Welcome to the June issue of the School of Primary Health Care newsletter. This is a monthly bulletin covering the activities of the School in the community, academia and research.

Many staff are on a deserved break at this time of the year so life around the School has been quieter than usual, but I would like to highlight some activities and departures that have occurred over the last month.

Congratulations to the recipients of the inaugural School Research and Research Degree Committee Seeding Grants 2013. The successful applicants were Jenny Advocat, Shapour Jaberzadeh, Jo Enticott and Lisa O’Brien. These grants will be used to collect pilot data to leverage funding from other grant bodies.

I would also like to Congratulate Professor Margaret Alston and Dr Kerri Whittenbury for receiving an ARC Linkage grant for $300,000 on “Social sustainability in dairying communities impacted by the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.” This is fantastic news!

Associate Professor Susan Feldman has retired from the School, however she will be an adjunct appointment in the Primary Care Research Unit. Susan has made an excellent contribution to the research life of the School and we wish her well in her new endeavours.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our teaching and professional staff in a period of great demands as the Semester closes. Time to take a deep breath, enjoy the winter chill and remember to reflect on your many successes over the year.

Celebrating Success
Social Work
ARC Linkage Grant
Professor Margaret Alston and Dr Kerri Whittenbury have received an ARC Linkage grant for $300,000 on “Social sustainability in dairying communities impacted by the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.”

Occupational Therapy
The Occupational Therapy Department have celebrated their first Malaysian PhD success, with Suleiman Murad passing his PhD examination. His PhD including five publications was titled “The outcome of a return to work programme for injured workers with musculoskeletal disorders (in Malaysia).

Human Resources
A friendly reminder that Supervisors need to approve timesheets by 4pm every Friday. If you have not approved the timesheet by the 4pm cut off, the 2nd approver will be notified and will need to approve the timesheet by the following Monday 4pm. The 2nd approver may liaise with the approver to confirm approval of the timesheets.

If you are not on-campus on a Friday, you can log into ESS from home. To do so, you must make sure your mobile phone number is recorded in ESS (Under Personal Information – Email and mobile phone) and go to https://eservices.monash.edu.au/irj/portal

Tick the check box on the initial ESS token access screen and click Send me an SMS token. The system will then send you a 6-digit number to your mobile. Enter this number into the login screen to obtain ESS access.

Our HR Business Partner, Margaret Hamilton will visit Peninsula campus fortnightly, starting on Tuesday 9th July. She will be at Notting Hill every Wednesday.
Volunteering in Vietnam

Alison Francis-Cracknell, Clinical Education Coordinator in the Department of Physiotherapy, has recently returned from a six month stint volunteering in Vietnam through Austraining International’s Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program.

In her capacity as a Physiotherapy Trainer for the Lifestart Foundation in Hoi An, Alison was also able to extend a valuable learning opportunity to two final year Physiotherapy students to undertake a placement experience. Alison explains that her assignment in Vietnam included establishing a free disability community clinic for the Lifestart Foundation as well as two health outreach programs for disabled and homeless people in the region.

"The experience was extremely valuable both on a personal and professional level," Alison said. "I have seen first-hand how people with significant disabilities are unable to access the care we so often take for granted in Australia. However, the people I met showed amazing resilience and a highlight was really getting to know the locals and learning about their perspectives on health," she said.

Being able to combine her own professional Physiotherapy skills with her clinical education role in the department was also a highlight.

"Having students join the project as part of their placement experience allowed them to get an understanding of issues people face in developing countries and to further develop their lateral problem solving skills!" The students assisted running group exercises for women post-Polio, and accompanied Alison to local homeless and disabled shelters to educate and train people who largely had no previous exposure to Western health care professionals and often no formal skills to run therapy sessions.

"This created many new challenges for us all as well as an opportunity for the creative application of students’ recently acquired clinical skills. It was rewarding to see Monash students embracing these challenges in a comprehensive, enthusiastic and ethical manner within an unfamiliar environment."

Overall Alison said helping disempowered homeless people to discover the benefits of targeted exercise and simple rehabilitation strategies that could make life a little bit easier was extremely rewarding, gave her a broader perspective on global health provision and provided a real sense of achievement.

Did you know?

Did you know that Strategic Procurement has developed a buying guide for furniture? Furniture catalogues can be viewed on the website, and guidance is provided for the purchase of both new and reused furniture. To use the buying guide, go to http://intranet.monash.edu.au/finance/purchase-to-payment/strategic-procurement/products/buying-guide/furniture.html

Director of Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV)

Bob Davis will be stepping down as the Director of CDDHV, a position he has held for 15 years. Bob will be replaced by Jane Tracy, and will continue as a senior clinician and academic in the Unit. Bob's contribution to the lives of vulnerable members of our society has been extraordinary. The enduring impact of CDDHV is only one of the many visible testaments to that contribution.

It is wonderful that Bob will remain with Monash. He has contributed much over his long association with CDDHV, and continues to be an important member of the School and its community.
Paramedic Department extensions exclusive teaching services

The Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice (DCEHPP) is pleased to announce that they have been successful in being awarded a five-year extension of the contract to provide exclusive postgraduate teaching services to Ambulance Victoria. The postgraduate courses include AV’s training needs in the specialist areas of Intensive Care and Aeromedicine and Retrieval.

The courses to be delivered include the Graduate Diploma in Emergency Health (Intensive Care) and the Graduate Certificate in Emergency Health (Aeromedicine and Retrieval). The courses are undertaken at the Department’s purpose built facility at the Alfred Centre campus.

Monash University has proudly partnered AV in paramedic education and training for over ten years and these newly developed courses will provide the highest standards in postgraduate qualifications in out-of-hospital care. Ambulance Victoria has played a pivotal role in developing the new courses with Monash and now has a tailored course delivery program to meet its future operational and clinical requirements.

