Welcome to the final issue of the School Research e-newsletter for 2006. It has been an exciting quarter for the School with two of our own receiving prestigious awards. Dr Jane Tracy from the Centre for Developmental Disability was awarded the Vice Chancellor's Awards for Teaching Excellence, and Wendy Nickson an achievement award from the Australian Physiotherapy Association. Congratulations to you both.

In other exciting news, the School has been successful in procuring funds for research and the development of teaching from a range of funding bodies including the NH&MRC, Department of Health and Ageing, Australian Research Alliance for Children & Youth, the Department of Human Services, and the Faculty’s Teaching and Learning Grants. In addition, the Department of Justice has allocated $4.2 million for the development of a Centre for Excellence in Problem Gambling Treatment that will be led by Professor Shane Thomas and Professor Alun Jackson (Melbourne University). These are all significant achievements for the School.

Featured in “Meet the Staff” are Catherine Andrews, Jenny Butler, Chien Vu, Rhian Parker, Jenny Keating, and Leanne Boyd. You will find this and much more in the current issue.

Season’s greetings and happy reading

Stella Koritsas  
Editor

Department of General Practice

The Department of Justice has recently announced the establishment of a Centre for Excellence in Problem Gambling Treatment. The text from the Government’s report “Taking Action on Problem Gambling” is as follows:

The Government will allocate $4.2 million over five years to a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and Monash University to create a world-leading Centre for Excellence in Problem Gambling Treatment.

The Centre will:

- conduct cutting-edge research into problem gambling treatment approaches
- develop new clinical practices
- train new and existing staff working in gambler’s help services
- establish a postgraduate qualification in problem gambling treatment
- conduct a sustained epidemiological study of the various forms of gambling
- provide training on problem gambling to industry on a commercial basis

This development will be jointly led by Professor Shane Thomas from Monash Primary Care and Professor Alun Jackson from Melbourne University


What happens after dark? Improving “after hours” palliative care planning in urban and rural Victoria, for patients, their carers and health professionals. Department of Health & Ageing, O’Connor M, Schattner P, Klein B, & Miles G. $239,735.


Problem gambling and depression: a prevalence study. beyondblue – Victorian Centre of Excellence in Depression and Related Disorders. Jackson AC & Thomas SA. $100,000.


Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

An online learning module on communicating with people with developmental disabilities for undergraduates in medicine, paramedic studies, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Teaching and Learning Grants, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Tracy J, Iacono T, Williams B, Kotsanas G, Farnworth L, Keating J, Liddell M, Fullerton P, Moyle J, & Barnett T. $50,000

Department of Social Work


Department of Physiotherapy


From the margins to the mainstream: development and implementation of an effective Inter-Professional Healthcare Education model for Monash. Teaching and Learning Grants, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Stone N, Kelleher H, Keating J, Farnworth L, & Archer F. $50,000.

Can the use of wireless facilitate interaction between health science students in interprofessional education. Teaching and Learning Grants, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Williams B, Lewis B, Scholes R, Boyle M, Holt T, Kotsanas G, & Sim J. $49,395.

The relationship between learning styles and attitudes to e-learning of health science students enrolled at Monash University.


An online learning module on communicating with people with developmental disabilities for undergraduates in medicine, paramedic studies, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Teaching and Learning Grants, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. Tracy J, Iacono T, Williams B, Kotsanas G, Farnworth L, Keating J, Liddell M, Fullerton P, Moyle J, & Barnett T. $50,000.


Publications

Department of General Practice


Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria


Department of Social Work

Meet the Staff

Department of General Practice

Dr Catherine Andrews

Cath is a Research Fellow at the Department of General Practice, where she has been working since 2003. She has a background in psychology, and has completed a doctorate in the field of anxiety and cognition at La Trobe University. She has previously been involved in ageing research across the disciplines of psychology, nursing and medicine.

Cath has a strong interest in men’s sexual and reproductive health, and has worked in research and GP continuing professional development in this field for the past five years. She has been involved in several projects relating to erectile dysfunction (ED), including research with couples using oral ED pharmacotherapy. Next year she will be conducting research investigating the impact of anti-depressants on couples’ sexual relationship and functioning.

