

Research e-News

School of Primary Health Care

Issue 03, September 2005

Editorial

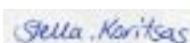
Welcome to the third issue of the School of Primary Health Care Research e-newsletter. June was a busy month and marked the success of the 'What works with women offenders: A cross-national dialogue about effective responses to female offenders' conference, held at the Monash University Centre in Prato, Italy. In total, 155 delegates registered with representatives from 17 countries, including: Australia, England, the USA, Scotland, Canada, Ireland, Netherlands, Austria, Denmark, Czech Republic, Italy, Israel, New Zealand, Mexico, Sweden, Slovenia, and Wales. The conference was a great success with a call for a second conference from delegates.

Closer to home, at the General Practice & Primary Health Care Research Conference in Adelaide (July), the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing, Christopher Pyne, announced that the Australian Government would commit \$60 million over the next four years to continue funding the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Strategy (PHCRED). This is good news for the Department of General Practice. The evaluation report of the first four years of the PHCRED Strategy that informed the decision can be found at www.phcris.org.au.

In this issue you will see the huge effort researchers within the School made to submit funding proposals for the Faculty Strategic Grant Scheme. Eleven proposals were submitted in total! Congratulations to everyone involved and good luck. Congratulations also to those of you who were awarded funding (Thea Brown, Debbie Zaks, Britta Klein, and Peter Schattner).

The Department of Occupational Therapy features in this issue. You will read about the remarkable progress the department has made in just a short period of time. Ms Rebecca Allen from the Department of Occupational Therapy features in 'Meet the Staff' along with Ciaran Pier (Department of General Practice), Bob Davis (Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria), Phillip Mendes (Department of Social Work), Erin Smith (Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies), and Belinda Lewis (Department of Health Sciences).

I wish you happy reading and look forward to receiving your contributions for the next newsletter.



Stella Koritsas
Editor

Areas of Research Interest

Department of Occupational Therapy

by Louise Farnsworth

Another of the new Health Sciences Peninsula Programs being offered by the School of Primary Health Care is the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT). The team includes Rebecca Allen (Course coordinator), Dr Ted Brown (Postgraduate Coordinator), Pamela Kirke (Fieldwork coordinator) and is headed up by A/Prof Louise Farnsworth. In 2006, we will have students currently enrolled in the Diploma of Health Sciences, moving into 2nd year as well as a new intake of 60 students into the 1st year of the program.

The Monash Peninsula course is the only one serving the specific occupational therapy educational needs of the Mornington Peninsula and Gippsland area. Having the BOT program located at Monash Peninsula creates opportunities to develop strategic alliances and new partnerships between academic staff and the practice field that has otherwise not been afforded, and for the BOT to be innovative, entrepreneurial and cross-disciplinary in teaching practice, and research. The Monash Peninsula BOT program has both national and international, professional and research links. Three of the staff are also accreditors of occupational therapy academic programs for OT Australia.

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The BOT will use a combination of traditional and Problem-Based Learning, specifically, Scenario-Based Learning, as its main teaching method and will incorporate more than 1,000 hours of fieldwork education. This will include two specialist rural placements. Additionally, in third and fourth year, students will complete a substantial community development project where learners will shift their view beyond the occupational challenges facing individuals, to consider the ways in which the occupations, health and wellbeing of communities/populations may be impacted by social, political and organisational factors. This fits under the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (WHO, 2001).

The Occupational Therapy course will also incorporate Inter-Professional Learning as one of its core hallmarks. Links will be made with Nursing, Paramedic studies, Physiotherapy and Health Science/Social Work programs at Monash Peninsula. Occupational therapy students will also join business students enrolled in the double Psychology/Business degree. This will be a strategic step in a strategy to establish greater commonality in the first year curricula for health sciences courses at Peninsula campus. One outcome of this will enable more effective use of teaching resources, and encourage a more holistic approach to health science education that will assist in breaking down artificial barriers between the professions when graduates enter professional practice.

The Occupational Therapy course at Peninsula will also be developing a postgraduate stream where students who are already qualified as occupational therapists can enrol in either masters or doctoral degrees by research. This will provide opportunities for clinicians to pursue further studies and increase the research capacity of the Monash OT program.

