

Editorial: Assessing the evidence



Ellen McIntyre &
Libby Kalucy,
PHC RIS

In this era of evidence-based practice, people obviously need to be able to easily access the evidence on which to base their practice. As asserted in the Australian Government Budget Portfolio statements 06-07 "The community relies on primary care to ... provide quality, evidence-based management of health problems".¹

Hence it is concerning that many primary care providers are not able to access the evidence they need to do this, particularly when it comes to peer review journal articles. Yes, the Government has made the Cochrane Library databases² freely available to all Australians, and many peer review articles are now available in full text as more journals become freely available via open access eg the *Medical Journal of Australia*, and the *Australian Family Physician*. However, there are other journals of equal relevance that are not part of this realm. Access to these journals is usually only available to staff and students of universities or hospitals through their libraries. Some professional primary

care organisations (eg. RACGP) provide a service for their members to provide them with requested journal articles. But we are aware that some people, for example non-medical staff in Divisions of General Practice, cannot read many of the articles we include in the *PHC RIS eBulletin* each week, as they do not have this access except by paying for each article.

The current [very] ad hoc arrangements Divisional officers make to access their literature are inadequate for the future roles that Divisions are assuming. Divisions are making use of staff members who are eligible to use hospital or university libraries through being students or staff. Tacit endorsement of such arrangements may not be legally defensible.

We still need to increase the rate at which primary care providers take up research conclusions, something that can be enhanced if all primary care providers and their organisations had better access to the evidence. Your suggestions for providing this access are very welcome.

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1. p95, <www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/budget2006-portfoliobudgetstatements.htm>

2. <www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics/>

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2008 GP & PHC Research Conference

4-6 June @ Hotel Grand Chancellor

Hobart, Tasmania

Visit www.phcris.org.au/conference



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Connecting people - the magic of networks

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Gerd Winter & Ellen McIntyre, PHC RIS

As part of a longitudinal study on conference networking, PHC RIS conducted a questionnaire prior to the 2007 General Practice and Primary Health Care (GP & PHC) Research Conference asking delegates about networking experiences at previous GP & PHC Research Conferences and expectations for the upcoming event (n = 141; response rate 44%).

Networking was further discussed in a focus group at the 2007 conference (n=10).

In a nutshell:

Networking is a major reason to register. The three most common reasons for attending were: networking (28%), getting informed on PHC research (24%) and presenting own work (24%).

"...there are some things that require face to face human interaction, or just work better in person."

Both work-related networking and general socialising were rated highly (Mean of 4.4 and 3.4 on scale 1=not important; 5=extremely important).

Aspects important to delegates included:

- ⇒ Breaking out of an isolated work environment
- ⇒ Forming strategic partnerships
- ⇒ Finding emotional support
- ⇒ Finding mentors or professional support
- ⇒ Knowledge sharing
- ⇒ Meeting colleagues in a different space.

Respondents valued most conference activities as effective in supporting networking, in particular breaks between presentations (mean 3.8), informal activities (3.7) and non-organised networking (4.0), reflected also by frequent comments that enough time between formal activities is important (scale 1=not effective, 5=extremely effective).

Knowing someone is a key feature in making new acquaintances.

Ninety-one percent of respondents who already knew delegates, made new acquaintances, in contrast to only 50% who made new acquaintances but did not know anyone before.

"It's often difficult when you are new to a field and everyone else knows each other or it feels that way."

How can conference organisers help? Some delegates do plan ahead and it works. Organisers can help by providing information upfront.

"Having the presentation topics up on the web before the conference enabled me to know who I should look out for beforehand."

Stage 2 of the project, focusing on outcomes of networking at the 2007 conference, is currently in progress. A report of both stages will be published by the end of the year.

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NEW & IMPROVED WAYS OF SEARCHING PHC RIS INFONET ON-LINE

Kylie Dixon, PHC RIS

PHC RIS have been working hard to improve the search ability of PHC RIS publications. *PHC RIS infonet*, available from our website in html, can now be searched by issue and category as well as keywords.

This allows you to easily select whether you want to search just the current issue, last three issues, last six issues

or all previous issues. You can then choose to narrow your search further by choosing to search a particular category (ie. BookWatch, ReportWatch, Conference Report) or entering a keyword.

A search for 'palliative care' in the last three issues brings up one result 'PHCRED Strategy: Awards, grants & fellowships' where Geoff Mitchell wrote about his "... research Fellowship [which] will be spent exploring all aspects of palliative care from a primary care perspective."

This search function is available at

<www.phcris.org.au/publications/infonet/>

PHC RIS is interested to know whether you find this new feature useful and if you have any suggestions on how it might be further improved. Please email <phcris@flinders.edu.au> with any feedback.

A similar feature is also available for the PHC RIS eBulletin at <www.phcris.org.au/publications/ebulletin/>

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BOOKWATCH: COMMUNICATING SCIENCE - A SCIENTIST'S SURVIVAL KIT

Ellen McIntyre, PHC RIS

The purpose of this book is to help scientists to communicate the importance and contents of their work or the work in their field. It provides the essentials for the communication of science to the public and is arranged from general theories to reflections and

experiences from those working in this area, to tricks of the trade.

Given that the Australian research quality framework will be focusing not only on peer review publications, but also on the impact of research on end users, this publication can become a very useful text with which to build skills in translating the research findings for better impact on end users.

The well presented short articles comprising the report cover the key areas of: leaving the ivory tower; the

ABCs of communicating with the public; planning your communication; telling a science; using journalists; and knowing the media.

The 76 page book is available in pdf form from <ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/pdf/communicating-science_en.pdf>.

Reference

Carrada, G. 2006. *Communicating science – A scientist's survival kit*. European Commission.

2008 GP & PHC Research Conference: *Health for All?*

4-6 JUNE, HOBART TASMANIA

Ellen McIntyre, PHC RIS

The 2008 GP & PHC Research Conference will celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata at the International Conference on Primary Health Care, Alma-Ata, in Kazakhstan. We will reflect on what we have (and have not) done towards achieving the goal of health for all. We will debate what still needs to be done to protect and promote the health of all the people of the world. And we will hear from many at the conference as to how their work is contributing to the goal health for all.

To refresh your memory - the Declaration of Alma-Ata at the 1978 International Conference on Primary Health Care, held in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, expressed the need for urgent action by all governments, all health and development workers, and the world community to protect and promote the health of all the people of the world. It was the first international declaration underlining the importance

of primary health care. The primary health care approach has since then been accepted by member countries of WHO as the key to achieving the goal of health for all.

Can you help?

We have had several suggestions for workshop topics for this conference (see below) and invite you as a potential facilitator to submit a short summary (up to 300 words) of your preferred topic plus an outline of how you propose to conduct the workshop. If you have another topic you believe would be of interest to our conference delegates (researchers, practitioners, policy advisors) and that fits with the conference theme, please send a submission too.

There will be six workshops so competition will be robust. Deadline for submission of workshop summaries is 31 October. Please send your submission to Louise Baird at l.baird@flinders.edu.au.

Workshops will be conducted concurrently on Wednesday 4 June.



Proposed topics for workshops include:

- ⇒ youth health
- ⇒ men's health
- ⇒ Indigenous health
- ⇒ multidisciplinary teams
- ⇒ health care delivery models
- ⇒ health inequalities
- ⇒ eHealth/health informatics
- ⇒ advanced research methodology
- ⇒ workforce matters
- ⇒ making best practice easy practice
- ⇒ the impact of BEACH data on policy and practice
- ⇒ health economics
- ⇒ working with the media
- ⇒ linkage between researchers, policy makers and implementers.



