Editorial

Welcome to the second issue of the School of Primary Health Care research e-newsletter. I am pleased to report that the first issue of the newsletter received many positive comments and considerable interest from both within the School as well as outside the School. As such, our quest to foster communication and strengthen collaboration across the School continues.

In the past three months, significant events have occurred within the School of Primary Health Care. Most sadly, our Director of Primary Care Research, Professor Jeff Richards, passed away on the evening of April 5. Jeff was a mentor and inspiration to many of us and managed to transform the research “house” at the Department of General Practice from a relatively small unit to a hive of activity. His passing has been deeply felt and he will be missed. (See page 3 for an obituary to Jeff by his colleagues).

Dr Teresa Iacono, Research Director of the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV), has taken on the role of Acting Director of Primary Care Research. In addition to this, Professor Kim Ng (retired Head of the School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine), has been engaged to provide support to existing projects and assist in the development of new grant applications. For information regarding Kim’s contact hours please contact Nelum Salgado on ph: (03) 8575 2245. Finally, a number of Research Fellows within the Department of General Practice have taken on investigator roles on existing projects that Jeff was involved with.

The General Practice – ‘What’s common, what’s complex’ conference was held at the Monash Centre in Prato, Italy in May and was a huge success with over 270 delegates attending.

Congratulations to everyone who received grant funding in the last quarter, and to those of you who have submitted manuscripts for publication.

In this issue you will find a section on the research interests of the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV), the Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies and the new Department of Health Sciences. You will also find information on grants received and manuscripts accepted for publication, as well as information on upcoming funding opportunities and conferences.

I would also like to draw your attention to the Census of Research Activity that is to be conducted in the School by the Research Program Development Unit, and the ‘Meet the Staff’ section featuring Litza Kiropoulos, Teresa Iacono, Rosemary Sheehan, Malcolm Boyle and Patricia Kirke.

Happy reading

Stella Koritsas
Editor

Areas of Research Interest

Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV)
by Teresa Iacono

The Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV) conducts research aimed at improving outcomes in the health and wellbeing of adults with developmental disability. This objective is achieved by research that provides:

- Increased understanding of the health and wellbeing of adults with developmental disability, and factors that influence or impact that status;
- Evidence of use in the design and evaluation of effective medical and other forms of intervention;
- Evaluation of assessment tools, particularly those that can be used by community-based clinicians, for the identification of health and mental health problems of adults with developmental disability; and
- Evaluation of the research, education and clinical work of CDDHV.

For more information visit: http://www.cddh.monash.org/

The Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies (MUCAPS)
by Malcolm Boyle

MUCAPS primary research interest is in the pre-hospital setting, however there are specific areas where
Staff have interests or are currently undertaking research:

- The clinical evidence base of pre-hospital management;
- Pain management in the pre-hospital sector;
- Pre-hospital triage and its implications to prehospital practice;
- Emergency asthma management in rural and remote areas;
- The influence of cultural factors on paramedic care;
- Case-based learning, e-learning, and the use of multimedia for pre-hospital education;
- Simulation and its relevance to pre-hospital clinical practice;
- Pre-hospital wound care;
- Internationalization of pre-hospital education;
- Student learning styles for the online learning environment;
- Disaster response and management.

Department of Health Sciences
by Donna Cohen

A New Social Work Double-Degree Program for Peninsula

One of the exciting new courses being offered by the School at Peninsula campus from 2006, is the Bachelor of Health Sciences/Bachelor of Social Work (BHSc/BSW) double degree. This course, based on the same model used for the BA/BSW, will give students who wish to pursue a career in social work an understanding of health issues and the health and social care system in which they will be practicing.

Recruitment of the Health Sciences team, led by A/Professor Donna Cohen, began late in 2004, with all current staff finally on board by February 2005. The team, which includes Dr Santha James, Dr Stephanie Louise and Dr Belinda Lewis, was faced with a particularly challenging task, as they had to first develop a full Bachelor of Health Sciences course before they could work out the configuration of the double degree.