The BOT will be launched by Marilyn Pattison (Honorary Secretary to the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, recipient of the 2006

Sylvia Docker Lecture) on Thursday November 17th from 5.00-7.30 pm at the Peninsula Campus. Occupational therapists and other interested people are cordially invited. If you would like

to attend, please contact Cassie McMaster on 99044466 or email on cassie.mcmaster@med.monash.edu.au

Meet the Staff

Department of General Practice

Dr Ciaran Pier

Ciaran is a Research Fellow in the Department of General Practice and a registered probationary psychologist. She has several years experience in research and teaching. She currently manages a project involving the development of a computerised resource for managing depression in patients with coronary heart disease and an internet-based cardiovascular risk reduction program for workplace employees (Pace Heart Lifeskills). She is also a therapist and research fellow on a project investigating the efficacy of an internet-based cognitive behavioural therapy program for treating panic disorder (Panic Online).

Ciaran recently completed a PhD entitled: Interoceptive Accuracy for Sympathetic Nervous System Activity in Panic Disorder. She recently presented the findings at the European Health Psychology conference in Galway. Ciaran has published in the area of panic and anxiety disorders. Her main research interests include the psychological determinants of health behaviours, anxiety disorders, the psychosocial aspects of cardiovascular diseases and internet-based and other mental health interventions.

Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

Associate Professor Bob Davis

During his time at the CDDHV, Bob has been involved with the development of an undergraduate and postgraduate education program, a state-wide consultancy service for the physical and mental health problems of people with intellectual disability and provided a leadership role in the development of a national group of medical practitioners interested in health issues of people with intellectual disability as the founding president of the Australian Association of Developmental Disability Medicine (AADDM) and the chair of the RACGP curriculum development working group on disability. As a clinician Bob has a particular interest in the medical and psychiatric assessment of people with 'challenging behaviour' particularly self-injurious and pica behaviour, the topic for his PhD thesis. His research reflects the practical demands of the newly formed centre in a newly developing field of medical study and its remit to develop a knowledge of the health issues of people with developmental disability amongst health professionals and the day-to-day clinical exposure to people with challenging behaviour needing a medical and a psychiatric assessment.

Department of Social Work

Dr Philip Mendes

Philip Mendes joined the Department of Social Work in 1995 after a number of years of practice in the areas of child protection and income security. He is now Senior Lecturer, teaching in the Social Policy & Community Development subjects, and Coordinator for the on-campus undergraduate Bachelor of Social Work. He is an acknowledged expert on community welfare lobby groups, having completed his PhD on the peak community welfare lobby body, the

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Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS). He has also published widely on a range of social policy and community development debates, including young people leaving state care, globalisation and the welfare state, neo-liberal think tanks, and illicit drug policies.

Philip is currently a member of many committees including the Editorial Committee of Victorian Social Work, the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria Leaving Care Reference Group, the Jewish Community Council of Victoria Social Justice Committee and is a reviewer for a number of local and international academic journals. He is author or co-author of four books including *Australia's Welfare Wars* (UNSW Press 2003), and *Harm Minimisation, Zero Tolerance and Beyond: The Politics of Illicit Drugs in Australia* (Pearson, 2004). He is currently preparing *Inside the Welfare Lobby: A history of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)* for publication by Sussex Academic Press in 2006.

Department of Occupational Therapy

Ms Rebecca Allen

Rebecca Allen is a senior lecturer who commenced in May of this year. She has had extensive experience in academia, most recently having been course coordinator of the occupational therapy program and Sub-Dean of Learning and Teaching in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Charles Sturt University. Rebecca brings a strong interdisciplinary focus and understanding of rural education from these roles. She has also worked at La Trobe University in the School of Occupational Therapy, teaching in the Occupational Therapy and Occupational Health and Safety programs and at the University of Melbourne, Department of Psychiatry. At University of Melbourne, Rebecca developed curriculum for the Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Sciences - Community Mental Health, a program jointly offered by the University of Melbourne and Monash University.

Department of Health Sciences

Dr Belinda Lewis

Belinda Lewis joined the School of Primary Health Care in late 2004. She is currently the Curriculum Development Coordinator for the new Health Sciences program at Peninsula campus which includes Health Science/Social Work, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy. She has coordinated a multi-disciplinary approach to development of the new curricula with a strong focus on inter-professional education, health promotion and prevention. Belinda is currently developing new multi-disciplinary units in areas of health promotion, health communication and community partnerships and capacity building. These will be undertaken by students across the Health Sciences Peninsula program.

Belinda holds a PhD in Health Promotion from Deakin University and has worked as a researcher and health promotion consultant with a wide range of government, professional and community organisations. Her current research on international health is in collaboration with the Globalism Institute, RMIT and focused on crisis, recovery and community sustainability in tsunami-affected areas of the Asia-Pacific Region (Sri Lanka). Other recent projects include community recovery in Bali after the Kuta bombings and health promotion planning for healthy communities.

