Editorial

Welcome to the fourth and final issue of the School of Primary Health Care research e-newsletter for 2005. In this issue you will read about recent achievements of researchers over the last quarter, as well as upcoming conferences and funding opportunities that may be of interest. Researchers featuring in “Meet the Staff” are Paul Ryan (Department of General Practice), Alex Phillips (Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria), Lesley Hewitt (Department of Social Work), Ted Brown (Department of Occupational Therapy) and Caroline Spencer (Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies).

A particular highlight of this quarter has been the media interest in research conducted within the School. Dr. Teresa Iacono and I were interviewed on ABC radio by morning presenter Gerard Callinan about research that will investigate the determinants of challenging behaviour in people with intellectual disability (funded by beyondblue: the national depression initiative). I was also interviewed by The Herald Sun, The Age, Medical Observer and the Fox about the results of the research examining work-related violence in general practice. Dr. Jan Coles was interviewed by a reporter from the ABC Gippsland about the same project and we received requests for further information from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and AusDoc, as well as a request for a radio interview by ABC. To view the media release pertaining to this project visit http://www.monash.edu.au/news/newsline/story/659.

The next issue of the newsletter will be published in March 2006. For contributions email me on stella.koritsas@med.monash.edu.au. In the meantime, I wish you a happy and safe holiday season.

Happy reading

Stella Koritsas
Editor

Grants Awarded

Department of General Practice


Department of Social Work


Funding Proposals Submitted

The Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

The effects of challenging behaviour on carers of people with developmental disability. The CASS Foundation. Koritsas S & Iacono T.

Community Solutions to Challenging Behaviours in Adults with Intellectual Disability. The CASS Foundation. Iacono T, Humphreys J & Koritsas S.

Meet the Staff

Department of General Practice

Mr Paul Ryan

Paul is a Research Fellow in the Department of General Practice. Prior to commencing at Monash, Paul completed degrees in education, theology, and psychology and worked as a Catholic priest. He is currently the manager of the Department of Health and Ageing funded project, which is piloting a model of mental health training and service delivery in the primary care setting. This project places students completing postgraduate training in clinical psychology in rural and urban general practices to provide evidence based psychological treatments.

Paul is also completing a PhD which examines factors influencing the management of depression in Australian general practice. The PhD explores the effect of education and self-efficacy on GPs' current clinical practice as well as other factors influencing treatment (e.g., practice, patient, and doctor characteristics) of depression in primary care. The four studies, which comprise the PhD, have been funded by grants from beyondblue and the Victorian Centre of Excellence in Depression and Related Disorders. Paul’s research interests include the mental health in primary care, the use of internet-based therapies, and the impact of rurality on health and well-being.

Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

Ms Alex Phillips

Alex Phillips has been part of the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV) since it was established in 1998 and is currently completing her PhD studies enrolled in the Department of General Practice. With her supervisor Dr Teresa Iacono, also from the CDDHV, Alex investigated the use of community based primary health services by Disability Support Workers for adults with intellectual disabilities, and factors that promoted and restricted their appropriate use of services. The poor health care experienced by adults with developmental disability, which includes people with intellectual disability, has been likened to that of Australia's indigenous population. Policy and planning for this group in primary health care is directed across health and disability sectors. Alex recognised that although some research in this area of health service had been generated from the perspective of general practice, there was no evidence to direct policy and planning in terms of Disability Support Workers and their role in the cross discipline context of providing health care. A combination of Alex's background in the disability sector and work at the CDDHV in research and GP education has placed her in a unique position to conduct research into this area of health care. Results are expected to provide a clear evidence base for future policy and planning across both sectors and will be submitted to journals relevant to both disability and primary health care.

Department of Social Work

Ms Lesley Hewitt

Lesley has worked in the Department of Social Work for fourteen years and has completed work on family violence and children's experiences of this. Lesley was part of the Family Court Research team with Professor Thea Brown and Dr Rosemary Sheehan. Their work led to a change in court procedures and the implementation of a specialized case management process known as Project Magellan, instigated by the Chief Justice of the Family Court. Lesley has also looked at the needs of children who have experienced violence within their families. This has included work for Southern Family Life on their Family Violence

Publications

Department of General Practice


Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria


Department of Social Work


Lesley has continued to focus on children’s experiences of family violence but since 2002 has also done work looking at improving student learning outcomes utilizing on-line technology. She has incorporated findings from these projects into her teaching and in 2004 was a joint recipient of the Faculty Teaching Award. In 2005 Lesley received a Certificate of Commendation in the Monash University Awards for Excellence in Online Teaching for her MSW subject, Social Work and Aged Care.

