Editorial

It is a pleasure to welcome Professor Shane Thomas, newly appointed Director of Research, to the School of Primary Health Care. Shane has joined us from the University of Sydney where he was Research Professor and Director of Research and Innovation in Health Sciences. Refer to ‘Meet the Staff’ (p.2) for a brief profile of Shane.

Congratulations to Professor Leon Piterman who has received the Member of the Order of Australia for service to family medicine through distance education for doctors in remote areas, to research and student training, and to international medical education. This is a wonderful achievement.

In other news, the School is conducting an Internal Quality Review. As part of this process, staff and others have been invited to provide feedback about various terms of reference: leadership, organisational structure and management, environment, resources and support services, course and unit profile (Undergraduate and Postgraduate), students, teaching and learning, and assessment, research and research training, and professional and community activities. The information obtained will be used to prepare a report, including commendations and recommendations. This report will then form the basis of an independent review by external reviewers. To participate, or for more information about the review, visit http://www.med.monash.edu.au/sphc/internal-review/

Happy reading

Stella Koritsas
Editor

Grants Awarded

Department of General Practice


Department of Social Work


Funding Proposals Submitted

Department of General Practice

To develop and evaluate a family-based online weight management program to treat childhood obesity, involving general practitioners in the treatment process. Telstra Community Development Fund. Austin D, Klein B, Pier C, Salmon J, Craw D.


Effectiveness of Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy within strategies for preventing depressive relapse in people at very high risk. NHMRC Project Grant. Meadows G, Judd F, Martin P, Segal Z, Piterman L.


A randomized control trial of a group based psychosocial intervention for people with bipolar effective disorder. NHMRC Project Grant. Castle D, Berk M, Murray G, Schweitzer I, Piterman L, Russell S.


Assisting women to make informed, autonomous decisions about current and future fertility: Can general practitioners help? NHMRC Project Grant. Mazza D, Cannold L, Nagle C.


Translating research into practice: Longer term follow-up of ‘Panic Online’ users and integrating the program into the primary health care system. beyondblue: national depression initiative. Austin D, Klein B, Pier C.


Protecting children from intergenerational child sexual assault: Developing an educational training model for primary care health providers. beyondblue: national depression initiative. Goddard C, Coles J, Jones K.

Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

To r-e-a-d or not to read: Should children with intellectual disability be taught phonics? NHMRC Project Grant. Cupples L, Iacono T.

Carer depression, anxiety and burnout. beyondblue. Koritsas, S, Iacono, T.

A collaborative model of access to mental health intervention for adults with severe intellectual disability. beyondblue. Iacono T, Torr J, Hamilton D, Koritsas S, Galea G, Davis B, Tracy J.

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**Publications**

**Department of General Practice**


**Department of Social Work**


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**Meet the Staff**

**Department of General Practice**

Professor Shane Thomas

Prior to his recent appointment at Monash University, Professor Shane Thomas was Research Professor and Director of Research and Innovation in Health Sciences at the University of Sydney. His main duties at Sydney were to oversee the development and implementation of a strategic
research development plan in which departments were dissolved and replaced with research groupings. This process involved some 400 academic staff and 150 general staff. Prior to his Sydney appointment, Shane was Professor of Public Health and Director of Research in the Australian Institute for Primary Care.

Shane has an active research program. His current interests include decision support tools in primary care, healthy ageing, hospital quality improvement and problem gambling. He has published 140 refereed papers and monographs and several books.

Some of the books include:


www.us.elsevierhealth.com/product.jsp?isbn=9780443073571


www.us.elsevierhealth.com/product.jsp?isbn=9780443062834


www.us.elsevierhealth.com/product.jsp?isbn=9780443062650

Shane has supervised 30 higher degree research students to completion and he has taken an active role in teaching advanced research and publication skills to doctoral students. He is currently seeking high quality students for supervision.

He is looking forward to working with staff and students at the University in pursuing high quality and well resourced research that makes a difference.

Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

Ms Jenny Galea

Jenny Galea has worked in the disability field for 10 years, beginning at Scope Victoria and the disability education unit at Family Planning Victoria. She was employed at the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria 4 years ago and although employed as a researcher her position has evolved to include a number of different activities. Her role at the CDDHV includes human relations education where she works with people with a disability, their families and their carers in the area of relationships and sexuality in both group education and individual settings. Once Jenny has completed her final year of Monash University’s accelerated Bachelor of Social Work she plans to build on her clinical skills in both direct practice with people with a disability and in post graduate studies in the future. Jenny’s research interests include human relations and sexuality issues for people with a disability, depression and intellectual disability and health inequalities in people with developmental disability. As part of the CDDHV research team Jenny has worked on projects in these areas including an examination of the diagnosis and treatment of depression in adults with intellectual disability through general practitioner and psychiatric collaboration and the development and trial of the Assessment of Sexual Knowledge (ASK) for people with an intellectual disability.