Belinda's expertise is in qualitative research and her work draws on the theoretical approaches of cultural studies, health sociology and communications research. Her publications and research interests include community sustainability; participatory approaches to health promotion; social diversity and health; perceptions of risk and health; media, communications and public health; and women's health (particularly for women in lower socio-economic groups).

Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies

Ms Erin Smith

Erin is a Research Fellow with the Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies and the Field Coordinator for the Cochrane Collaboration's Prehospital and Emergency Health Field (CPEHF). In August 2004, the CPEHF was officially registered as an entity of the Cochrane Collaboration and the administration base was located at Monash University. In June 2005 the CPEHF received funding from the Federal Government to assist in the administrative duties of the field for the next three years. In addition, Erin is the Section Editor for the Cochrane Corner in the electronic Journal of Emergency Primary Health Care, a member of the CPEHF Advisory Board, the Australasian Trauma Society Research Group, the Cochrane Collaboration's Coverage Working Group and is a member of a number of professional organisations. Erin's background is in Health Science and Health Information Management, with postgraduate studies in Clinical Trials and Clinical Epidemiology. Erin is currently a PhD candidate in the field of disaster epidemiology and emergency public health under the supervision of Prof Frederick Burkler Jr (USA) and A/Prof Frank Archer (Aust.).



Joanna Mitchell, Ciaran Pier, David Austin, Litza Kirooulos, Stella Koritsas and Paul Ryan at the official presentations of the 2005 research grants for [*beyondblue: the national depression initiative*](#).

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

beyondblue

Future grant rounds have not yet been announced, however these grants are generally due in early to mid December.

<http://www.beyondblue.org.au/vcoe/>

NHMRC

Project and program grants are due in February 2006.

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/index.htm>

GrantsLink

GrantsLINK makes it easier to find suitable and relevant grants for community projects from the many Commonwealth grants that are available. GrantsLINK also helps you find the best source of funding and assists you to complete application forms.

For more information visit <http://www.grantslink.gov.au/index.htm>

AusTender

AusTender provides a comprehensive list of tenders.

For more information visit <https://www.tenders.gov.au/federal/index.shtml>

Conference Activity

Australia's ageing population summit 2005

27-28 September 2005, Sydney
For more information visit www.informa.com.au/ageing

Paediatric Occupational Therapy Symposium

7-8 October 2005, Melbourne
For more information visit www.otausvic.com.au

Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors Conference 2005: Work and Wellness: Everybody Wins

13-14 October 2005, Melbourne
Visit <http://www.asorc.org.au/> for more information

2005 National Coalition Against Bullying: Creating Safe and Caring Communities

29-30 October 2005, Melbourne
For more information visit <http://www.aasw.asn.au/news/conferences/>

Primary Mental Health Conference. Primary Care Led Mental Health Care Reform: Reaping the Gains

3 November 2005, Perth
For more information visit www.adgp.com.au

The Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol & other Drugs 2005 Conference

6-9 November 2005, Melbourne
For more information visit www.apsadconference.com.au

The 4th National ERA 2005 Emerging Researchers on Ageing

8 November 2005, Brisbane
For more information visit www.uq.edu.au/aca

7th Australian Conference on Quality of Life

24 November 2005, Melbourne
For more information visit http://www.deakin.edu.au/research/acqol/Conferences/ACQOL_Conference/

Dangerous Consumptions III Colloquium, University of Melbourne

24-25 November 2005, Melbourne
For more information visit <http://www.nspresearch.unimelb.edu.au/dc3/dc3.html>

Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Australia Conference 2005

24 - 26 November 2005, Brisbane
For more information visit https://apa.advsol.com.au/scriptcontent/confevent_mpa_2005.cfm?section=about

18th Annual National Physiotherapy Student Symposium

8 - 14 January 2006, Western Australia
For information visit https://apa.advsol.com.au/scriptcontent/confevent_npss06.cfm?section=about

Hotlinks

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/mentalhealth/paniconline/>

The on line resource and treatment program for people with panic disorder from the Department of General Practice.

<http://dev.phcris.org.au/products/roar.php>

This website is currently being developed and will have comprehensive records of current and recently completed primary health care research projects, profiles about researchers and their research interests, links to research organisations across Australia, and information about scholarships, fellowships, and grants for primary health care research

<http://www.psychoduesseldorf.de/aap/projects/gpower/index.html>

G*Power is a general power analysis program that comes in two essentially equivalent versions: Macintosh OS and MS-DOS. Free to use!

