Directors’ Report

October 2009 - March 2010

Professor Stephen Leeder, University of Sydney
Mr Robert Wells, Australian National University
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What’s New

2009 was an extremely active year for Australian health policy. The National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission finalised its report as did the Preventative Health Taskforce. Understandably, the two documents generated discussion among health service professionals and among patients and the community more broadly. Several of the public meetings held by the Menzies Centre for Health Policy in Sydney and in Canberra and regular media commentary by staff were stimulated by the reports and their recommendations. The Centre’s Fellow, Dr Lesley Russell was in strong demand by the media for comment. She has been on secondment in the US for several months, observing the process of health service reform that has dominated the political agenda in Washington.

A summary of 2009 Achievements:

- 37 peer reviewed papers, book chapters, or books authored by Menzies Centre staff.
- 22 articles written by Menzies Centre staff and published in industry publications.
- 36 articles written by Menzies Centre staff and published in print media, generally as an opinion piece.
- 49 occasions where Menzies Centre staff were either interviewed for a print, radio or television piece, or quoted in a print, radio or television piece.
- 53 articles written by Menzies Centre staff and published online.
- 18 commissioned and non-commissioned reports prepared by Menzies Centre staff.
- 51 conference presentations delivered by Menzies Centre staff.
- 11 public seminars/events with an average attendance of 100 guests.

Centre wide news:

- As of 1 January 2010, The Diabetes Unit changed its name to the Health and Sustainability Unit to better reflect the true scope of its current role and future intent of its increasingly ‘ecological’ focus on health - notably chronic disease prevention - as both an output and an input to a sustainable future.
- As of 1 January 2010, the University of Sydney rebranded. As such, all MCHP templates have been updated to reflect the new University of Sydney logo.

Staff news:

- Clive Aspin took up a joint position in January 2010 which sees him working one day a week for SCIPPS and four days a week at Bullana Poche Centre for Indigenous Health.
- Anne-marie Boxall has rejoined the Menzies Centre as an Associate.
- Annette Schmiede has joined the Menzies Centre as an Associate. With a career spanning three decades, Annette’s experience includes health services research, health service planning and delivery, funding, governance and policy development. She is currently an expert health industry advisor to Price Waterhouse Coopers in Australia.
Travel and presentations:

- Stephen Leeder travelled to India in February to participate in Columbia University’s International Advisory Panel (IAP) to the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s National Rural Health Mission (NHRM). Steve is the panel’s expert on the burden of chronic disease.

- Stephen Leeder travelled to Hong Kong and Shanghai in February. While in Hong Kong Steve visited the Chinese University of Hong Kong and met with a team of CUHK researchers to discuss non-communicable disease research. In Shanghai Steve was an invited speaker at the 9th Annual Novo Nordisk Diabetes Update.

- Ruth Colagiuri was an invited speaker at the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) International Workshop on Climate Change and Public Health: Law, Justice and Governance at the University of Bristol in February 2010. Ruth’s presentation centred on the Sydney Resolution.

- Ruth Colagiuri represented the International Diabetes Federation at the first Global Non-communicable Disease Network (NCDnet) Global Forum on 24 February 2010 at the World Health Organization’s headquarters in Geneva.

- James Gillespie visited Beijing in November to attend the launch of the China International Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention. The Menzies Centre is leading the University of Sydney’s involvement as one of five lead academic institutions in the Centre.
Research

Research is a core activity of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy. Menzies Centre staff collaborate extensively with government agencies, area health services, non-government organisations, independent institutes and with industry, locally and internationally, on a wide range of research and consultancy projects. Staff at the Menzies Centre mentor and supervise research students enrolled at both The Australian National University and the University of Sydney. The Menzies Centre also hosts academic and students visitors pursuing projects that align with the research strengths and interests of Menzies Centre staff.

Grant Applications

- An application for funding has been submitted to the Ian Potter Foundation. The application, ‘Preventing Poor Outcomes for People with Chronic Illness: Improving management – and self management - of chronic disease through evidence-informed policy that integrates care in acute and community settings’ seeks funds to employ two ‘Ian Potter Fellows’ to translate the results of the Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study into preventive policies to improve management of chronic illness and secure the best quality of life for patients. In partnership with health providers, policy makers and the community, the Fellows will develop and run pilot studies and conduct a simulation study testing the impact of policy changes on system performance. These studies will: educate and assist patients, carers and health providers to improve their capacity to manage complex medication therapy; and identify research evidence-informed adjustments to chronic care policies.