Department of Social Work

A/Professor Chris Trotter

Chris Trotter has undertaken 12 research projects and published extensively during the past decade primarily on effective work with offenders and other involuntary clients. His book Working with Involuntary Clients (2nd edition 2006), co-published by Allen and Unwin and Sage and in German translation by Edition pro-Menta, is one of the biggest selling Australian social work texts in the world. His second book, Helping Abused Children and their Families (2004), also published by Allen and Unwin and Sage, has recently been re-printed.

Chris has developed a worldwide reputation for his work on pro-social modelling. Pro-social modelling has been adopted as the preferred method of work in probation services in many parts of the United Kingdom and Europe as well as Australia and New Zealand. He receives regular invitations to present his work in those places and has recently accepted an invitation to present a plenary session at a community corrections conference in Canada.

He is currently working on a linkage project with the NSW Department of Juvenile Justice, ‘An analysis of interviews between juvenile justice workers and their clients’, and with two colleagues on ‘Evaluation of prison transition programs’ funded through the Helen McPherson Smith Trust. He also plays an active role, with the Research Program Development Unit, in the development of the new Monash Criminal Justice Research Consortium.

He teaches Working with Individuals and Family Work in the BSW and Advanced Casework and Criminology and Social Work in the MSW. He also co-ordinates the Social Work Honours program and supervises research students. He is a reviewer for Australian Social Work and a number of other journals.

Department of Health Sciences

Ms Nerida Joss

Nerida Joss is a Research Fellow in the Department of Health Science, School of Primary Health Care. Nerida joined the Department in February of this year.

Currently, she is contracted as the Health Promotion Adviser to the Commonwealth Department of Veterans’ Affairs Victorian Office. This role involves consulting with the Department on best practice with regard to the planning and implementation of programs whilst also evaluating existing programs. It also entails the formation of strategic partnerships with key organisations with the view to integrate Veterans’ into the broader community health system with regard to health promotion initiatives.

Nerida is also working on a research development project with a community
agency which provides adventure programs to people with mental illness and their carers. This project aims to build the capacity of the organisation and enable its staff to conduct research in their field of work and add to the mental health promotion evidence base.

Nerida’s interests lie in the mechanics of partnerships and alliances in community health and the broader area of capacity building to enable health promotion workers to increase positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

Her Master of Public Health thesis reviewed the benefits of community gardening for migrants living in public housing in inner-Melbourne. As a result of this continued interest, she sits on the Advisory Group for Frankston’s Food for All Project and is assisting with the evaluation framework for the community garden project.

She is also a committee member of the Australian Health Promotion Association Victorian Branch and actively participates in the communication and sustainability working group attached to the Association.

Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies

Ms Amee Morgans

Amee Morgans is a full-time research fellow at the Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic studies. Her PhD was submitted in March this year, and investigated how patients make decisions in prehospital health emergencies. The outcomes of the PhD are currently being prepared for publication, and Amee is currently working on several other MUCAPS research grants, including emergency preparedness for an avian influenza pandemic and paramedic’s perceptions of risk and willingness to work in disasters. Amee’s research techniques extend to both qualitative and quantitative research, and some recent research projects include research into the emergency management of asthma, patterns of ambulance use for asthma in rural and remote areas and communicating with the public during disasters. Other research areas of interest include public health, patient decision making, psychology, emergency health, and ethical issues in emergency research.

Amee also does some teaching in the undergraduate paramedic and psychology programs and has been an active Ethics Committee member for more than three years. Amee is also working on another important project: she is expecting her first child in July. Stay tuned!

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Australian Rotary Health Research Fund
Applications due with the funding body on 4th August 2006
http://www.arhrf.org.au

Criminology Research Council
Applications due with the funding body on 11 August 2006

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Burnet Award
Applications due with the funding body on 11 August 2006

Check Monash University Research Office websites for internal deadlines
http://www.monash.edu.au/research/academics/funding

ROPES

ROPES is a website that can be used to store details of a researchers’ projects, publications, collaborations etc. It currently draws information about researchers from other databases such as SAP. ROPES is accessible via “My monash portal”, “My Research”. Researchers from the School should ensure that their information is accurate and up-to-date.

SARNET

SARNET is a website developed by Flinders University (The South Australian Network for Primary Health Care Research) that provides information and resources on Grant Writing, Primary Health Care Journals, Electronic Databases, Critical Appraisal and more.