School News

Welcome to **Dr Kay Jones**. Kay has been appointed to work part-time in research in the Department of General Practice. She is keen to pursue the research which involves GP education and has been appointed part-time to PHCRED.

Welcome to **Associate Professor Danielle Mezza**. Danielle has been appointed to work part-time in research in the Department of General Practice. She is keen to pursue a research agenda involving sexual and reproductive health aspects of women's health as well as the implementation of clinical guidelines in general practice.

Congratulations to **Sandra McGibbon** from the CDDHV who has been employed as a PHCRED research fellow. Sandra will develop a health screening tool to be used by GPs for adults with developmental disability.

Congratulations to **Martin Halperin** from the Department of General Practice who has been awarded the PWH Grieve Memorial Award (awarded annually for education / research purposes). Martin is a GP registrar who is conducting a project investigating GP perspectives on using unannounced standardized patients in research.

Congratulations to **Stella Koritsas** who recently enrolled in a PhD under the supervision of Dr Teresa Iacono from the CDDHV. Stella's PhD research will investigate predictors of problem behaviour in people with intellectual disability.

Farewell to **Sandra Davidson**. Sandra will take maternity leave in October and begin a PhD in the new year. Her PhD is in the area of social support and depression, focusing on the social support role of GPs. Sandra will be supervised by Associate Professor Jane Gunn (Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne).

Congratulations to **David Austin** from the Department of General Practice who recently submitted his PhD entitled 'The Interpretation of Ambiguous Stimuli in Panic Disorder'. David's principal supervisor was Professor Jeff Richards (1999 to April 2005) then Professor Ron Rapee (Macquarie University, April 2005 to present). His associate supervisors are Dr Britt Klein and Dr Litza Kiroopoulos.

Grants Awarded

Department of General Practice

Learning to use the Internet for evidence based practice. Zaks D, Schattner P, Klein B. Royal Australian College of General Practice, General Practice Informatics Scholarship. \$30,000.

Department of Social Work

An Evaluation of Strategies for Internationalising the Curriculum in Professional Courses. Brown T. DVC (Academic), Monash University. \$38,000.

Grants Submitted

Department of General Practice

What happens after dark? After hours palliative care service delivery in urban and rural Victoria. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Collaborative grant. O'Connor M, Schattner P, Klein B, Miles G.

Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

Risk Factor Identification and Assessment of Alzheimer's Disease in

Adults with Down Syndrome. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Collaborative grant. King R, Iacono T, Loiacono R, Torr J.

Effects of caring for people with intellectual disability and problem behaviours. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Industry grant with Noweyung Inc. Iacono T, Koritsas S, Davis R.

Department of Social work

Parents as prisoners: maintaining the parent-child relationship. Criminology Research Council. Sheehan R, Levine G.

The Children's Court of Victoria Today and Tomorrow. Criminology Research Council. Borowski A, Sheehan R.

Risk and recovery in forensic settings: A qualitative investigation of the responsibilities and experiences of mental health professionals. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Collaborative grant. Sullivan GB, Sheehan R.

An analysis of supervision skills used by youth justice workers and how these relate to client outcomes. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Industry grant with the Department of Juvenile Justice. Trotter C, McIvor G.

Department of Occupational Therapy

Promoting and maintaining good sensory health across the lifespan: Measuring sensory processing skills in children and adults. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Early Career Development Grant. Brown T, Farnworth L.

An interdisciplinary collaborative project designed to ascertain knowledge of the risk of lymphoedema in a rural and urban Victorian population: a comparative case study. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Collaborative grant. Barnett T, Chapman Y, Francis K, O'Connor M, Sellick K, Farnworth L, Piller N, Donovan J.

Interprofessional Education in the Health Sciences: An Opportunity to Strengthen Health Services Provision and Outcomes for Australians. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Collaborative grant. Holt T, Brown T, Williams B, Farnworth L, Keating J, Archer F.

Promoting and maintaining good sensory health in childhood: Measuring sensory processing skills in infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children. William Buckland Foundation. Brown T.

Promoting and maintaining good sensory health in childhood: Measuring sensory processing skills in infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children. Telstra Foundation. Brown T.

Fine Motor Activity Participation of Students Attending Victorian Primary Schools. William Buckland Foundation. Brown T.

Fine Motor Activity Participation of Students Attending Victorian Primary Schools. Telstra Foundation. Brown T.

Department of Physiotherapy

Student Attributes and Teaching Methods: A Comparison of Four Groups of Health Science Students. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Collaborative grant. Holt T, Brown T, Williams B, Keating J, Farnworth L.