Cath has also been involved in the design and implementation of several GP clinical audits, promoting evidence-based practice in the fields of ED, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease and smoking cessation.

Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

Ms Jenny Butler

Jenny Butler is the Health Educator and Human Relations consultant at the CDDHV. She also works one day a week at the Statewide Forensic Service, which provides treatment for offenders with intellectual disabilities, and another day is spent providing clinical services to people with intellectual disabilities in the Southern Metropolitan region.

Jenny’s primary area of interest is in sexuality and disability and how this impacts on the lives of not only people with disabilities but also family, carers and other service providers. She also has an interest in other related health areas and has been instrumental in the development of appropriate resources for people with developmental disabilities.

Jenny, along with other CDDHV staff members and the Department of Human Services has recently completed the development of an assessment tool that assesses the sexuality and human relation needs of people with intellectual disabilities. She is currently providing training to departmental staff across Victoria to enable them to use the tool and will also be providing the same training to correctional and other service providers interstate.

Department of Social Work

Mr Chien Vu

Chien Vu has over 14 years experience within the welfare sector. He is currently employed at Monash University in the Social Work Department as the Fourth Year Skills Coordinator and is also part of the Field Placement Team. Chien’s is also employed as a Senior Clinician for the South East Alcohol and Drug Services (SEADS) - under the auspices of Southern Health. He has established and implemented various policies and protocols concerning the rehabilitation of Indo-Chinese Offenders within the Victorian adult
correctional system. He has also been involved in the management of drug treatment transitional housing programs, a pilot program ‘Bridging the Gap’ targeted at adult Vietnamese offenders pre and post release, and in delivering early intervention programs targeting students identified as ‘at risk’ of educational breakdown, substance misuse and/or offending behaviour.

Prior to this, Chien has had extensive case management experience in working with Indo-Chinese offenders within the juvenile justice system and correctional services. In addition, he has regularly provided secondary consultation and professional development for teachers, counselors, health professionals and other professional groups within the criminal justice system in respect to drug and alcohol issues, family conflict resolution and cross-cultural training.

Chien's academic research has significantly focused upon the issues influencing offending behaviour by Vietnamese offenders, and has identified strategies for working with this client group. Currently he is in the interim of his PhD candidature, focusing on the development of a model to successfully engage, divert and rehabilitate Vietnamese offenders by working within a holistic and multi-model framework.

**Department of Health Sciences**

**Dr Rhian Parker**

Rhian joined the Department of Health Science as Senior Lecturer in August 2006. Rhian's working life has included academic and public service research positions, university teaching, work as a domestic violence crisis counsellor and raising three daughters. Between 2002 and 2006 she was a Lecturer in the Department of General Practice at the University of Melbourne where she developed and co-ordinated a postgraduate education program for nurses working in general practice. She also co-ordinated the Primary Health Care Research and Evaluation Development (PHCRED) education program in the department. Rhian is actively involved in primary care research and is a member of a number of teams researching areas as diverse as Chlamydia, youth health, practice nursing and partner abuse. Rhian completed her PhD (Negotiating the 'Normal' Body: Women, Doctors and Cosmetic Surgery) through the Department of General Practice, Monash University. Rhian will be teaching research methods in the new Health Science degree at the Peninsula Campus and continuing to develop her research program in primary health care.

**Department of Physiotherapy**

**Professor Jenny Keating**

Jenny started physiotherapy in 1973, but interspersed travel in South East Asia with her studies and completed her Bachelor of Physiotherapy at Lincoln Institute of Health Sciences in 1979. She first worked in the rehabilitation of older people and later managed amputee care at St Vincent's Hospital. In 1982 she took a four year retreat from physiotherapy and cycled 22,000 kilometers from Melbourne to London. On the way she indulged her love of cultural differences, living and working for two years in Japan. Jenny returned to Melbourne to work in orthopaedics and resumed fulltime study in 1988 to obtain a graduate diploma in Manipulative Physiotherapy. Her interest in research began with a research project conducted during the graduate diploma that earned her the graduate research prize. In 1991 she commenced a PhD that was interrupted by two children and completed in 1997. She worked at La Trobe University in the School of Physiotherapy until she accepted the position of inaugural Chair and Head of Department of Physiotherapy at Monash University in 2005. Jenny's current challenge is the development of an innovative and exciting new Bachelor of Physiotherapy program at Monash University. She has developed and teaches the Research Theme that spans the 4 years of the new program and has written and convenes the new Bachelor of Physiotherapy (honours) program. Concurrently she is supervising 4 PhD students. Jenny thinks that her life is blessed by the company of inspirational people, and never less so than now with the great team in Physiotherapy at Monash University.

**Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies**

**Ms Leanne Boyd**

Leanne completed a Bachelor of Nursing at Monash University in 1993 and worked in Intensive Care Units for approximately 6 years in various roles such as Clinical Nurse Specialist, Associate Unit Manager and Critical Care Educator after completing a Graduate Certificate in Critical Care. Her Masters thesis also related to critical care nursing. Leanne moved into education in the tertiary sector, first as a critical care educator in affiliation with a hospital and then fulltime educating paramedics. She is currently completing a PhD and was heavily involved in two Asthma Innovative Management research projects completed and submitted to the Department of Health and Ageing: Asthma Subsection in 2005. The findings of this research identified a number of barriers to optimal emergency management of asthma in the prehospital setting and provided the foundation for an Asthma Targeted Intervention Grant from the Asthma Foundations of Australia. The aim of the current project is to develop, distribute and evaluate an education package related to ambulance use and the '000' process in asthma. A website, CD and brochure have been developed with the assistance of an expert consultation panel and the Multimedia Development Unit, Advancement, Monash University.
Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Headspace

Funding of up to $600,000 per annum from January 1st 2007 until June 30th 2009. Small grant applications due in the first half of 2007. For more information visit http://www.headspace.org.au/default.aspx?page=10

beyondblue

Next call for beyondblue applications may be made in March 2007 For more information visit http://www.beyondblue.org.au

VicHealth Public Health Research Fellowships

The annual call for applications will be advertised in December, with applications due in March. Visit http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/Content.aspx?topicID=56 for more information

VicHealth Research Grants


The National Heart Foundation

- Grants in Aid due with funding body on 26 March 2007
- Fellowships (Career Development, Overseas, Postdoctoral) due with funding body on 18 May 2007
- Postgraduate Scholarships (Clinical, Public Health, Biomedical) due with funding body on 3 August 2007
- Vacation Scholarships due with funding body on 27 August 2007
- Travel Grants: - for travel April, May, June 2007 due with funding body on 1 March 2007 - for travel July, August, September 2007 due with funding body on 1 June 2007 - for travel October, November, December 2007 due with funding body on 3 September 2007 - for travel January, February, March 2008 due with funding body on 3 December 2007


Also visit http://www.monash.edu.au/research/academics/funding/ for University deadlines

Conference Activity

The Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Conference 2-4 May 2007, Chicago USA
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/family/cyfar/announcement.html

Canadian Down Syndrome Society Conference 18-20 May 2007, Calgary Alberta
http://www.cdss2007.ca/

9th National Rural Health Conference 7 - 10 March 2007, Albury NSW
http://www.rnrhc.ruralhealth.org.au/?IntContId=38

Biennial Australian Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders: Creative Futures 14 - 16 March 2007, Gold Coast QLD


Change Champions: Delivery of Emergency Care, Sharing the Lessons Learnt 10-11 May 2007, Brisbane QLD
http://www.changechampions.com.au

3rd Biennial General Practice Conference: Pushing the boundaries 7-9 May 2007, Prato Italy

Chronic Disease Management in People with Intellectual Disability 21-23 May 2007, Prato Italy
http://www.cddh.monash.org/upcoming-events.html#2


7th National Allied Health Conference 18 - 20 July 2007, Hobart TAS

18th WONCA World Conference: Genomics & Family Medicine 24-28 July 2007, Singapore

2nd Canadian Coalition for Seniors’ Mental Health Conference: New Directions in Seniors’ Mental Health 24-25 September 2007, Greater Toronto Area CANADA
http://www.ccsmh.ca/

Hotlinks


The National Centre for Vocational Education Research list links to websites that provide statistical information about countries throughout the world.