WebsiteWatch: Accessing information

Kylie Dixon, PHC RIS

There are a number of internet-based services available for researchers, policy makers and consumers designed to provide easy access to the information you need. Here are some that our researches find useful with their day-to-day research.

Community of Science (COS)

The Community of Science (COS) website offers a large range of web services for researchers around the world.

'COS Expertise' allows you to search over 480,000 first-person profiles of researchers from over 1,600 institutions worldwide. The advanced search feature allows you to search by keywords, geography, qualifications, institution and much more.

'COS Funding' allows you to search an up-to-date database containing grants, fellowships, awards and much more from around the world. This database

currently comprises of more than 24,000 records worth over \$33 billion.

Web: www.cos.com/

ISI web of knowledge

Search content from over 55,300,000 articles, 22,000 journals, 192,000 conference proceedings and 5,500 websites, accessing invaluable information quickly and effectively, using powerful search capabilities such as cited reference searching.

Registered users are able to use the 'My Cited Articles List' to have a personalised email alert sent each time an article on their list is cited in a new article as well as set up 'Search History Alerts' which will automatically search the latest update to the database, and then send the results to you by email.

Web: isiwebofknowledge.com/librarian_wokhome/

CareSearch

This website contains a collection of

information pages on palliative care topics, which include; databases of various literature resources, information on grants, research activities and projects, education and training opportunities.

Resulting from a project funded by the Australian Government in 2001 to improve the evidence available to palliative care clinical practitioners, researchers and educators nationally this website now averages over 20,000 visitors a month.

Most of the CareSearch website is public access, available for all visitors.

Web: www.caresearch.com.au/



Practice Based Research Networks (PBRNs)

ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTH OF THE NATION.....OR AN OBSCURE HOBBY?

Jane Gunn, University of Melbourne, and Nick Zwar, University of New South Wales

Collation of workshop held 23 May 2007, General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Conference

Primary care research is essential to excellent health care. GPs and practice nurses recognise the value of research but struggle to commit the time and resources needed to participate. As a result important studies looking at issues of national importance to practice and policy are rarely undertaken in Australia.

PBRNs – what are they and what are they for?

PBRNs are structures to facilitate research occurring in general practice.

There are a number of successful examples from other countries including the long established Medical Research Council General Practice Research Framework in the UK.

The Njimegen PBRN

Chris van Weel outlined the history of this long established network and how it is based on a set of comprehensive and organised practice records. Use of this longitudinal data for research has led to a large number of publications. The GPs involved in the network all have academic appointments at the University.

Scoping PBRN development across Australia

The attendees at the workshop were aware of a number of Practice Based Research Networks in the process of development

- ⇒ Australian National University has started PracNet which is a group of six urban and four rural practices

- ⇒ Hunter/New England/Central Coast – University of Newcastle has some support from their Faculty to develop a network. Fourteen practices are involved to date.
- ⇒ VicRen – University of Melbourne Primary Care Research Unit has had a launch event in 2006 and has a part time coordinator employed to support this network. Five practices are currently involved.
- ⇒ University of Queensland/Bond University/Griffith University – collaborating on developing a network to involve about 50 GPs
- ⇒ Spencer Gulf- dealing with issues of isolation and rurality. Considering involvement of health professionals other than GPs
- ⇒ South Australia – Flinders have a group of interested practices
- ⇒ NSW – Launch planned for later this year. Aim to involve 50 practices.

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From CareSearch to CareSearch *palliative care knowledge network*

Jennifer Tieman, Australian Knowledge Network in palliative care

Finding relevant and high quality information can be difficult and frustrating for anybody. But when a person has a life limiting illness the need for reliable and easily accessible information becomes even more important. The CareSearch website <www.caresearch.com.au> has been designed to provide the health community and the general public with up to date information and links to quality resources in palliative care. In March new materials produced specifically for patients, carers and GPs were released. These resources reflect

the significant role that primary care and family caregivers have in caring for palliative patients.

As part of the Australian Palliative Care Knowledge Network project a major re-development of CareSearch has started. In May 2008 the website will evolve to become CareSearch *palliative care knowledge network*. This will be a new look website containing all the existing material from the CareSearch website plus new content and functions. Resources for other health professional groups and for specific patient populations will be developed. In addition there will be improvements to core functions such as the Research Data Management System and search functions.

CareSearch will continue to provide access to evidence and research. There will be an increasing emphasis on how knowledge is presented and communicated to highlight end user benefits. In palliative care where multidisciplinary care is fundamental to



optimal care, CareSearch can assist by:

- ⇒ bringing together the relevant information and resources from contributing disciplines
- ⇒ linking members of a community, whether clinicians or consumers, in innovative ways to improve outcomes
- ⇒ providing mechanisms and tools to assist in the development and use of evidence

You can help us by promoting the site or by downloading resources about the project. We'd also welcome any feedback and ideas.

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ENROL IN THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH

Robyn Preston, James Cook University



Are you interested in getting into research or evaluation but do not know where to start? Is research or evaluation part of your job description but you have no formal qualifications? Do you think you are too busy to study?

Designed for busy practitioners, this course can be studied externally; part time over two to four years. Payment of all or part of the tuition fees may be deferred through HECS-HELP. The course will equip you to undertake research and evaluation in primary health care settings; covering qualitative and quantitative methodology, ethical and practical issues, critical appraisal and evidence based practice. You will also gain skills in effective proposal and grant writing for research funding as well as research dissemination through publications, conferences, the media and policy makers. This unique course gives you the option to engage in basic research and evaluation in your workplace or move to undertake higher level qualifications such as a research masters or PhD.

This course is part of the Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development Strategy funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

Our team has been supporting practitioners like you since 2001 and we invite you to be part of this exciting new course.

Places are limited so please contact:

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Australian Satellite of the Cochrane Effective Practice & Organisation of Care Group

Emma Tavender, EPOC Satellite Coordinator

The Australian Satellite of the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care (EPOC) Group was established in January 2006 to facilitate evidence-based policy making in the Australasian region by supporting, promoting and helping to implement Cochrane systematic reviews of interventions designed to improve health professional practice and the delivery of effective health services. It is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

The Cochrane EPOC Group's editorial base is in Ottawa, Canada and satellites have been created in Australia, Norway and the UK. The scope of the group is to undertake systematic reviews of educational, behavioural, financial, organisational and regulatory interventions that cover many clinical areas.

Examples of EPOC systematic reviews* of relevance to primary health care

- ⇒ Computerised advice on drug dosage to improve prescribing practice
- ⇒ Hospital at home versus in-patient hospital care
- ⇒ Interventions to improve outpatient referrals from primary to secondary care

- ⇒ Interventions to improve the management of diabetes mellitus in primary care, outpatient and community settings
- ⇒ Patient reminder and patient recall systems for improving immunization rates
- ⇒ Specialist outreach clinics in primary care and rural hospital settings
- ⇒ Substitution of doctors by nurses in primary care
- ⇒ Educational outreach visits: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes
- ⇒ Telemedicine versus face to face patient care: effects on professional practice and health care outcomes
- ⇒ Effectiveness of shared care across the interface between primary and specialty care in chronic disease management

The Australian satellite is based in Melbourne at the National Institute of Clinical Studies, an institute within the National Health and Medical Research Council. Led by Russell Gruen and coordinated by Emma Tavender, the satellite has a small but growing number of members; the majority of which are either contributing or interested in contributing to an EPOC review.