In addition to AV’s core requirements the new courses will now also cater for expanded enrolments through a ‘blended’ learning model where a range of health professionals will be able to access the courses through an online teaching and learning program which incorporates a diverse range of new teaching and practical technologies. The postgraduate course coordinator is Mr Matt Johnson, who can be contacted for further information.

Celebrating Success

Physiotherapy
Physiotherapy lecturer Dr Christian Osadnik was recognised with a number of awards at the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand Annual Scientific (TSANZ) Conference held in Darwin earlier this year. Christian presented research from two major studies that formed the basis of his recently completed PhD, which was entitled “Defining the role of airway clearance techniques in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)”. Two of the awards related to a study: “Positive expiratory pressure therapy does not improve symptoms, quality of life or incidence of exacerbations in individuals with acute exacerbations of COPD - a multicentre randomised controlled trial”. These awards were the ‘COPD prize’ for the overall best oral presentation relating to COPD, and the prestigious Janet Elder International Travel Grant valued at $2500. Christian will attend the European Respiratory Society Congress in Barcelona in September this year to present his research. In addition to these two awards, Christian also received the best physiotherapy poster for his research entitled “Positive expiratory pressure does not improve ventilation inhomogeneity in individuals with COPD and chronic sputum expectoration” (pictured). Christian aims to progress his research pursuits in the area of respiratory medicine and is currently developing project proposals in order to secure post-doctoral funding to continue his research into the management of individuals with COPD.

Occupational Therapy Accreditation

The Department of Occupational Therapy is undergoing professional program accreditation in September. The panel members from OT Australia Ltd will be doing their site visit on 9th and 10th September. As the accreditation will in future be undertaken by the Occupational Therapy Council, this is the last accreditation to be done by the professional association.

New acting Head of Department—DCEHPP

Brett Williams has replaced Paul Jennings as the Acting Head of Department for the Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice (DCEHPP). Paul will be returning to his substantive Senior Lecturer and Director of Research position.

In light of the pending Department review by the Faculty, a permanent appointment for the Head of Department role won't be made until at least 2014.

We are confident that Brett will gain everyone’s full support, and acknowledge the work Paul has done during what has been a complex and challenging 2013 for many of us here at Monash.

Finance

Caryn Ooi from the Research and Revenue Hub will spend alternate Thursdays at Caulfield and Peninsula campuses. She will also attend Notting Hill on Tuesdays.
Occupational Therapy in Saudi Arabia

The implementation of the first semester of the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy at Princess Nora University in Saudi Arabia is going well with 52 students enrolled in the program. Recruitment of suitably qualified Occupational Therapy staff has been challenging, as OT staff including Lisa Broom, Suzanne Wakefield, Louise Farnworth and Aislinn Lalor have had to travel to Saudi Arabia a number of times across the semester to teach. Lisa Broom and Louise Farnworth will be travelling back to Saudi in August to help new staff with the program Delivery for Semester 2.

ARC Linkage Incubator Program

Are you interested in being part of an ARC Linkage Incubator Program for the next round of applications in November 2013? Monash Research Office (MRO) and Industry Engagement & Commercialisation (IE&C) have asked for nominations for the Monash LP14 Incubator program. Applications will be ranked as only 15 spots are available across Monash. Support will include the following in anticipation of the November submission deadline:

- Engagement and negotiation with Partner Organisations by a designated Business Development Manager (BDM);
- Targeted proposal development support for LP14 submission;
- Engagement with strategic support to focus the application for an ARC College audience;
- Critical discussion of FOR codes, assessment process;
- Senior academic input and development advice (ARC level, and past successful applicants);
- Co-ordinated Academic Peer Review to mimic ARC assessment process (MRO);
- Access to past successful applications and exemplars (MRO);
- Draft review and editing support (MRO, IE&C);
- Application coaching and advice as required;
- Budget development assistance (IE&C); and
- Full support throughout the rejoinder process (June 2014).

If you would like to be considered for the Linkage Incubator Program please send details of your proposal, names of CI’s and industry partners to Rocco Iannello, Katrina Sorocos or Darcelle Thompson of the IEC team by Wednesday July 10th. Please also advise which of these three streams your proposal fits within: BEM = Biological Sciences, Biotechnology, Environmental, Medical and Health Sciences; HSE = Humanities and Creative Arts, Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences; PME = Physical, Mathematical and Information Sciences and Engineering.

ARC College of Experts 2014

Nominations for appointment to the ARC College in 2014 are now open. The Monash Research Office is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from interested researchers and particularly those with assignment, moderation and assessment capacity. This year the ARC is seeking multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary expertise. Nominations from women and from end-users across the private, public and not-for profit sectors are particularly encouraged. EOI forms should be submitted to the Monash Research Office and the endorsement of both the relevant Head of Department/Head of School and Associate Dean Research/Deputy Dean Research, by Tuesday 16 July 2013.

For further details, please contact the Monash Research Office or see http://www.monash.edu.au/researchoffice/index.php

Research and Teaching Festival at Peninsula

The next Research and Teaching Festival is scheduled for Tuesday 12 November 2013 at the Peninsula Campus. Please mark this day in your calendar. Further details to come.
The Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences will be hosting its inaugural ECR Symposium aimed at ECRs with an interest in developing and strengthening their research careers. The symposium will encompass aspects of strategic career planning, professional development and networking opportunities.

Registration details coming soon!

For further information, please contact:
Dr Matthew McKenzie
(Chair, ECR Symposium Sub-Committee)
Email: Matthew.McKenzie@monash.edu

Monday 18 November, 2013
9.00 am – 6.00 pm
Monash University, Caulfield campus