- An NHMRC project application was submitted in March 2010 by the SCIPPS team at the University of Sydney. The application seeks funds to evaluate Care Navigation at Nepean Hospital. An RCT will compare the effect of care navigation on hospital admissions and patient health and health care costs when compared with the current standard method of care. Funding is also sought to conduct a process evaluation to describe facilitators and barriers to the implementation and critical areas of focus in the implementation of future coordinated care methods. Due to the low success rate of NHMRC project grant applications, an NHMRC Partnership grant application for the Care Navigation study will also be submitted in April.

- An NHMRC project application was submitted in March 2010 by Angela Beaton and Stephen Leeder. Chronic care planning is currently impeded by policy that allows patients with a general practitioner management plan and team care arrangement five allied health visits per year under Medicare. Plans may be prepared for this purpose alone; they contain limited information and may be of little or no direct benefit to the patient. If the application is successful, we will assess whether more rigorous care planning increases value and benefit to reduce avoidable hospitalisations and improve the quality of life of people with complex needs.

- Lesley Russell’s and Joel Negin’s application to the University of Sydney US Studies Centre for funds to continue research on US and Australian health aid to Pacific Island countries was not successful.
Current Projects

Menzies Centre for Health Policy Nous Group Survey

The second Menzies-Nous Survey on Attitudes to the Health Care System will be conducted in April, 2010. It will focus on the experience of primary and aged care, and provide an early view of attitudes to proposed national health care reforms.

The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study

The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study (CAPS) is the first and only Australian randomised controlled trial of the effectiveness of both house dust mite avoidance and modification of dietary intake of fatty acids, both implemented from birth, for the prevention of asthma and other allergic disease during childhood. The study started in 1997 and recruitment of 616 subjects was completed in January, 2000. Children in the CAPS cohort at 8 years are currently being followed up at 13 to 15 years to examine the longer-term effectiveness of the interventions using skin prick tests, airway hyper responsiveness (AHR) spirometry and genetic studies.

An NHMRC project grant has also been awarded to the research group to investigate sex-related changes in asthma during the transition through puberty in the CAPS birth cohort.

What is influential public health research?

Stephen Leeder and James Gillespie are Chief Investigators on an NHMRC Project grant that is looking at how population health research workers and policy makers communicate. The study addresses the question as to what the characteristics are of public health research that leads to policy change. The project commenced in early 2009. Interviews with researchers and most of the policy makers have been completed and the project is now beginning to produce papers for publication.

Health Economics Capacity Building Grant

Stephen Leeder is a Chief Investigator on an NHMRC Capacity Building grant that will provide training and development for a team of health economists to research chronic diseases. The program, Health Economics Research, Modelling, Evaluation and Strategy (HERMES) ‘Using health economics to strengthen ties between evidence, policy and practice in chronic disease’, will address issues such as: What is the value for money from investment in different treatments? How do such diseases affect the economic circumstances of families? How do we ensure that strategies to address illness work in practice and can be sustained? How do these issues get put on the policy agenda?

Bev Essue and Joel Negin are Team Investigators on the grant and it is progressing well. The HERMES research team, in conjunction with the Health Economics Collaboration, was successful in winning their bid to host the 2010 Australian Health Economics Society Conference (to be held in September 2010).

Health Sector Aid Effectiveness in the Pacific

Joel Negin is conducting research funded by the Knowledge Hub on Health Policy & Finance at the Nossal Institute for Global Health on health sector aid effectiveness in the Pacific.

The 2009 projects focused on sector wide approaches in Samoa and the Solomon Islands and tracking of funding flows for non-communicable disease and HIV/AIDs. The work has been extended in 2010 to investigate regional health sector governance mechanisms. The research is being done in collaboration with World Bank and Secretariat of the Pacific Community partners.
Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study

Julie Schneider and Bamini Gopinath, postdoctoral researchers employed on an NHMRC Capacity Building Grant (health policy) and the Blue Mountains Eye Study, to support the study, are preparing papers for publication on vision and hearing impairment policy. Several papers have been accepted for publication and have been presented at conferences. The new NHMRC Partnership grant to study ways of detecting dual sensory impairment among patients presenting to a clinic with hearing problems, will continue to support this research program. The project will commence in April 2010.