At the same time, the team was working together with the teams in Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy in a coordinated approach to curriculum development. As a result, there is considerable shared content and a strong emphasis on inter-professional education in the three new courses. Other courses offered at Peninsula, including the Bachelor of Emergency Health (Paramedic) and the new Bachelor of Psychology, also plan to enrol students in the new Health Sciences units.

To make matters really interesting, the whole process from start to submission of course and unit proposals to the Faculty Undergraduate Education Committee had to be accomplished in three months! An added complication has been that students enrolled in the Diploma of Health Sciences (DipHSc) in 2005 will be moving into 2nd year of the BHSc/BSW course in 2006, so the team has to be ready to deliver both 1st and 2nd years of the new course next year, as well as a bridging unit for DipHSc students in the upcoming summer semester.

All in all, it has been an exhausting but rewarding experience for the new Health Sciences team. The course proposal has been favourably received and the interest of other Peninsula programs in the units developed by the team is very gratifying. The remainder of the year will be spent developing the new units and training for the soon-to-be-established Health Sciences Peninsula Program (HSPP) volleyball team.

Funding Proposals Submitted

Department of General Practice


Revised application: Promoting best practice in GP management of men's sexual and reproductive health: GP clinical guidelines and interactive online learning modules. Tasker, C., Piterman, L., & Andrews, C. Submitted to Andrology Australia as a merged application following feedback on two previous applications.

Grants Funded

Department of General Practice

Multicultural information on depression on line (MIDOnline): Development of an IT resource to improve depression literacy and assist in pathways to mental health care for people of CALD background. Kiropoulos L, Richards J, Blashki G, Griffiths K. Funded by beyondblue. $200,000.

Promoting best practice in general practitioner management of osteoarthritis of the hip and knee. Consortium of researchers led by the Department of General Practice. Funded by the Department of Health and Ageing. $300,000. See notice board for advertisement re: position vacant.

Centre for Developmental Disabilities Health Victoria

Depression and other Determinants of Behaviour Problems in People with Intellectual Disability. Iacono T, Hamilton H, Koritsas S, Davis R, Bloomberg K. Funded by beyondblue. $75,000.
Obituary to Professor Jeffrey Colin Richards. 16/6/49-5/4/05. Academic, Clinical Psychologist, Pioneer of Internet Based Therapies
(complete obituary featured in The Age, 27/04/05)

It is with great sorrow that we mourn the loss of our dear colleague and friend Jeff Richards. Jeff died suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart attack in his home on April 5. He was 55 years of age and at the peak of his professional career.

Jeff was born and raised in the Adelaide suburb of Seaton Park, the first of 2 sons of working class parents. He became the first member of his family to attend University when, in 1967, he was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to Adelaide University where he completed a B.A. (Honours) degree in Psychology and a sub major in English Literature.

From a very early stage in his professional career Jeff managed to combine his dual passions of clinical practice and research. Having completed his Masters of Psychology degree in 1974 at the University of New South Wales, Jeff returned to Adelaide where he held clinical posts in Community Health Centres, the South Australian Mental Health Service, Flinders Medical Centre, concurrently with lectureship and senior lectureships at Flinders University and the University of Adelaide from 1974 till 1990. During this time he gained his PhD from Flinders University (Psychophysiological Parameters of Psychogenic Erectile Dysfunction).

In 1990 Jeff moved to Western Australia where he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Psychology in 1990 and Associate Professor in 1994. He remained there until 1997 when he took up the position of Professor and Director of Psychology at the University of Ballarat, a position he held until his move to Monash as Professor of Primary Care Research in February 2003. In 2003, Jeff received the Distinguished Career Award from the Australian Association for Cognitive and Behavioural Therapy (AACBT) in recognition of outstanding contribution to behaviour research and therapy and service to the association.