The satellite welcomes those who are interested in participating in systematic reviews and staying up to date with the latest reviews. As a member, you will have the opportunity to:

- ⇒ Lead or contribute to EPOC systematic reviews of relevance to the Australasian region;
- ⇒ Receive training and mentoring in undertaking systematic reviews from the Cochrane EPOC satellite staff in Australia;
- ⇒ Peer review for Cochrane EPOC systematic reviews; and
- ⇒ Keep up to date with the latest reviews via regular newsletters and emails.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the satellite (free of charge) please contact me:

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**Published in The Cochrane Library - free access available*
<www.nhmrc.gov.au/nics/>



Divisions Network matters

DIVISION AND SBO 2005-06 12 MONTH REPORTS NOW AVAILABLE

Simon Patterson, PHC RIS

Recently PHC RIS has had agreement from the Department of Health and Ageing that the 2005-06 12 Month Reports be made publicly available on the PHC RIS website. This valuable information is not only useful for accountability purposes between the individual Division/SBO and the Department but also from a learning point of view for a variety of stakeholders, including other Divisions, other policy makers, AGPN, researchers and many others in the health sector.

2005-06 is the first reporting period that the Divisions and State Based Organisations (SBOs) completed under the NQPS Planning & Reporting framework. To learn more about this framework visit www.phcris.org.au/publications/infobytes/

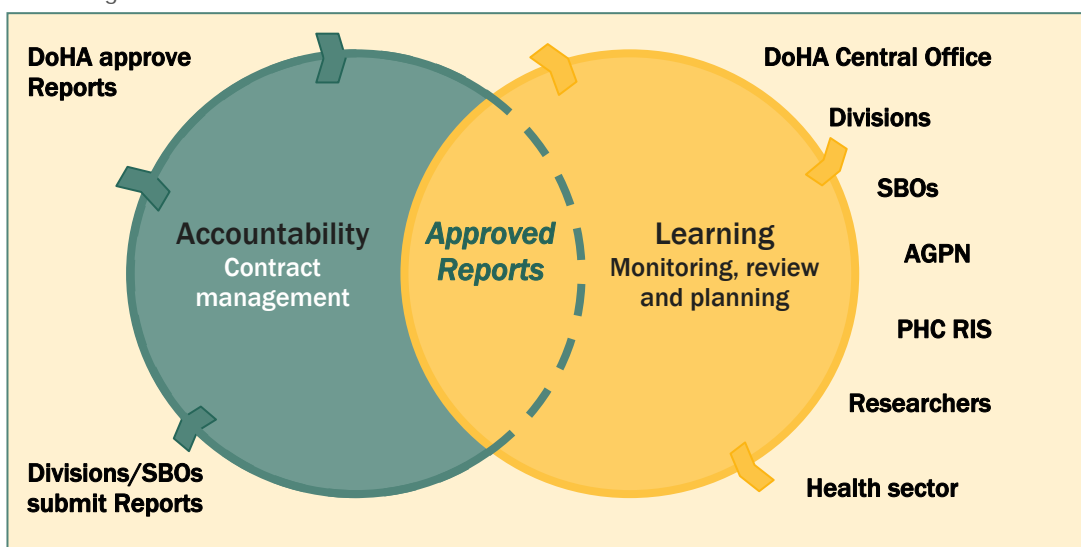
div_framework/>>. For this cycle the Reports were completed using a Microsoft Word document. For subsequent 12 Month Reports, Divisions and SBOs have the option of completing their Report using an on-line tool. This allows for more interactive options, allowing users to select what specific information they want to view. Further details on this new Display Component can be found at www.phcris.org.au/publications/infonet/2007/june/div.php.

At the time of writing this article, PHC RIS was preparing these 2005-06 12

Month Reports to be made available on the PHC RIS website. See the status, and possibly the contents, of these Reports by visiting www.phcris.org.au/divisions/.

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Division and SBO Reports and potential stakeholders involved in the accountability and learning cycles



FROM EASTERN GOLDFIELDS REGIONAL REFERENCE SITE TO GOLDHEALTH - THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE MANAGED HEALTH NETWORK

Libby Kalucy, PHC RIS

At the West Australian General Practice Network (WAGPN) forum Terry

Keating, CEO of Goldfields Esperance GP Network (GEGPN) reported on this successful initiative. With the support of a cohesive group of GP members in 17 practices (100% active engagement in the Division) and of local government, GEGPN started the Eastern Goldfields Regional Reference site as part of an Access to Broadband Technology initiative funded by the Australian Government in 2002-2003.

Sites were connected to a virtual private network using a variety of types of bandwidth. Phase 1 sites were 17 GP practices, 93% GPs homes, two ACCHS, three local specialists and GEGPN. Phase 2 covered two hospitals, rural clinical schools, aged care facilities and other sites, in this vast area that includes metro-like, rural and remote regions. Clinicians benefit from rapid and secure availability of information and enhanced communication, and rapid access to all sorts of support resources which assist

to recruit and retain GPs in the bush. Terry had a long list of lessons learned from this project, in overcoming the many challenges. In the last year they have enjoyed almost uninterrupted service, a contrast with previous years when rats ate cables, floods disrupted service, and unreliable satellite connections caused many headaches.

At the end of the project in 2006 the Division worked for a price structure so all practices remained in the Goldhealth network, which had to be commercially viable to be sustainable. They are now working towards a shared electronic health record, with new funding from the Australian Government. They aim to go live in March 2008, starting with 400-500 'frequent fliers' in opt-in system.

Further information: see Terry Keating's presentation under resources at www.wagpnetwork.com.au.



Divisions Network matters

ACCESS TO RESEARCH: THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND DIVISIONS



Sara Howard,
PHC RIS

Despite the fact that research is not a primary function of Divisions, in 2005-06 34% of Divisions (n=40) reported submitting at least one research proposal in a competitive grant process. In fact, more than half these Divisions (n=22) submitted two or more proposals and one metropolitan Victorian Division reported ten submissions. In total, 101 proposals were reported; 52 were successful, 13 were pending at the end of the 2005-06 financial year, 34 were unsuccessful and two did not proceed. Whilst some states submitted more proposals than others (see the figure below), the total number submitted did not appear to be systematically related to the outcome of the proposals.

A quarter of the proposals were for chronic disease management projects examining prevention, self-management or shared care strategies; diabetes related projects comprised 10% of all successful proposals. Research proposals involved as many as eight partners and as few as one. Across all 101 reported projects, 111 partners were reported; 41% of these were from other Divisions and 22% were from universities and associated rural clinics and schools. Monash University was a commonly cited partner.