Ford Foundation projects in Indonesia

Peter Heywood has received funding from the Ford Foundation to conduct a number of projects that examine the health system in Indonesia.

A study of the district health system in a sample of districts in Java

This project analysed the nature and current functioning of the health system at the district level in Java and made recommendations on how the performance of the system may be improved. The results of this project are being disseminated in several ways.

- Informal discussions of the results were held with many of the districts involved, followed by formal workshops and seminars in which the district health personnel from each district were represented.
- The results have been published in three peer reviewed articles in open access journals, with links to these posted on the MCHP website. A further publication has recently been accepted by the International Health and Human Rights Journal. This article will also be posted on the MCHP website upon publication.

A study of the characteristics of health personnel and facilities in five districts in West Java, Indonesia

This project has now concluded. The project provided additional information on the background characteristics of the health personnel and facilities in the province of West Java. There has been ongoing discussion of the results of this study with the new West Java Provincial Government which is using the results as input to a revised provincial health program.

Design and preparation of a pilot project to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality through demand side interventions in West Java Province, Indonesia

The Maternity Study continues in West Java. A report has been prepared in conjunction with the West Java Province Department of Health outlining currently available and utilised maternity services within the province. An Indonesian graduate student with the University of Sydney has conducted fieldwork in West Java, collecting qualitative data on determinants of birth place delivery. An extension on this project until September 2010 will be sought.

Initiative for Cardiovascular Health Research in the Developing Countries

A study conducted in China, India, Argentina and Zambia, estimating the costs to families of heart disease and stroke suffered by one member, is in the final write-up stage. This study has been coordinated from Delhi and Stephen Leeder has chaired the overseeing committee. It complements his work in 2003-4 examining the macroeconomic effects of CVD. Several key publications are currently being prepared and insights from this study may lead to a revision of policy for financing health care and social support for people with CVD in developing countries. A visitor from the Indian centre of the study, Dr Harikrishnan, will spend two weeks at the Sydney node in June as an academic visitor.
Impact of the cost of medicines GP survey

Lesley Russell, together with Angela Beaton and Tim Usherwood, is working on a research project investigating how general practitioners help their patients in severe financial stress manage treatment costs. GPs in the Blue Mountains Division of General Practice and WentWest have been surveyed using the internet, with a follow-up mail-out in February. Results from this survey will be used to inform focus groups to further investigate this issue.

Pharmacists’ Management of Medicine in Chronic Illness

Results of the qualitative study of pharmacists’ management of medicine in chronic illness, conducted by Lesley Russell, Jo-anne Brien and Elin Lehnborn of the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Pharmacy, have been published in the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice and Research* and presented at several pharmacy conferences.

Securitisation and Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis: Global and Australian Perspectives

Jim Gillespie and Joel Negin are looking at new issues around an old disease that has re-emerged in a new and less treatable form.

Improving Health Literacy in Seniors with Chronic Illness

Jim Gillespie, Clive Aspin and Steve Leeder received a grant from National Seniors Australia. The study aims to gain an understanding of how seniors living with chronic illness navigate the health system and gain access to information about available care and management options to assist them in managing their conditions. The study will approach the issue of patient care and quality of life from the patient’s perspective, giving a voice to individuals who often are disenfranchised in the development of care plans.

Research Students

**Jennifer Hunter - Developing a minimum dataset for use in an Australian integrative medicine clinic**

Jennifer is reviewing the quality of information routinely collected in a multidisciplinary primary care clinic that integrates natural therapies with mainstream medicine. The project will also short list and pilot test questionnaires for measuring the outcomes of patients who attend the clinic. A minimum dataset will be proposed that aims to measure a broad spectrum of domains including health care use, physical health outcomes, disease prevention, quality of life and positive definitions of wellbeing.

Multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) – a more virulent variant with higher mortality rates – has emerged recently as a result of inadequately administered treatment programs for TB. It is closely linked to the prevalence of HIV and AIDS and ‘low quality treatment programs’. The project is looking at the policy context of WHO’s TB DOTS policy and the emergence of MDR TB as a policy problem on Australia’s borders to identify productive responses.

