Welcome to the first issue of the School of Primary Health Care e-newsletter for 2006.

This time of year can be hectic with many researchers working towards NHMRC project grant deadlines. Although the process is somewhat different this year, many will have submitted an Intention to Apply for a project grant in late February. Good luck to everybody who has submitted and I hope to be able to provide you with a complete list of the NHMRC full applications in the June issue of the e-newsletter.

On the topic of grants, congratulations to Dr Teresa Iacono and colleagues who have been successful in procuring funds from the Faculty's Strategic Grant Scheme to investigate Alzheimer’s disease in adults with Down syndrome. Congratulations also to Dr Rosemary Sheehan who has obtained funds from the Criminology Research Council to examine issues about the parent-child relationship in prisoners and their children. Last, but not least, congratulations to Ms Jo Mitchell who has been awarded a NHMRC Public Health Postgraduate Scholarship. Jo’s PhD is in the area of “Internet interventions for prevention and promotion of mental health and well-being”.

If you would like to make a contribution to the e-newsletter please contact me on ph: 8575 2251 or by email stella.koritsas@med.monash.edu.au

Happy reading

Stella Koritsas
Editor

Grants Awarded

Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria
Risk Factor Identification and Assessment of Alzheimer’s Disease in Adults with Down Syndrome. Faculty of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences, Strategic Grant Scheme. King R, Iacono T, Lolacono R, Torr J; $70,000.

Department of Social Work

Funding Proposals Submitted

Department of General Practice
What happens after dark? Improving “after hours” palliative care planning in urban and rural Victoria, for patients, their carers and health professionals. Department of Health & Ageing. O’Connor M, Schattner P, Klein B, Miles G.


Publications

Department of Occupational Therapy
Meet the Staff

Department of General Practice

A/Prof Peter Schattner

Peter has been a general practitioner since 1980 and a part-time academic in the Department of General Practice, Monash University, since the late 1980s. His academic interests are in general practice health service research, computing, and teaching research methods and evidence based practice by distance education. He has also had a long-standing involvement with divisions of general practice (he was the foundation executive director of the Monash Division in 1992 – ‘93).

Peter has written the General Practice Computing Group (GPCG) computer security guidelines which were sent to every general practice in Australia. His current computer project is one funded by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and is aimed at studying the impact of teaching GPs to use the Internet to find reliable clinical information. Other research interests include professional well-being (e.g. GP stress) and chronic disease management (especially cardiovascular disease and diabetes).

Peter is the Information Management Adviser to the Monash Division and a lover of opera, history, a wife, three kids and a dog.

Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria

Ms Stella Koritsas

Stella’s research interests and experience are diverse and include depression, particularly as it relates to the elderly, those with developmental disability, and people who support them.

Until February 2005, Stella worked as a full-time research fellow at the Department of General Practice. During her time at the Department she worked on the Commonwealth’s Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) Initiative which aimed to increase the research capacity in primary health care. Her role in PHCRED included development and delivery of research and methodology courses for primary care professionals (e.g. survey design, writing for publication, evidence based practice, how to write a grant proposal). She was also involved with a number of studies including an investigation of general practitioners’ recognition and treatment of depression in nursing home residents, work-related violence towards primary care professionals and, more recently, a study examining GPs’ screening for comorbid substance abuse disorder among patients diagnosed with depression.

In February 2005, Stella moved to the Centre for Developmental Disability Health Victoria (CDDHV) but still holds a 0.2 position at the Department of General Practice. She is enrolled in a PhD at the Centre, entitled “Determinants of Challenging Behaviour in people with intellectual disability”, under the supervision of Dr Teresa Iacono. Her PhD will examine the extent to which factors such as mental and physical health, communication, environmental factors and life stressors contribute to challenging behaviour. In addition, she is involved in a study into the health and well being of people with developmental disability. Her focus over the next several years will be on developmental disability, challenging behaviour, and carer issues.

Department of Social Work

Dr. Bernadette Saunders

Prior to working at Monash, Bernadette worked in the field of Medical Social Work. As part of her MSW at Monash, she conducted and wrote a report on a program evaluation at a foster care agency, and with Chris Goddard she published a non-commercial book on child abuse risk assessment.

In 1996, she was invited to join the National Research Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse. The ARC funded research project in which she participated explored risk assessment in child protection practice and the response of community professionals to mandatory reporting legislation. This, and subsequent, research in the NRCPCA resulted in publications in both national and international refereed journals on child abuse risk assessment; language and children’s rights; child abuse and the media; and the physical punishment of children. She also co-authored, with Chris Goddard, a chapter on child sexual abuse and the media, as part of a Queensland Crime Commission inquiry: Project Axis.

Bernadette’s PhD research, funded by the ARC and The Australian Childhood Foundation, focused on legally sanctioned physical punishment of children, children’s rights, and the intergenerational transmission of family violence. Her most recent publication is a chapter, Saunders, B. J. and Goddard, C. "The objectification of the child through ‘physical discipline’ - The debate on children’s rights continues", in ‘Children Taken Seriously: In Theory, Policy and Practice’ edited by Jan Mason and Toby Fattore, Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London and Philadelphia.

Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies

Mr Brett Williams

Brett is a lecturer with the Centre for Ambulance and Paramedic Studies. He currently coordinates several clinical paramedic subjects in the Bachelor of Emergency Health and also provides teaching support to other undergraduate and postgraduate areas. Brett has ten years of online teaching and learning experience and utilises this approach in his undergraduate teaching. This pedagogical application was recognised last year with Brett winning the HECIT online teaching award and opportunity of presenting at the Vice Chancellor’s teaching showcase.

Brett will commence PhD studies this year and his research interests include online teaching and learning, student-centred learning approaches and educational variables in interprofessional education.
Upcoming Funding Opportunities

**National Heart Foundation**
Fellowships due 26 May 2006
Postgraduate research scholarships due August 18 2006
Vacation scholarships due September 13 2006
Travel grants: 4 rounds March, June, September and December 2006


**Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)**
Applications for all RACGP Research grants opened on Wednesday 1 March 2006 and will close on Monday 8 May.


**Australian Research Council Discovery Projects (including Fellowships)**
For information on Monash deadline go to


**National Institutes of Health (NIH), Grants & Funding Opportunities**
http://www.grants.gov/index

Conference Activity

**Australian Health Promotion Association: HP dreaming Shifting the Sands**
23-26 April 2006, Alice Springs NT

www.healthpromotion.org.au

**American Association on Mental Retardation Annual Meeting/International Summit on Social Inclusion**
May 2-5 2006, Montreal Canada

www.aamrqc.org

**Challenges for Fostering and Aftercare**
5-6 May 2006, Athens Greece

www.roots-research-center.gr/announcement1.htm

**Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference**
21-24 May 2006, San Diego USA

www.preventchildabuse.org/ConferenceEvents/confereencen.html

**General Practitioners Conference and Exhibition**
26-28 May 2006, Sydney NSW


**Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference. Evidence and Occupation: Building the Future**
1-3 June 2006, Montreal Canada

http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=1

5-7 July 2006, Perth WA

www.phcris.org.au

14th Congress of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. OTs in Action: Local and Global.
23-28 July 2006, Sydney NSW


International federation of social workers. A world out of balance, working for a new social equilibrium.
July 30-August 3 2006, Munich Germany

http://www.socialwork2006.de/?id=66&rid=t_252&mid=33&jumpurl=-1

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

www.unimaas.nl/congresbureau/e%2Diassid2006/

Health Outcomes 2006: Managing Health and Disease in Today’s Society
9-10 August 2006, Canberra ACT


4th Australasian Conference on Safety and Quality in Health Care. Raising the bar for quality
21-23 August 2006, Melbourne VIC


9th World Down Syndrome Congress
22 - 26 August 2006, Vancouver Canada

www.venuewest.com/2006/wdsc/index.cfm

XVIth ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect
3 - 6 September 2006, York UK

www.ispcan.org/congress2006/

Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health National Conference
Building bridges...Crossing borders
13-16 September 2006, Albury NSW


37th Public Health Association of Australia Annual Conference. Tackling the Determinants of Health: From the bush to Bondi
25-27 September 2006, Sydney NSW

www.phaa.net.au
Professor John Murtagh, AM. The naming of the library recognises John’s contribution to general practice, especially through his role as an educator and author. John’s books on general practice are best sellers around the world and his contribution to general practice internationally is remarkable. The full opening address, detailing the library’s history and some of John’s contributions to general practice, is available from the RACGP website at http://www.racgp.org.au/media.

School of Primary Health Care Research Design and Methodology Course

A Research Design and Methodology course is being designed for HDR students. The course is an initiative of the School of Primary Health Care Research Committee and has been designed to ensure that HDR students graduate with a sound basis in research design and methodology (beyond that needed for their own projects). Although the course is primarily for HDR students, it will also be open to anyone from within the School wishing to develop their skills in research design and methodology.

The course will have both quantitative and qualitative components, and participants will be encouraged to attend both. The details of the “Quantitative Component weekly course delivery” are as follows:

All lectures will be held in the Neil Carson Room at East Bentleigh.

Session 1 (Introduction) - Tuesday 28 Feb, 9-11.00am

All other sessions - Thursdays beginning 16 March 9-11.00am - running through until the end of the teaching, Semester 1.

Further coursework will be developed for Semester 2, on the basis of specific needs identified by HDR students in Semester 1.

The School Research Committee will explore various delivery options to meet both student and staff needs across the campuses in the future. The Research Committee will also work towards developing this course as a for-credit subject for 2007.

For more information about the course or to register your interest, contact Dr Teresa Iacono on 9567 1514 or teresa.iacono@med.monash.edu.au

Appointment to the Women’s Correctional Services Advisory Committee

Dr Rosemary Sheehan has been appointed to the Women’s Correctional Services Advisory Committee chaired by Ms Jenny Mikakos MLA. The committee is a government committee that reports to the Justice and Corrective Services Minister.

School News

NHMRC Public Health Postgraduate Scholarship

Ms Jo Mitchell has been awarded a NHMRC Public Health Postgraduate Scholarship. Her PhD is in the area of “Internet interventions for prevention and promotion of mental health and well-being”. Her supervisor is Dr Brit Klein, Department of General Practice. Congratulations Jo!

The RACGP John Murtagh Library

In November, The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) held a ceremony to open a new library at their National Office in South Melbourne. The library has been named: The RACGP John Murtagh Library in honour of will coincide with the Social Work HDR seminar. The details are as follows:

Tues 6 June
- An overview of quantitative methods
Wed 7 June - Friday 9 June
- qualitative methods

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