A directory that can be used by health practitioners to find reliable translated health information.

http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/

The Research Methods Knowledge Base is a comprehensive web-based textbook that addresses topics in a typical introductory undergraduate or graduate course in social research methods.
School News

Each year Monash University recognises and rewards exemplary teaching through the Vice Chancellor’s Awards for Teaching Excellence. This year the CDDHV’s Education Director, Dr Jane Tracy, is one of only 4 recipients of this University award. Over the last 8 years Dr Tracy has worked with her colleagues at the Centre for Developmental Disability Health to develop and implement a curriculum in Developmental Disability Medicine within Victorian medical schools. In the past, doctors received little training in this area of practice and have often expressed their lack of both knowledge and confidence when working with patients with developmental disabilities. Thanks to the collaborative work between the CDDHV, Monash University’s Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences and Melbourne University’s Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences all Victorian medical students now have multiple learning opportunities throughout their course to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge required to provide high quality healthcare to patients with a developmental disability.

Dr Tracy contributed to the Australian textbook on Developmental Disability used in the medical courses, Management Guidelines: Developmental Disability published in 2005 by Therapeutic Guidelines Ltd. She also worked with her colleague, Dr Mary Burbidge, and other CDDHV staff to produce an interactive, multimedia teaching resource for students and practitioners in medicine and the other healthcare professions, Healthcare Scenarios in Developmental Disability Medicine (published in 2005 by the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria).

Understanding the health issues and needs of people with developmental disabilities is relevant to students and practitioners of all the health professions. Dr Tracy and colleagues from the CDDHV and Monash University Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences were recently successful in their application to the Faculty’s Teaching and Learning Fund to develop online learning material in Developmental Disability Medicine for students of all the healthcare professions within the Faculty.

When Dr Tracy heard that she had received the Vice Chancellor’s Award for Teaching Excellence she said: “I am absolutely delighted to be a recipient of this prestigious Monash University award. I believe real value and impact will come from the interest, profile and respect the award brings to our Centre and our field of work. I am immensely gratified to be given this recognition from my peers in Higher Education. My greatest satisfaction comes, however, from a belief that improving the educational experiences for undergraduate and postgraduate students will improve the healthcare and health of people with a disability.”

Dr Tracy will present at the upcoming Monash University’s Vice-Chancellor’s Showcase of Teaching Excellence on Monday, 11 December 2006 at Caulfield Campus of Monash University.

Philip Mendes has just co-edited with Catherine Forbes a special issue of the academic journal Children Australia on “Towards Better Outcomes for young people leaving state care”. He has co-authored both the editorial, and a further article with PhD student Badal Moslehuddin. Another article was contributed by Professor Chris Goddard and Dr John Frederick, also from the Monash Department of Social Work.

The second edition of ‘Working with Involuntary Clients’ by A/Prof Chris Trotter from Social Work was published in April this year. The book is co-published by Allen and Urwin in Australia and South East Asia and by Sage in the rest of the world. The book is also being translated into Chinese for publication by a Taiwan publishing company, Living Psychology, and into Japanese by Akashi Shoten. This is in addition to the translation into German of the first edition. It is now one of the biggest selling Australian social work texts with sales in excess of 10,000 copies.

Liz Molloy has commenced work in the Department of Physiotherapy. Liz has submitted her PhD and is waiting on examiner responses.

Dr Camila Savian leaves the Department of Physiotherapy to return to Brazil. Her intelligence and hard work will be greatly missed.

Congratulations to Jo Abbot from the Department of General Practice who graduated with a Doctor of Psychology (Health Psychology) from Swinburne University of Technology in October 2006.

Noticeboard

HDR Network
Enrolled in a PhD? Would you like to the opportunity to meet other PhD students from the School? For more information contact stella.koritsas@med.monash.edu.au or on 9567 1519.

PhD Scholarship Opportunity
Dementia and Intellectual Disability
The Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV) is offering a 1-year scholarship to support a PhD student whose project addresses assessment, intervention, or support of people with Alzheimer’s disease and Down syndrome, or, more generally, dementia and intellectual disability. It is anticipated that the chosen project will complement other research currently in progress at CDDHV.

The scholarship is open to health and allied health professionals (e.g. geriatricians, speech pathologists, nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists, occupational therapists) who are eligible for entry into a PhD program.

For further information, contact Dr. Teresa Iacono on (03) 9567-1514 or teresa.iacono@med.monash.edu.au