Department of Occupational Therapy

Dr Ted Brown

Ted is a Senior Lecturer in the new occupational therapy program at Peninsula Campus. He completed a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy with honours from Queen's University Kingston, Canada in 1986. He went on to complete a Master of Public Administration in 1989 and a Master of Science in rehabilitation in 1991 from the same University. In 2003 Ted completed his PhD in paediatric occupational therapy at the University of Queensland, Brisbane. Before migrating to Australia from Canada in 2002, Ted worked as an occupational therapist at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa, Ontario for 12 years. During 2003 and 2004, Ted was a postdoctoral research fellow in the School of Occupational Therapy at La Trobe University and also worked clinically at the Royal Children’s Hospital. Ted’s research interests include paediatric occupational therapy practice, learning disabilities, developmental delay, school readiness, occupational science, professional issues, student education, test development and validation, program evaluation and applications of the Rasch Measurement Model. Ted recently attended the first occupational therapy conference ever held in mainland China in September where he was an invited key note speaker. In July 2006, Ted will be presenting three papers at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists Congress being held in Sydney. On Australia Day of this year Ted took out Australian citizenship and now describes himself as a ‘Canozian’.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

National Institutes of Health. Deadlines for projects vary throughout 2006

For more information visit http://www.cassfoundation.org/index.htm

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust - Churchill Fellowships. Closing date 28 February 2006
For more information visit http://www.churchilltrust.com.au

BHP Billiton. Closing date 1 March 2006
For more information visit http://www.bhpbilliton.com/bb/sustainableDevelopment/community/supportGuidelines.jsp

Conference Activity

Gender-Specific Medicine, Men Women and Medicine: A New View of the Biology of Sex/Gender Differences and Aging
23-26 February 2006, Berlin Germany
For more information visit www.gendermedicine.com

International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence
1-4 February 2006, St. Petersburg, Florida
For more information visit www.icadi.phhp.ufl.edu

cont.
Hotlinks


http://www.tandf.co.uk/sara/
SARA - Scholarly Articles Research Alerting - is a service designed to deliver by email, tables of contents for any issue of Psychology Press, Routledge, or Taylor & Francis journals to anyone who has requested the information. This service is completely free of charge and you can select to receive alerts by keyword, title, sub-category or main category.


School News

Congratulations to Brett Williams from the Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies who won the Higher Education Partnerships in Communication and Information Technology (HEPCIT) award. The awards have been designed to reward staff who incorporate innovative and best-practice use of the online medium in their teaching.

Congratulations to Associate Professor Chris Goddard who has been invited to participate as a member of the Victorian Community Council on Crime and Violence and the Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee, International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN). Also, Chris Goddard’s (dean’s and alumni series) lecture, entitled “Child Abuse and Child Protection: the silencing of children” was given on 8th November. The transcript can be located at: http://www.med.monash.edu.au/alumni/child-abuse-transcript.html

The Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria has developed Healthcare Scenarios in Developmental Disability Medicine - a new interactive teaching resource for clinicians and students providing healthcare to people with developmental Disabilities. Healthcare Scenarios in Developmental Disability Medicine has been designed to support the development of positive attitudes towards people with a disability, and provide users with information in skill and knowledge domains in relation to Developmental Disability Medicine. This CDROM focuses on four people - Jacqui, Colin, Sara and Geoff - who provide a personal context for student learning. Four learning pathways, including learning objectives and self-assessment exercises, have been built around Video Scenarios of medical consultations with each person.

An accompanying Knowledge Base contains information in the following areas:

- Overview of Developmental Disability
- General Issues in Healthcare
- Communication
- Mental Health and Illness
- Issues for Carers and Families

Healthcare Scenarios in Developmental Disability Medicine is available from the CDDHV for $40 or $25 for students, including GST. Contact Mrs Faye Alphonso: Telephone: +61 3 9564 7511