In 2005-06, Divisions reported engaging with university departments not only for research purposes, but also for planning and evaluation. Outside the Divisions Network (i.e. other Divisions and SBOs), universities were the most commonly used organisations for these purposes. Importantly, out of these organisations, university departments were rated the most useful across these domains – second only to the National Prescribing Service (NPS), although this received less usage (see the Figure 2). Without doubt, universities play an integral role in assisting Divisions to shape and

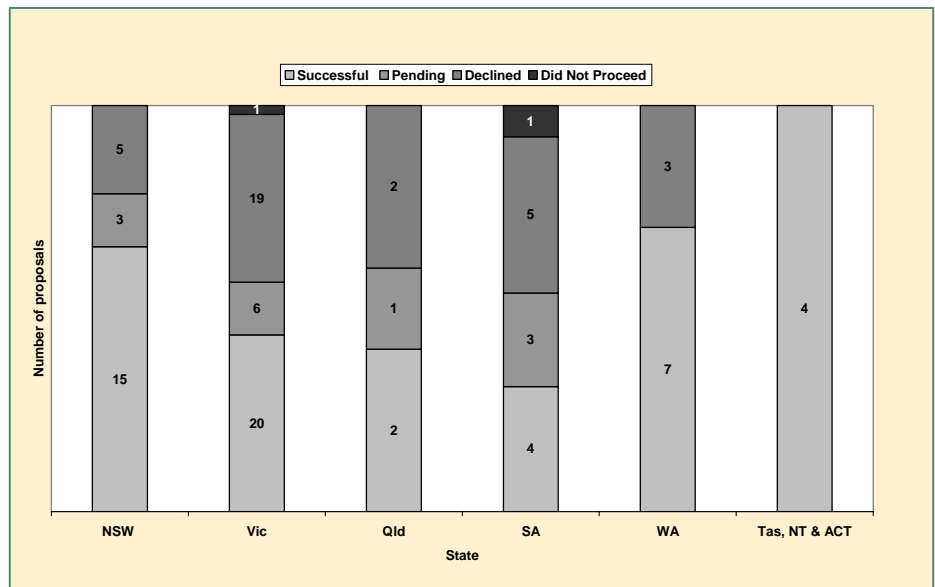


Figure 1: Status of competitive grant research proposals by state, 2005-06.

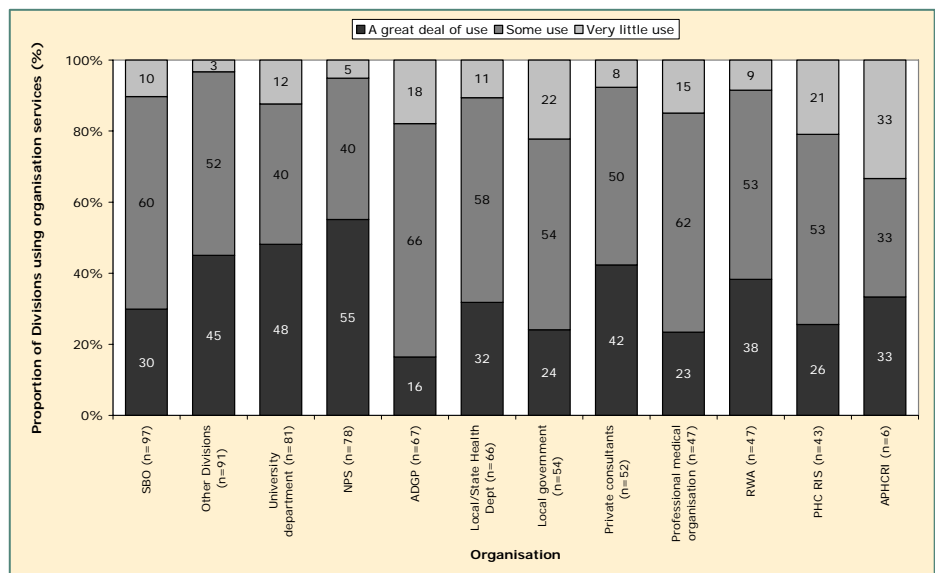


Figure 2: Use and usefulness of organisations for planning, research & evaluation, 2005-06.

improve primary health care in Australia.

This information is based on that found in:

Hordacre, AL., Howard, S., Moretti, C., Kalucy, E., (2007). *Making a difference. Report of the 2005-2006 Annual Survey of Divisions of General Practice*. Adelaide: Primary Health Care Research & Information Service, Department of General Practice, Flinders University, and Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

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PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative

UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF RURAL HEALTH (UDRH) NORTHERN NSW

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE



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Understanding Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Rural Communities: A Quantitative and Qualitative Approach

Karin Fisher, a Tamworth-based Research Academic at the University of Newcastle, is the recipient of a PHCRED Research Fellowship with the UDRH Northern NSW. Karin completed her PhD through the University of New England, on a Postgraduate Population Health Research Scholarship from the Hunter New England Health Service.

The surveillance of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Australia currently shows increasing

rates of STIs and high rates of syphilis cases in rural and remote locations. This study aimed to understand current trends for syphilis notifications in the Hunter New England Health (HNEH) Northern Region of NSW and perceptions of individuals about access to services for STIs.

In order to understand why there is a high rate of syphilis notification in rural and remote locations, this study aimed to understand the dynamics of public health surveillance and issues regarding access to health services through a mixed methods design.

Syphilis notifications over an eleven-year period (January 1994 to December 2004) for the HNEH Northern Region were analysed. Key demographic information for HNEH residents was obtained from a proxy measure developed by the ABS known as Socioeconomic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA).

The study sample comprised 33.5% males and 66.5% females with a median age of 24.7 years (range 15-91 years). In-depth interviews with 24 participants, 18 females and 6 males, aged between 19 and 65 years were analysed using grounded theory

methodological principles. Participants for the qualitative component were recruited through snowballing techniques and self-selection.

The findings indicate that in order to address STIs effectively in rural communities the following have an influence on policy, practice and research. Allocation of funding to support syphilis screening as well as an increase in the discourse surrounding the invisibility of STIs could help shape a more informed public policy response.

Research that explores the symbolic representation of STIs and subjectivity in relation to their meanings in the broader social contexts could provide some understandings about responses towards STIs from a rural perspective.



DISCIPLINE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

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In addition to providing research training and support for Researcher Development Program Fellows and

other University of Sydney early-mid career researchers, the Discipline of General Practice has been active in providing research training and support for externally based early-mid career researchers in 2007.

To date, four research training sessions have been held. The Qualitative Research Course held in June comprised two sessions: *Introduction to Qualitative Methodology in Health Research* and *Qualitative Research Techniques*. In July, we held an *Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods* and an *Introduction to Mixed Methods Research*. All four sessions were interactive and examples of projects that use these research methods and their related techniques were presented. Discussion was vigorous in all of the sessions.

We were also pleased to give a presentation at the Writing Workshop organised by the PHCRED Programs at the Discipline of General Practice and the University Department of Rural



The University of Sydney

Health Northern NSW (University of Newcastle) at Bolwarra on 26 July.

The University of Sydney's PHCRED Program is currently responsible for providing research capacity building support to twelve Divisions of General Practice in NSW, a number of which are located at a great distance from Sydney. To assist in overcoming this geographical barrier, the Discipline provides three online courses that are free and available 24/7. The courses are *Evidence-based Practice in Primary Care*, *Research Skills for GPs* and *Teaching in General Practice*.

Each course takes an estimated 6.5 to 7.5 hours to complete and is accredited for 30 Category 1 RACGP points. They are hosted by Med-E-Serv and can be accessed at <www.primed.com.au/>



PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative

DISCIPLINE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

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On 26 July a group of enthusiastic early-career researchers met in the tranquil Hunter Valley for the 5th Annual Writing Retreat. The event was co-hosted by the University of Newcastle PHCRED Programs from the Discipline of General Practice and the University Department of Rural Health in Tamworth. Nine of the 20 attendees travelled up to 6 hours to attend the writing retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to provide protected time for writing, access to mentors for writing and tips on writing in order to better resource would-be writers with skills and confidence. This purpose was achieved with the help of some very

experienced writers who shared their wisdom. Dr Ann Gregory (Deputy Editor of the Medical Journal of Australia) provided insights on getting published from the perspective of an editor. She put the human face on the editing process and inspired us all to try again and submit articles that were previously unsuccessful. Ann's approach was down to earth and made us realise how the editing process works and the commitment editors have to publishing quality work.