The research team that he worked with is a close group, and testament to Jeff’s qualities as a leader and mentor to young researchers is the fact that several students he supervised through doctoral programs are now proudly part of the research team at Monash. He empowered the research staff around him, listened keenly to all ideas, and had a genuine concern for all he worked with. In his short time at Monash he had transformed a small research unit into a major national force in Primary Care Mental Health research. He was able, in the space of 2 years, to increase research funding to the Department of General Practice 10 fold, increase research staff numbers 5 fold and significantly improve publications output. However it is not only for his professional achievements that Jeff will be remembered. We will miss him for his distinct personal attributes as well as his unique professional skills and wisdom.

Jeff is survived by his mother Jean, his brother Andy, his partner Marita (McCabe), his daughters Sasha, Erica, Hayley and Imi, his 4 grandchildren and 2 step sons Matt and Mark and an extended family. His memory will be cherished by all who knew him.

Leon Piterman, David Austin, Britt Klein, Grant Blashki
Department of General Practice
Publications

**Department of General Practice**


**Department of Occupational Therapy**


Upcoming Funding Opportunities

**Monash University Grants**

- General Sir John Monash Awards. Applications with RGEN close on 31 August 2005

For further information visit: [http://www.monashawards.org](http://www.monashawards.org)

- Postgraduate Publication Award. Applications with RGEN close 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2005.

For more information visit: [http://www.monash.edu.au/phdschols/schols/other.html](http://www.monash.edu.au/phdschols/schols/other.html) or contact Michelle Kingston at michelle.kingston@adm.monash.edu.au or (03) 9905 3047

**Australian Rotary Health Research Fund**

- Mental Illness Research Grants. Applications close with RGEN on 25 July 2005

- Mental Illness Research Fellowship – Royce Abbey Postdoctoral Fellowship. Applications close with RGEN on 25 July 2005

For more information visit: [http://arhrf.org.au/research/research_frameset.htm](http://arhrf.org.au/research/research_frameset.htm)

**The Ian Potter Foundation**

- General Grants and Travel and Conferences Program. Applications close with RBEB on 19 July 2005


**Joint Australian Research Council (ARC) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) new initiatives**

- Thinking systems. A jointly funded collaboration between ARC and NHMRC (ARC lead agency). $10M total funding will be available over 5 years. The scheme provides funding for interdisciplinary research at intersections of neuroscience, genetics, proteomics, cognitive science, artificial intelligence, computer science and information technology. It is anticipated that a call for Expressions of Interest will be made in June/July 2005, and applications will open in August/September 2005.

- Ageing well, ageing productively. A jointly funded collaboration between NHMRC and ARC (NHMRC lead agency). $10M total funding will be available over 5 years. The scheme provides funding for interdisciplinary research in the social sciences and health sciences, related to ageing issues. It is anticipated that a call for Expressions of Interest will be made in June/July 2005, and applications will open in October 2005.
Meet the Staff

Department of General Practice

Dr Litza Kiropoulos
Litza is a bilingual clinical and research psychologist currently working as a research fellow at the Department of General Practice. She has a background in clinical, cross-cultural psychology and transcultural psychiatry, and has been actively involved in research, training and teaching in the areas of culture and mental health. Other areas of research interest include culture and psychopathology, depressive and anxiety disorders, clinical psychology, psychological assessment, the therapist-client relationship, stigma associated with mental illness, mental health promotion in ethnic communities and the help-seeking pathway.

Centre for Developmental Disabilities Health Victoria

Dr Teresa Iacono
Teresa is a Senior Research Fellow, and is the Director of Research at the Centre for Developmental Disabilities Health Victoria. Teresa has a background in speech pathology and over 20 years of clinical, research and teaching experience in communication disorders, with a specialty in complex communication needs and developmental disabilities. She graduated with a Ph.D. in 1990 from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, USA, in the Faculty of Communication Disorders and Special Education. Teresa began work at CDDHV in 2000, having moved from Sydney, where she worked as a Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University. Her current research focuses on mental health of people with developmental disabilities, Alzheimer’s disease and Down syndrome, multiple determinants of challenging behaviour and complex communication needs.