Building a reflexive model of ageing research capacity in small area health services. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Collaborative grant. Ibrahim J, Workman B, Steele P, Deacon N, Chesters J, King C, Keating J.

The association between abdominal adipose tissue and tendon pathology in overweight and obese individuals. Monash University Strategic Grant Scheme, Collaborative grant. Cook J, Stepto N, Ptasznik R, Keating J.

Publications

Department of General Practice

Journal articles

Austin, D. W., Blashki, G, Barton, D., & Klein, B. (2005). Managing panic disorder in general medical practice. *Australian Family Physician*, 34 (7), 563 - 571.

Austin, D. W., Jamieson, R. J., Richards J. C., & Winkelman, J. (in press). The relationship between attachment style, anxiety sensitivity and interpretive bias among adolescent nonclinical panickers. *Behaviour Change*.

Klein, B., Richards, J C., & Austin, D. W. (in press). Efficacy of internet therapy for panic disorder. *Journal of Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry*.

McCall, L., Klein, B., Piterman, L., & Lam, T. (2005). Learning style preferences for Hong Kong GPs recruited in a distance-learning course. *The Hong Kong Practitioner*, 27, 261-267.

Richards, J. C., Klein, B., & Austin, D.W. (in press). Internet CBT for Panic Disorder: Does the inclusion of stress management information improve end-state functioning? *Clinical Psychologist*.

Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

Journal articles

Hamilton, D. (2005). An ecobehavioural analysis of interactive engagement of children with developmental disabilities with their peers in inclusive preschools. *International Journal of Disability, Development and Education*, 52 (2), 121-137.

Hamilton, D., Sutherland, G., & Iacono, T. (in press). Further examination of relationships between life events and psychiatric symptoms in adults with developmental disability. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*.

Hamilton, D.I. (in press). An ecobehavioural analysis of interactive engagement of children with developmental disabilities with their peers in inclusive preschools. *International Journal of Development, Disability and Education*.

Iacono, T., Bloomberg, K., & West, D. (in press). A preliminary investigation into the internal consistency and construct validity of the Triple C: Checklist of Communicative Competencies. *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*.

Vine, X.K.L., & Hamilton, D.I. (in press). Individual characteristics associated with community integration of adults with intellectual disability. *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disability*.

Department of Social Work

Books

Trotter C. (2004). *Helping Abused Children and their Families - Towards an Evidence Based Practice Model.* Allen and Unwin, Sydney and Sage London, Thousand Oaks, New Delhi.

Book Chapters

Mendes P. (2005). Welfare Reform and Mutual Obligation. In Aulich, C., & Wettenhall, R. (Eds.) *Howard's Second and Third Governments* (pp.135-151). UNSW Press: Sydney.

Journal articles

Mendes, P. (2005). The history of social work in Australia: a critical literature review. *Australian Social Work*, 58(2), 121-131.

Mendes, P. (2005). Graduating from the child welfare system: a case study of the

leaving care debate in Victoria, Australia. *Journal of Social Work*, 5 (2), 155-171.

Mendes, P. (2005). Remembering the forgotten Australians: The Care Leavers of Australia Network (CLAN) and the Senate Inquiry into Institutional and out-of-home Care. *Children Australia*, 30(1), 4-10.

Mendes, P. (2005). From State Care to Independence: A Comparison of the Australian and American leaving care debates. *The Social Policy Journal*, 4(1), 51-63.

Department of Physiotherapy

Journal articles

Kent, P., & Keating, J.L. (2005) Classification in non-specific low back pain – what methods do primary care clinicians currently use? *Spine*, 30, 1433-1340.

Keating, J.L., Kent, P., Davidson, M., Duke, R., McKinnon, L., & De Nardis, R. (2005). Predicting short term response and non-response to neck strengthening exercise for chronic neck pain. *Journal of Whiplash and Related Disorders*, 4 (1), 43-55.

Kent, P.M., Marks, D., Pearson, W., & Keating, J. (2005) Does clinician treatment choice improve the outcomes of manual therapy for non-specific low back pain? A meta-analysis. *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*, 28, 312-322.

Hakkennes, S., & Keating, J.L. (in press). A systematic review of constraint induced therapy. *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy*.

Kent P., & Keating, J. (in press). The epidemiology of low back pain in primary care. *Chiropractic and Osteopathy/BMC*.

Slade, S., & Keating, J.L. (in press). Trunk strengthening exercises for chronic low back pain: a systematic review. *Journal of Manipulative and Physiological Therapeutics*.

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