Dr Raechelle Rubenstein (PHCRED Program Coordinator at the University of Sydney) also provided numerous resources including writing tips. She described pre writing checks, gave us many examples of writing misunderstandings and some very helpful hints for writing for publication, grants and reports.

A further contributor to the success of the retreat was the generosity shown by Ann and Raechelle who each made themselves available to provide individual mentoring for writing to attendees throughout the day.

The 20 attendees came away from the retreat with the key messages: "the writing isn't the focus it's the material"

and "strong methodology is a key ingredient considered by an editing team with regard to acceptance or otherwise". Our Annual Writing Retreat continues to be an important mechanism for building the research capacity within the Hunter-New England regional PHC community and a useful forum for exchanging resources and ideas.



Prof Dimity Pond from the University of Newcastle (left) and Dr Ann Gregory, Deputy Editor of the MJA (right) sharing tips on getting published in peer-reviewed journals.

GENERAL PRACTICE

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Caroline Bulsara
Coordinator, PHCRED
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The PHCRED unit, the University of Western Australia and one of the Western Australian Divisions of General Practice have launched a new and exciting initiative. A new role has been created which links the PHCRED Coordinator more closely to the Perth and Hills Division of General Practice by setting up a jointly funded academic position.

Caroline Bulsara has recently taken up this role and is located at Perth & Hills Division of General Practice for two days each week. It is intended that partnerships will be fostered between the University, the Division and the

primary health care research community over the next three years. Caroline will act as a PHCRED conduit and mentor for current and prospective researchers in developing their research skills and areas of interest.

The role works on numerous levels to achieve its objectives and will provide unique opportunities to develop research capacity within the Division and to create a culture of awareness regarding the significance of evaluation and research within the General Practice and primary health care areas.

The initiative will also help to bridge the divide and change perceptions between university-based academics and those working within the community and Divisions of General Practice in regard to consolidating research skills and priorities.

The role provides a 'hands on' approach to providing research support to General Practitioners, allied health and Division staff. It provides



opportunities to strengthen collaborations and will lead to multidisciplinary partnerships in primary health care research.



PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative

RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH UNIT

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY



Robyn Preston
PHCRED Coordinator
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E: robyn.preston@jcu.edu.au

How to convert workshop materials into on-line resources

Delivering face to face research and evaluation workshops is resource intensive, particularly outside of metropolitan centres. In order to reach more novice and mid-level researchers, the PHCRED program at James Cook University has developed on-line research modules. The modules were devised from our face to face workshops in research, evaluation and writing for publication. Each module includes practical exercises and guides and links to further reading and resources. Access is free and available to all PHC practitioners and students.

Since June 2006 over 150 people have registered to use the modules.

The steps we took to develop the modules were:

- ⇒ Reviewed all materials and workshop evaluations from PHCRED Phase I
- ⇒ Further developed topics from research literature, presentations and websites
- ⇒ Developed exercises (with model answers), further reading and linkages to websites
- ⇒ Trialled the modules on a research community's websites
- ⇒ Informally evaluated the modules with leading experts in the field, users, Fellows and colleagues
- ⇒ Reviewed and updated module content and layout
- ⇒ Rolled out the modules to an interactive learning system
- ⇒ Marketed modules to the PHC research community
- ⇒ Incorporated modules into Fellows' and RDPs' work plans

⇒ Developed a protocol for a yearly review and evaluation of modules.

We have found that the on-line modules are an effective form of research capacity building development for: fellows, rural and remote novice researchers, honours and post-grad students and workshop and research roadshow participants. We are happy to share our experiences with other PHCRED programs looking to develop their own on-line materials. To register for the free modules, send an email with your name, contact email and organisation to:
E: phcred@jcu.edu.au

The modules are currently being evaluated and we also welcome your feedback. From 2008 we will be delivering an on-line Graduate Certificate in PHC Research.
Web: www.jcu.edu.au/medicine/research/ruralhealth/JCUDEV_010839.html

PHCRED QLD

DISCIPLINE OF GENERAL PRACTICE, UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Jacqui Burgess
Media and marketing officer
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E: jacqui@uq.edu.au

Taking research education to practitioners off the beaten track

The Queensland PHCRED Collaboration has once again taken its research education roadshow to health practitioners working in rural and remote areas in North Queensland.

The roadshow stopped at Weipa, Innisfail, Atherton, Mareeba and Cairns ; providing five full-day sessions

to a total of 110 participants covering the topics of project planning and evaluation, quantitative and qualitative research methods, and questionnaire design.

Workshop participants had a range of research skills and came from a variety of health fields including community health, nutrition, sexual health, health promotion, indigenous health, child and youth health, aged care, and allied health services.

The workshops provided a forum for practitioners to learn new research skills and to share their own research interests and programs with people working in similar fields.

The feedback from this year's roadshow has been very positive, and follows on from the successful roadshows held over the past two years. Ongoing evaluation of the roadshow workshops enables us to deliver research education targeted to the needs of the participants.

Representatives from Griffith University, James Cook University, the Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health, and the University of Queensland led the workshops.



Lorna O'Doherty and Libby Holden at the workshop held in Mareeba.



PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Xanthe Golenko
Administrative Assistant PHCRED
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Griffith PHCRED Website: A valuable resource for research in Primary Health Care

Griffith University has adopted a unique approach in the development of its Griffith PHCRED Website launched earlier this year. The website <www.griffith.edu.au/phcred> is aimed at providing early career researchers in Primary Health Care with direct on-line access to a broad range of research tools, information and funding opportunities.

This comprehensive website offers links to an extensive range of **on-line resources** covering the topics of research design, finding and reviewing the literature, qualitative and quantitative research methods, evaluation, evidence based medicine and publishing results. It also provides links to **on-line courses** covering topics including statistics, evidence based medicine, critical thinking and

evaluation. The Grants section of the website features a list of links which conveniently take you directly to the grants page of **funding organisations** relevant to Primary Health Care.

Information on current events such as research skills short courses offered by Griffith PHCRED and current research funding opportunities can be quickly and easily accessed through the News column on the home page.

The website also provides general information on Griffith PHCRED partnerships and collaborations, programs and courses with research components offered by Griffith University and updates on current research projects conducted by the Griffith school of Medicine.

The Griffith PHCRED website is a valuable resource for Primary Health Care practitioners. It promotes



Griffith PHCRED home page.

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

BOND UNIVERSITY



Assistant Professor
Howard J Talbot
Research Assistant
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M: 0402-247-731
E: htalbot@bond.edu.au

I am a Naturopath/Nutra-ceutical manufacturer who has been offered a wonderful opportunity to trial my products overseas. However, I quickly realised my research abilities were limited and to do the product trial justice I needed to acquire some new skills.

Of course as a Naturopath, I'd never been involved in a randomised trial and consequently I didn't have a clue as to how to organise or run one or even what the data meant.

Enter Bond University and PHCRED; I must have had quite a despondent look when a clinical dietetics colleague said, "a penny for your thoughts"? Whereupon explaining my predicament she said; "as fate would have it, my husband is the Director of PHCRED Bond University; he may be able to help you."

Selena quickly gave me the details and within a few short days I found myself with both Neil Smart and Prof Chris Del Mar, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine. Prof. Del Mar was very supportive and quickly laid down the challenge of conducting a Cochrane Systematic Review on *The effectiveness of Hyaluronic acid for wound healing*. As Hyaluronic acid is one of our product components I happily accepted the challenge and with the ever-present guidance of A/Prof Neil Smart, the protocol has now been accepted for publication by the Cochrane Library and I am now in the process of writing the review.

evidence-based practice by providing easy access to literature and research resources. It encourages primary health care practitioners to become more actively involved in research and offers early career researchers opportunities to develop skills and knowledge in specific areas in their own time and at their own pace.