For details on Teresa’s publications, research grants and current projects, go to http://www.cddh.monash.org/

Department of Social Work

Dr Rosemary Sheehan
Dr Sheehan’s research has largely focused on child welfare and the law; mental health, family violence and judicial and correctional responses to offenders, with particular reference to women offenders. Dr Sheehan’s book, “Magistrates. Decision-Making in Matters of Child Protection”, published in 2001 by Ashgate in the UK, is the first and thus far only study of judicial decision-making in child welfare in Australia. Dr Sheehan was an invited contributor to the Australian Law Reform Commission’s public inquiry into children and the legal process and subsequent report “Seen and Heard: Priority for Children in the Legal Process” (1997). Her monograph “A Study of Child Protection and the Legal Process: How Victoria Compares with the Approaches of England, Scotland and Ireland” (Department of Social Work, Monash University, 1998) led to the invitation by NSW Attorney General’s Department to provide consultancy and participation in the implementation of new child welfare legislation.

Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies

Mr Malcolm Boyle
Since joining the Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies (CAPS) in 2000 as the inaugural paramedic research fellow, Mal has been involved in establishing the direction of research for the Centre and has been involved in writing grant applications, expressions of interest, and tender submissions. To date,
the Centre has been successful with thirteen grant applications/tenders.

Mal was involved in setting up the Bachelor of Paramedic Studies (degree conversion) course in 2000, especially the Evidence-Based Paramedic Practice Unit, and has undertaken some teaching in the Diploma of Ambulance and Paramedic Studies. He is currently the unit convener for the Evidence Based Paramedic Practice units of Bachelor of Paramedic Studies and Bachelor of Emergency Health (Paramedic). With the introduction of the Bachelor of Emergency Health (Paramedic) course in 2004, Mal has been involved in setting up the second year first semester units and the third year second semester units.

Since the establishment of CAPS in December 1999, Mal has been involved with the development and maintenance of the web site, the transition of the AOTC library to the Monash Peninsula Campus library, the provision of computer support to staff, and the development and maintenance of databases (including the Australian Directory of Pre-Hospital Research).

Department of Occupational Therapy

Ms Pamela Kirke
Pamela Kirke is a lecturer who commenced on 2 May, 2005. Pamela arrives with 5 years experience as a lecturer for the School of Occupational Therapy, University of South Australia, and holds recent experience in the clinical field both in management of an acute occupational therapy service and a community health occupational therapy team. Pamela is a recent supervisor of students studying in both undergraduate and masters entry occupational therapy programs and is currently involved with the planning of the World Federation of Occupational Therapist’s Congress in Sydney next year.

Conference Activity

For more information visit www.conventionwise.com.au

For more information visit www.gcimh.com.au/conference

For more information visit http://www.jaot.or.jp/jaotpdf/First%20announce

ment%20Eng.pdf

For more information visit www.icsbhs.org

For more information visit www.otausvic.com.au

For more information visit http://www.regocentre.com/nmh2005/

For more information visit www.amavic.com.au/events_ndhc.htm

For more information visit www.adgp.com.au

Hotlinks

http://pubcrawler.gen.tcd.ie/
A Search engine for searching peer reviewed journals.

GP’s interested in updating their knowledge on erectile dysfunction (ED) diagnosis and management can complete a clinical audit, available for download at this site, and receive 30 Category 1 QA&CPD points. Two online education modules linked to this audit will soon also be available at this site. These activities are offered by the Monash Department of General Practice in conjunction with the RACGP, and are supported by Eli Lilly Australia and Andrology Australia.
School News

We are pleased to welcome Debbie Zaks to the research team at the Department of General Practice. Debbie is the Research Assistant on a beyondblue funded project investigating the prevalence of general practice screening for substance abuse issues among patients diagnosed with depression.

