Mental Illness.


• Segan CJ. 2005. Helping people with concurrent medical conditions quit smoking: Exploring linkages between health care and mass deliverable quit services. NHMRC, Public Health Fellowship.

• Bennett NJ. 2005. The development and evaluation of the Victorian Hospital Acquired Infection Surveillance Program (VICTISS) for ‘smaller’ public acute hospitals.

• Day SE. 2005. Rural general practitioners in Australia: A comparison of their costs, return and relative work value with urban GPs.


• Rampf M. 2005. What constitutes a sound approach to urban planning.

• Wium C. 2005. An economic evaluation of health initiatives funded by private enterprise within a developing economy.

Sexual Health Unit

A2 – Edited Books


B2 – Chapters in Books


C1 – Journal Articles


C3 – Unrefereed Letters or Notes


Q8 – Research in Progress (RIP)


• Fairley CK, Gunn JM, Parker RM & Hocking JS. 2005. Implementing Chlamydia Screening: attitudes of general practitioners and young women.


Q9 – Substantial Grants Received

How to contact the School of Population Health

School of Population Health
Academic Programs Office
Level 4, 207 Bouverie Street
Carlton, Vic 3053
Tel: +61 3 8344 9338/9339
Fax: +61 3 8344 0824
Email: sph-gradinfo@unimelb.edu.au
www.sph.unimelb.edu.au

Centre and Units

Centre for Molecular, Environmental, Genetic and Analytic Epidemiology
Level 2, 723 Swanston Street
Carlton, Vic 3053
Tel: +61 3 8344 0637
Fax: +61 3 9349 5815
Email: epi-info@unimelb.edu.au
www.epi.unimelb.edu.au

Centre for Health and Society
Level 4, 207 Bouverie Street
Carlton, Vic 3053
Tel: +61 3 8344 0827
Fax: +61 3 8344 0824
Email: chs-info@unimelb.edu.au
www.chs.unimelb.edu.au

Key Centre for Women’s Health in Society
Royal Women’s Hospital
Level 1, 305 Cardigan Street
Carlton, Vic 3053
Tel: +61 3 8344 4333
Fax: +61 3 9347 9824
Email: enquiries-kcwhs@unimelb.edu.au
www.kcwhs.unimelb.edu.au

Program Evaluation Unit
Level 4, 207 Bouverie Street
Carlton, Vic 3053
Tel: +61 3 8344 0710
Fax: +61 3 9348 1174
Email: j.yeadon@unimelb.edu.au
www.peu.unimelb.edu.au

Centre for International Mental Health
Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street
Carlton, Vic 3053
Tel: +61 3 8344 0908
Fax: +61 3 9348 2794
Email: cimh-gradinfo@unimelb.edu.au
www.cimh.unimelb.edu.au

Sexual Health Unit
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
580 Swanston Street
Carlton, Vic 3053
Tel: +61 3 9341 6236
Fax: +61 3 9347 6757
Email: shu-gradinfo@unimelb.edu.au
www.mshc.org.au

Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre
Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street
Carlton, Vic 3053
Tel: +61 3 8344 0753
Fax: +61 3 9348 1827
Email: enquiries@dvdc.org.au
www.dvdc.org.au

The McCaughey Centre: VicHealth Centre for the Promotion of Mental Health and Community Wellbeing
Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street
University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010 Australia
Tel: +61 3 8344 9101
Fax: +61 3 9348 2822
Email: info-mccaughey@unimelb.edu.au
www.mccaugheycentre.unimelb.edu.au

Vaccine and Immunisation Research Group
University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010 Australia
Tel: +61 3 8344 9325
Fax: +61 3 9348 1827