Prof Chris Del Mar and A/Prof Neil Smart and the coordinator Treasure Hodgetts, have been wonderful in supporting me through this extraordinary process of personal development and learning. It has been a very short but fascinating year; due to my involvement with PHCRED I believe I am a far better practitioner, definitely a more enquiring one.

I feel very fortunate to be part of the team, at Bond; it has far exceeded my expectations.



PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative

DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



Dr Meredith Temple-Smith (pictured) and Ms Hayley Shaw
Senior Lecturer Primary Care Research
P: 03 8344 3371
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In August, the Primary Care Research Unit in the Department of General Practice, held a *Writing for Publication* Week. Associate Professor Felicity Goodyear-Smith from the Department of General Practice and Primary Healthcare, The University of Auckland acted as facilitator.

The aim of the week was to provide novice and mid-career researchers such as RDPs and research higher degree students, access to expert support and advice about writing a research paper. Participants in the

writing week were divided into:

- ⇒ novice researchers, most of whom had not yet undertaken any research
- ⇒ intermediate writers, who had not yet led a publication
- ⇒ experienced writers, who had led more than five publications.

The intermediate writing group was asked to submit a paragraph on their idea for a paper prior to the writing week. Members of this group met with A/Prof Goodyear-Smith one-to-one on the first day and continued to meet as required during the remainder of the week. Experienced writers were asked to dedicate as much of their week as possible to writing time and had the opportunity to meet with A/Prof Goodyear-Smith as a group. The novice researchers attended a special introductory session on writing for publication.

On day one, a session was held covering the expectations of writing week. A running sheet was kept in the tearoom and people were asked to

mark their progress on this.

At the wrap up session, participants completed an evaluation form and were asked to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the week. Book vouchers and chocolates were awarded to all participants. Great progress was made by all participants, with two people commencing a second paper during the week! Many commented that the greatest benefit of this activity was allowing the focus of the writing to be a priority in their typically busy week.



Writing Week participants (L:R) Lucio Naccarella and Verity Newnham

ARE YOU REMOTELY INTERESTED?

MOUNT ISA REMOTE HEALTH CONFERENCE

23-25 August 2007, Mt Isa
Ellen McIntyre, PHC RIS &
Stephanie De La Rue, Research Manager, MICRRH

A key focus throughout this fully subscribed conference (there were over 100 delegates) was the primary health care workforce in rural and particularly remote Australia – how to have the right workers with the right skills in the right places doing the right things.

Keynote speaker Associate Professor Ruth Ballweg, University of Washington

presented the Physician Assistant (PA) program, a two year course for health workers to enable them to operate (under the supervision of doctors) in areas of unmet needs. This is of particular interest to paramedics who are often under utilised in remote areas, military medics when they re-enter civilian life and wish to continue using their skills, and other health workers who wish to enhance their skills. Most Australian States are investigating the potential for PAs to add to our health workforce with discussion underway regarding a pilot of this role in Queensland.

Other initiatives addressing health workforce shortages were the nurse practitioner and the expanded health care roles for the Isolated Paramedic Practice. It was enlightening to hear from people in these roles – what it meant to their communities and also to themselves.

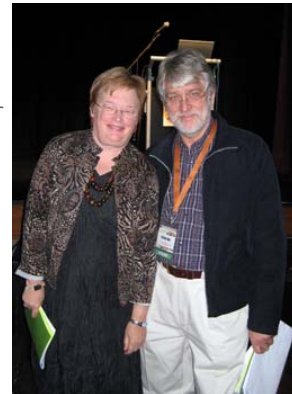
Many useful innovations were also presented including the traumatic response card and fax back developed by social worker Penelope Parker from Dalby Health Service. This partnership between police, health and the community provides a quick and

efficient process that enables the social worker to follow up on consenting community members after a traumatic experience.

Research featured in many areas throughout

the conference. Pim Kuipers outlined the principles of sustainable primary health care systems in rural and remote communities. Enablers that are critical are supportive policy, commonwealth/state relations and community readiness. It was most interesting to then hear Kelly McTaggart, CEO of the North and West Queensland Primary Health Care, describe his successful primary health care system.

Presentations are available on the MICRRH website:
Web: www.micrrh.jcu.edu.au/



Ruth Ballweg & Dennis Pashen



PHCRED Strategy: Awards, grants & fellowships

The following researchers were recently awarded Research grants under the PHCRED Strategy. Here are summaries of what they will be undertaking.

LYNNE DANIELS



Positive feeding practices and food preferences in very early childhood: an innovative approach to obesity prevention.

Professor Lynne Daniels at QUT and her colleagues at Flinders University in Adelaide have been awarded NH&MRC Primary Health Care funding to evaluate a community-based intervention to promote early feeding practices that will foster healthy food preferences and preserve the innate capacity to self-regulate food intake in young children.

Early feeding practices determine infant exposure to food (type, amount, frequency) and include responses to infant feeding behaviour (eg. food refusal). Evidence suggests both current early feeding practices and intakes are of concern. Despite the potential role in developing healthy eating habits and promoting healthy weight in early childhood and in later life, studies that focus on early feeding practices are very rare.

The 18-month study will use a randomised controlled design and aims to enrol 830 first time mothers with healthy term infants in Brisbane and Adelaide. The intervention will provide anticipatory guidance via 2x12-week parent education and peer support modules (6x1.5 hour group sessions), each followed by 6xmonthly maintenance contacts (choice phone/email). The modules will commence at ages 4-7 and 13-16 months to coincide with establishment of solid feeding and development of autonomy and independence. Although not the focus of the study, breast feeding will be actively encouraged. The intervention will be delivered in established community child health clinics in Brisbane and Adelaide. Outcome measures will be assessed at baseline (age 4-7m), 9 m (age 13-16m) and 18 m (final, age 2y) and will include infant food intake and preferences, feeding behaviour and growth and maternal

feeding style/practices, parenting efficacy and BMI. Assessment sessions will also be conducted by study staff at child health clinics.

This study will provide the first Level II evidence for efficacy of a comprehensive, structured intervention to promote positive feeding practices on early childhood intake and food preferences. It is consistent with current community interest in early childhood as the foundation for health and well being and addresses National Research Priority 2: Promoting and maintaining health – 'A healthy start to life' and 'Preventive health care'.

Lynne Daniels
QUT
E: l2.daniels@qut.edu.au

HYLTON B MENZ



I am a podiatrist with a special research interest in balance and falls in older people. My NHMRC post-doctoral fellowship research clearly identified that foot problems were associated with impaired balance and functional ability, and were a significant independent risk factor for falls. The aim of my NHMRC Primary Care Research Grant project is to design and evaluate a multifactorial podiatry intervention program to improve balance and prevent falls. The intervention package will include a combination of stretching and strengthening exercises, footwear advice and modification, orthotic therapy and ongoing podiatry management of painful foot lesions. The intervention package has been designed in such a way that it could be easily implemented within existing podiatry services. To assess the efficacy of the intervention, the intervention group will be compared to a "usual care" group, who will continue to receive general maintenance treatment from a podiatrist. Falls will then be monitored over a period of 12 months.

This study will be the first ever controlled trial undertaken to determine the efficacy of podiatry for older people in relation to foot pain, mobility and falls. Given the high prevalence of foot-related disability

and falls in older people and their associated health care costs, the study findings will be of considerable public health importance. If the intervention is found to be clinically effective and cost-effective, expansion of the role of the podiatrist in falls prevention, both in private and public sector settings, would reduce healthcare costs and enable a large number of older people to benefit. Furthermore, the intervention is based on currently available expertise and low-cost equipment and resources, so it could be easily implemented into a range of healthcare settings.