Congratulations to Dr Benny Monheit from the Department of General Practice who recently received the award for ‘Recognition of outstanding service to the College’ from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

Welcome to Dr Jenny Bocquet. Jenny is a general practitioner who has been employed by the Department of General Practice under the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing Researcher Development Program. Jenny will conduct a project looking at workforce issues affecting female general practitioners. Welcome also to Ms Melissa Noonan, employed by the Fellowship Scheme. Melissa is a registered psychologist and counsellor at Inner South Community Health Service, and will conduct a project that explores the use of a demand management tool (Outcome Directed Work) in a community health service, providing evidence based practice for a high demand counselling service.

Welcome to Rebecca Allen and Pamela Kirk who recently joined the Department of Occupational Therapy. Rebecca and Pamela are both lectures at the Department of Occupational Therapy.

Farewell to Lisa Ciechomski who is leaving the Department of General Practice to spend several months travelling abroad. Bon Voyage Lisa!

Research Program Development Unit to conduct a Census of Research Activity in the School of Primary Health Care

The Research Program Development Unit (RPDU) has been established by the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences to assist in proactive development of the Faculty’s research agenda, providing a strategic focus to new initiatives and support for researchers.

In keeping with its brief, the RPDU is conducting a Census of Research Activities in the Faculty. The aim of the Census is to gather up-to-date information about the range and diversity of research being undertaken within the Faculty. The Census is currently being piloted in the School of Primary Health Care. The Census has been endorsed by the Faculty Executive and the Faculty Research Committees and is supported by the School of Primary Health Care Executive and Research Committee. The SPHC was selected to pilot the Census as it is a relatively small, yet research-active school, with a diverse research agenda thereby allowing the data collection instruments to be trialled across a range of disciplines. Census processes, such as recruitment of participants, implementation of the questionnaire and interview, and reporting, will be evaluated throughout the pilot. Feedback from researchers will be welcomed.

More details regarding the Census can be found at: http://www.med.monash.edu.au/research/rpdu/censusinfo.html

ATTENTION GPs

Would you like to update your knowledge on evidence-based management of patients’ smoking cessation? The Department of General Practice, Monash University, in association with the Cancer Council of Victoria and the University of Melbourne, invite GPs to attend an education session on Smoking Cessation Guidelines for General Practice.

An Active Learning Module (Category 1) is offered on July 13 by the Dandenong Division of General Practice. Evening education sessions (Category 2) are also being held in Gisborne (June) and the Peninsula (August). For further information, please contact Caroline Tasker, Project Manager at the Department of General Practice on ph: (03) 8575 2225 or caroline.tasker@med.monash.edu.au

GPs are also invited to participate in a ‘QUITinGP’ research project, conducted in association with this education. This project is investigating the effectiveness of GP referrals to Quitline versus standard in-practice GP care in assisting patients to Quit. A 5-step clinical audit, attracting 30 Category 1 QA&CPD points, is offered for GPs who participate in this research. For further information, please contact Cath Andrews, Research Fellow at the Department of General Practice on ph: (03) 8575 2223 or Catherine Andrews@med.monash.edu.au

GP Train-the-Trainer Program on Men’s Sexual and Reproductive Health

The Department of General Practice has recently completed and evaluated a national GP train-the-trainer (TTT) program on men’s sexual and reproductive health, funded by Andrology Australia. The final evaluation report is available from Cath Andrews, Research Fellow at the Department of General Practice on ph: (03) 8575 2223 or Catherine Andrews@med.monash.edu.au

Project Officer/Manager Position Vacant

A position is currently available 3 days/week at the Department of General Practice, Monash University to coordinate a recently funded project: Promoting best practice in general practitioner management of osteoarthritis of the hip and knee. This is one of 10 national projects funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing as part of their quality improvement program. Skills in the collaborative methodology and conducting systematic reviews are highly desirable. Well developed organisation and communication skills are essential. To enquire further about this position, please contact Professor Leon Piterman, Head, School of Primary Health Care at: leon.piterman@med.monash.edu.au

NOTICEBOARD

More details regarding the Census can be found at: http://www.med.monash.edu.au/research/rpdu/censusinfo.html