Hotlinks


Conference Activity

www.aamrqc.org
2nd International Congress of International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual Disabilities: Bridging Research, Policy and Practice
2 - 5 August 2006, Maastricht, The Netherlands
http://www.unimaas.nl/congresbureau/e%2Diassid2006/

Victorian Council of Social Service
3-4 August 2006, Melbourne, Australia

Association of Childrens’ Welfare Agencies Conference
14 - 16 August 2006, Sydney, Australia
http://www.acwa06.com/

9th World Down Syndrome Congress
22-26 August 2006, Vancouver, Canada
http://www.wdsc2006.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=about.venue

XVth International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect
3 - 6 September 2006, York, United Kingdom
http://www.ispcan.org/congress2006/

49th Annual Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Scientific Convention
5-8 Oct 2006, Brisbane, Australia

2006 Arms Global Autism Conference
6 - 7 October 2006, Brisbane, Australia
http://www.abiq.org/

Connecting People & Community Through Technology, Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association National Conference
17– 20 October 2006, Fremantle, Australia

30 October - 2 November 2006, Cape Town, South Africa
http://www.autismcongress.com/

Australian College of Ambulance Professionals 2006 National Conference
2-6 November 2006, Adelaide, Australia

National Developmental Disability Conference: The right to the right health care. Evidence, ethics and health in people with developmental disability.
15-17 November 2006, Sydney, Australia
Email: tonyharman@med.usyd.edu.au

Divisions of General Practice Network Forum 2006
16-21 November 2006, Melbourne, Australia

Australian Association of Social Workers Conference
19-21 November 2006, Perth, Australia
http://www.aasw.asn.au/

19 - 22 November 2006, Vancouver, Canada
http://www.worldforum2006.ca/

5th International Conference of Social Work on Health and Mental Health “Living in Harmony: Promoting Creative Synergy in a Stressful World”
10-14 December 2006, Hong Kong, China

School News

Noticeboard

Cath Andrews from the Department of General Practice submitted the final hard copies of her PhD dissertation titled “Cognitive specificity in social anxiety: appraisals and interpretations of threat-related ambiguity”. It is bound and proudly sitting on her bookshelf!

New guidelines for research conference support from the School of Primary Health Care.

Staff members and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students are eligible for conference support through the SPHC’s Research Conference Support schemes. This scheme replaces the previous Conference Travel scheme in requiring recipients to meet requirements for research output. The new guidelines are as follows:

Guidelines
1. The School of Primary Health Care provides support for academic & research staff, and HDR students to present at national and international conferences. This funding is provided to build research capacity of individuals, their departments/ units and the School of PHC. Hence, funding approval will be contingent on demonstration of increased capacity.
2. Full time and part-time academic and research staff, and Higher Degree by Research students are eligible.
3. Staff are eligible for up to $2,000 in support towards an overseas conference and up to $1,000 towards a conference held in Australia per year; HDR students are eligible for up to $1,500 in support towards an overseas conference and up to $750 towards a conference held in Australia per year. Applications for further conferences within a one year period will be considered by the Committee, and a decision made based on funding availability and the outcomes of previous funded conference presentations (see item 4).
4. Applicants must be actively involved in the conference for which they are seeking support as demonstrated by evidence of an invited presentation, an accepted paper or poster, or other activity other than simply attending the conference. They must also provide information to the School of PHC Research Committee intended outcomes that will result in increased research capacity, including planned journal submissions or published conference proceedings.
5. Applicants wishing to attend an overseas conference must also apply for a Faculty Travel Grant (but do not need to have been successful) or provide reason for not applying for this grant.
6. Applicants must complete the attached form and provide details of papers that will be submitted on the basis of conference presentations, and an extended abstract.
7. Hard copies of applications, with supporting documentation, should be sent to the Chair of the School Research Committee, at the Department of General Practice, East Bentleigh (c/- Mrs. Nelum Salgado). Electronic applications sent by email will not be accepted. Each application will be considered at the next School Research Committee.
8. Depending on the timing of the application, applicants may need to request that their department covers the costs, or cover the cost themselves, and then request reimbursement from the School.

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Staff members and HDR students wishing to apply to this scheme should go to the following website for further information and to download an application form.


Welcome

Helen Plousi (RN, RM, Grad Dip Child & Fam Hlth Nurs, MPH) was recently accepted as a PhD candidate within the Department of General Practice. Helen successfully completed a Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) Fellowship in 2005 and holds a PHCRED Researcher Development Program Scholarship. Her PhD will investigate the influence of the family environment on childhood obesity. Dr Ciaran Pier is her supervisor, together with Prof David Crawford from Deakin University.

28th Annual Update Course for General Practitioners
8-10th November 2006
Novotel, St Kilda.

This year there will be presentations from the traditional disciplines of surgery, medicine, paediatrics, obstetrics and general practice. The program will offer innovative topics and guest lecturers with special expertise in areas such as palliative care, adolescent health, psychiatric emergencies, men’s health, paediatrics, haematology and dermatology. A highlight will be the presentation on women’s health by A/Professor Danielle Mazza, author of the new landmark book “Women’s health in general practice”.

For more information email: jenny.green@med.monash.edu.au
or visit: http://www.med.monash.edu.au/general-practice/