Hylton B Menz
La Trobe University
E: H.Menz@latrobe.edu.au

ELIZABETH WATERS



Waters E., Kilpatrick N, Dashper S., Lo S.K., Nicholson J., Gussy M. Environmental, socio-behavioural and biological predictors of early childhood caries: a rural longitudinal birth cohort study.

The team involved in this new study are absolutely thrilled it has been funded and want to thank PHCRED and NHMRC sincerely. As a group we are particularly interested in preschool oral health inequalities and identifying the combination of factors that should be the core components of prevention campaigns. In the context of caries, the majority of previous literature has not integrated the knowledge that caries is an infectious disease, and that a range of environmental, behavioural and social factors all contribute. Rather, the evidence is likely to have examined bugs with caries, or nutrition

(Continued on page 14)



PHCRED Strategy: Awards, grants & fellowships

(Continued from page 13)

on caries, or behaviours with nutrition, making it inordinately hard to know whether the best bet is environmental fluoride, accompanied by hygiene, nutritional behaviours, or whether just focusing on hygiene and bugs, or just fluoride exposure in high risk areas, will be able to redress this issue. So this study brings together all the putative risk and protective factors and will follow children and their families from birth to school age. Pilot tests have demonstrated huge interest in the study, and we have demonstrated 98% retention rate capacity to retain babies and their families over this timespan. The study will have the potential to be at the cutting edge in relation to health birth cohorts, nutrition, oral health and social factors. It is likely to be called the VicGeneration Study.

Elizabeth Waters
Deakin University
E: elizabeth.waters@deakin.edu.au

The following researchers were recently awarded Research Fellowships under the PHCRED Strategy. Here are their profiles:

LYNN KEMP



The PHCRED Fellowship has provided me with a great opportunity to develop my research program, and increase my research output and competitiveness. I am a

'mid-level' primary health care researcher who is actively developing an early childhood research agenda that seeks to identify the specific contributions that the range of primary health care providers make to the development of a comprehensive and integrated early childhood primary health care system. The aims of my research are:

to develop, support and evaluate the effectiveness of primary health care interventions in early childhood for vulnerable and at-risk populations, and to develop frameworks, resources and workforces to support primary health care interventions in early childhood for vulnerable and at-risk populations.

My focus on early childhood research and health inequity has both immediate and long term implications for improving the health of the Australian population. Investing in the Early Years of Life is one of Australia's research priorities in recognition that early life experiences provide the trajectories for opportunities in later life. It is also recognised that early life experiences are important in the prevention of risk factors for chronic disease later in life. My work recognises the disproportionate burden of disease experienced in disadvantaged communities and seeks to find ways of making services to children and families in these areas accessible and effective.

My past and current research projects are leading to a more substantial piece of work that examines the roles, relationships between and integration of primary health care service providers across the continuum of needs of families with young children. My location within the UNSW Research Centre for Primary Health Care & Equity will support development of a stronger focus on General Practice, the role of Practice Nurses and Pharmacists, in addition to Primary Health Nurses.

Lynn Kemp
University of NSW
E: l.kemp@unsw.edu.au

MARIE PIROTTA



The PHCRED mid-career fellowships present a wonderful opportunity for budding researchers like myself to really focus on developing their research skills and careers, while also in the broader perspective, assisting to develop research capacity in new researchers and, ultimately, to benefit the community through posing and answering research questions of direct benefit to clinical care.

I have a range of research interests, but will concentrate over the next four years on women's health, in particular, on bacterial vaginosis and chlamydia. I am currently involved in several trials with colleagues from the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre.

Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is an interesting clinical problem. Its aetiology and pathogenesis are not understood, women suffer frequent recurrences of infection and BV makes women more vulnerable to sexually transmitted infection, such as HIV/ AIDs. The bacterial vaginosis antibiotic probiotic study (BVAPS) is about to commence. This randomised controlled trial will compare current recommended treatment for BV with current treatment plus a vaginal antibiotic or a vaginal probiotic. We will also be collecting behavioral, demographic, microbiological and immunological data to try to tease out the origins and mechanisms of infection in BV.

My other work is mainly examining methods to improve screening for young women in general practices for chlamydia. Genital chlamydia infections are often asymptomatic, yet the impact on women's fertility can be devastating. A series of trials is underway using various simple interventions and measuring their impact on screening rates for this important sexually transmitted infection.

The results of all these trials will inform health care workers about management of these conditions and should eventually assist in decreasing the burden of these diseases in the community.

Dr Marie Pirotta
University of Melbourne
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ReportWatch: Patient-based substudies from BEACH

ABSTRACTS AND RESEARCH TOOLS 1999-2006

Libby Kalucy, PHC RIS

On Wednesday 25 July 2007 the Australian GP Statistics and Classification Centre, University of Sydney, a collaborating unit of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released a new report:

Patient- based substudies from BEACH: abstracts and research tools 1999-2006.

This is the 20th report in the general practice series. It differs markedly from the annual BEACH reports that summarise the data about the GPs and content of encounters each year.

This report provides abstracts for, and research tools used, in 104 general practice substudies conducted as part of the BEACH (Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health) program. Samples range from about 1,500 to 12,000 patients.

BEACH is a continuous national study of general practice activity. Since 1998 over 9,000 GPs have recorded details regarding approximately 900,000 GP-patient encounters on structured paper forms.

The substudies are referred to as SAND (Supplementary Analysis of Nominated Data). There is a SAND section at the bottom of every encounter form, in which we investigate aspects of patient health or health care delivery not covered by the encounter-based data.

The authors hope that this report will assist GPs and other researchers by providing them with:

- ⇒ a central source of results for a wide range of studies of patients attending GPs
- ⇒ a wide range of tools that
 - ⇒ have demonstrated acceptability and utility
 - ⇒ can be used in the confines of a general practice patient consultation
 - ⇒ have already been approved by recognised ethics committees.

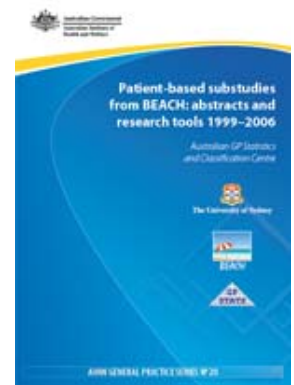
These 104 study reports will provide interesting reading for anyone involved in general practice research.

The report is available for purchase (\$35) through the AIHW web site <www.aihw.gov.au> or can be downloaded free of charge from the web.

A speedy link to the document (on the AIHW web site) is available on the home page of <www.fmrc.org.au/>

Reference

Britt, H., Miller, G.C., Henderson, J., Bayram, C. 2006. *Patient- based substudies from BEACH: abstracts and research tools 1999-2006.*



ALL SORTS OF NETWORKS

WAGP NETWORK AND STATE FORUM

2-3 August, Perth

Attended by Libby Kalucy, PHC RIS

IT networks, GP networks, Division networks and health networks featured on the program of the WAGP Network and State Forum. In the interests of brevity, I've focused on health networks.

Health networks are an important component of the WA Health operational plan 07/08 which aims to

provide right care for right person at right time in right place with right team. Mark Slattery from the WA Department of Health described the fifteen networks as a way for many people to have a say in how health care is delivered. Each network will develop a model of care which describes the best practice care and services that should be available for a person or population group as they progress through the stages of a condition, injury or event. Network issues include making time for people to come together; managing diverse

expectations; communication; finding best buys and best practice; and the biggest challenge – the transition from policy to implementation. Even networks need to network – with interaction between some of the Health Networks in WA to ensure they are not disease oriented silos.

Presentations are accessible at Resources on <www.wagpnetwork.com.au>. Further information on health networks is available on <www.healthnetworks.health.wa.gov.au>.

Detailed reports on these conferences can be found at: www.phcris.org.au/eventsdiary/conference_report.php

NURSING IN GENERAL PRACTICE

28-29 August 2007, Coffs Harbour

Attended by Libby Kalucy, PHC RIS

AGPN ran a very successful Nursing in General Practice Forum. The program illustrated the diversity and energy of the nursing in general practice program which has developed greatly since 2000. Workforce recruitment and retention are being monitored through surveys, research and evaluation. The

nursing in general practice program is developing strategies to address barriers to recruitment such as lack of physical space in practices, low salaries and workforce shortages. Division and SBO program managers are working with AGPN on retention of nurses, by conducting exit interviews to determine reasons for nurses leaving rural and urban practices. Career paths and skill development were featured. The Australian Practice Nurse Association is administering Education and Training Scholarships which include post graduate study for the first time. One

of the highlights of the current program is the national mentoring pilot for nurses in general practice. The AGPN *Nursing News* (Aug 07) states that training workshops for mentors and mentees have taken place in four states to very positive feedback. For more information, see <www.agpn.com.au>, including the informative newsletter *Nursing News*.

Upcoming events

16-18 Oct 2007, Melbourne VIC

2007 NATIONAL RESEARCH ETHICS CONFERENCE

The ethics of good research

P: 02 6280 8122

E: ethics@communicationlink.com.au

Web: www.nhmrc.gov.au/ethics/conference.htm

23-24 Oct 2007, Canberra ACT

2007 ACTKM CONFERENCE

E: conference2007@actkm.org

Web: www.actkm.org/

actkm_2007_conference.php

24-27 Oct 2007, Sydney NSW

2007 INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS' HEALTH CONFERENCE

Wellbeing

P: 02 9902 8135

E: info@DoctorsHealthSydney2007.org

Web: www.doctorshealthsydney2007.org/

25-27 Oct 2007, Sydney NSW

INTERNATIONAL DOCTORS' CONFERENCE

Wellbeing

P: 02 9902 8135

E: info@DoctorsHealthSydney2007.org

Web: www.doctorshealthsydney2007.org/

7-9 Nov 2007, Sydney NSW

HIA 2007 SOUTH EAST ASIAN AND OCEANIA REGIONAL HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE

P: 02 9290 3366

Web: www.hia2007.com

8-11 Nov 2007, Darling Harbour NSW

SHPA 28TH FEDERAL CONFERENCE 2007

Integration: Putting it all together

P: 02 6281 6624

E: rebecca@conlog.com.au

Web: www.shpa.org.au/docs/fedconf07.html

15-16 Nov 2007, Perth WA

E-HEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE (EHT) WORKSHOP

P: 08 9381 0858

E: karen.monticelli@uwa.edu.au

Web: www.emedicine.com.au

15-18 Nov 2007, Hobart TAS

2007 AUSTRALIAN GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK FORUM

Doing Division Business Better & Future

Focus and Profile of the Network

P: 02 6285 3000

E: agpn@con-sol.com

Web: www.gpnetworkforum.com.au

16-19 Nov 2007, Southbank VIC

2007 MELBOURNE GENERAL PRACTITIONER CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

P: 1800 358 879

E: gpce2006@infosalons.com.au

Web: www.gpce.com.au/melbourne-2007/

20-21 Nov 2007, Sydney NSW

10TH ANNUAL HEALTH FACILITIES DESIGN & PLANNING SUMMIT

P: 02 9080 4307

E: registration@informa.com.au

Web: www.informa.com.au/healthfacilities

21-23 Nov 2007, Adelaide SA

AUST ASSOC OF GERONTOLOGY 40TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Beyond 2007, Ageing: Evolution and Revolution

P: 02 6650 9800

E: aag@eastcoastconferences.com.au

Web: www.aagconference.com/

26-28 Nov 2007, Adelaide SA

2007 JOANNA BRIGGS INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Pebbles of Knowledge: Evidence for Excellence

P: 08 8303 8231

E: claire.hannagan@adelaide.edu.au

Web: www.joannabriggs.edu.au/events/2007Convention/index.html

28 Nov-2 Dec 2007, Melbourne VIC

WPA INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS 2007

Working Together for Mental Health: Partnerships for Policy and Practice

P: 03 9417 0888

E: wpa2007melbourne@meetingplanners.com.au

Web: www.wpa2007melbourne.com

29-30 Nov 2007, Bondi Beach NSW

4TH BIENNIAL NSW PHC RESEARCH & EVALUATION CONFERENCE

Growing Together for Impact & Sustainability

P: 02 6281 6624

E: conference@conlog.com.au

Web: www.growingtogether.unsw.edu.au/

29-30 Nov 2007, Brisbane QLD

PUBLIC HEALTH NUTRITION IN AUSTRALIA

New Directions, New Priorities

E: sandie_bragger@uow.edu.au

Web: www.aphnac.com/news.php

2-5 Dec 2007, Auckland NEW ZEALAND

5TH HEALTH SERVICES & POLICY RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2007

Listening to the Past. Looking to the Future: how can health services research contribute to assessing fads and fashions in health policy and practice?

E: hsr07@tcc.co.nz

Web: www.healthservicesconference.com.au

Upcoming event?
Add it to the PHC RIS diary
phcris@flinders.edu.au

PHCRED STATE CONFERENCES

1 Nov 2007, Launceston TAS

4TH ANNUAL PHCRED RCBI SYMPOSIUM

Primary Health Care - Research for the Future

P: 03 6226 4803

E: Julie.Forsyth@utas.edu.au

Web: www.phcred.utas.edu.au

2 Nov 2007, Melbourne VIC

INAUGURAL VICTORIAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT (VICPHCRED) CONFERENCE

Supporting Networks: Showcasing NEW Research from General Practice

P: 03 8344 9042

E: christopher.anderson@unimelb.edu.au

Web: www.vicphcred.unimelb.edu.au/

3 Nov 2007, Perth WA

PHCRED WA STATE CONFERENCE

The State of Primary Health Care

E: tracy.reibel@uwa.edu.au

Web: www.phcredwa.org.au

27 Nov 2007, Shepparton VIC

SHEPPARTON RESEARCH CONFERENCE - MOVING FORWARD: RURAL RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Bringing mutually beneficial rural research forward through a transfer of knowledge

P: 03 5823 4500

E: luciar@unimelb.edu.au

Web: www.ruralhealth.unimelb.edu.au/

29-30 Nov 2007, Sydney NSW

4TH BIENNIAL NSW PHC RESEARCH & EVALUATION CONFERENCE

P: 02 9385 1502

E: nswphc@unsw.edu.au

Web: www.nswphc.unsw.edu.au

2008 GP & PHC RESEARCH CONFERENCE
HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR,
HOBART, TASMANIA

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PHC RIS *infont* is printed bi-monthly by Flinders Press, Adelaide. Editorial team: Sarah Eckermann, Ellen McIntyre, Libby Kalucy, Fiona Thomas

Contributions are invited for inclusion in the newsletter. This newsletter supports the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation & Development Strategy, the Divisions Network and the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (funding body). The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editorial team or the funding body.

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