From this project, the long-term aim is to develop a standardised online database that is able to monitor health service use and patient outcomes. The database will provide a practical tool to support urgently needed evaluations of multidisciplinary primary care and integrative medicine clinics in Australia. Jennifer’s project is supported by a National Institute of Clinical Medicine seed funding grant.
Anne Marie Thow - The impact of trade and fiscal policy on population nutrition in the Pacific Islands, and future policy implications

Anne Marie is investigating the effect of trade and fiscal policy on population nutrition. She is also examining the scope to use such economic policies in promoting healthy diets through conducting policy analyses of fatty meat bans and soft drink taxes in Pacific Island countries.

Publications to date:


Surianti Sukeri - Heavy Heart: the untold tale of economic and psychosocial impact of CVD on patients and their families in Malaysia

Surianti is conducting a cross-sectional study of the economic and human impact of CVD on patients and their families in Malaysia. This study will seek to address the household healthcare spending in respect to CVD treatment and to determine the effects of the illness on treatment compliance, employment, household income, expenditures, productivity, quality of life, education, functional limitation and access to health care. At the same time this study will also provide an insight into the human face of the disease, particularly its psychosocial and emotional impact concerning household perceptions, affective responses and adaptation towards the illness.

Adam Capon - The development of an Environmental health policy for nanotechnology in Australia

Adam is being sponsored by NSW Health to complete the first major Australian study of the policy implications of the development of nanotechnologies. He will compare current Australian approaches with overseas initiatives, such as the UK Health Protection Agency. He will consult closely with the different Australian jurisdictions to develop some concrete proposals and regulatory strategies.

Angela Littleford - NSW models of care that reflect innovation in ageing and chronic disease management and their links to policy

Angela is looking at the development of standardised models of care in chronic disease management in NSW, looking at the policy frameworks, national and state that have influenced these models and the problems of implementation. Her study is in its first year and she is currently interviewing policy-makers.
Research - Current Projects continued

John Hall - The global politics of Tuberculosis control: an analysis and critique of the international Tuberculosis Directly Observed Short Course (TB DOTS) policy, its development, and transfer to low income countries taking Papua New Guinea as a case study

John Hall is a public health physician with long experience of working in the Pacific Islands and other low resource settings. His thesis looks at the context of emergent MDR TB in Papua New Guinea. He is examining the reasons for widespread failures in health surveillance and implementation of externally funded programs. His main interest is the troubled relationships between global policies devised with little regard for local realities and the difficulty of implementing these interventions in setting with poor resources, inadequate trained workers and fragile governance structures.

Nittita Prasopa-Plaizier - What is the impact of research funded through WHO on filtering and use of evidence by policy-makers?

Nittita (who is employed by WHO and based in Geneva) is looking at the interaction between the needs of health policymakers in developing countries and policy development and dissemination by the World Health Organization. She will work closely with several WHO divisions to complete evaluations of their policy exchange and transfer practices. She has just commenced her PhD program and is currently working out the details of the case studies to gain ethics approval.

Andrey Zheluk - HIV advocacy in the former USSR

Andrey is completing a study of the work of the Russian Harm Reduction Network amongst HIV positive injecting drug users in the former USSR. His study looks at: externally funded public health interventions; the problems of integration into a hostile local context; the means by which successes could be identified; and the means of overcoming local barriers to scaling up effective programs.

Visitors

Oliver Herbert, MCHP Research Affiliate

Oliver Herbert is a specialist in Dermatology and Venerology with a sub specialization in Allergology. His medical thesis explored the effects of environment and lifestyle on allergological sensitisation and the prevalence of atopic diseases. Oliver’s current research focuses on the effect of Melanesian tradition and Western modernity on public health in Papua New Guinea.

The main objective of this study is to illuminate the different effects of Melanesian tradition and Western modernity on public health in Papua New Guinea. While visiting with MCHP, Oliver will be translating field data and encoding data to generate a database for descriptive and interpretative statistics.

Oliver will be with MCHP until May this year before returning to Germany (his research is a cooperative project with the University of Bremen). Oliver will visit MCHP again next January for a further 6 months.

Xiaohui Wang SCIPPS Visiting Fellow

Wang arrived in February and will spend the next year working as a Visiting Fellow associated with SCIPPS and MCHP. Wang has a background in Preventive Health and Toxicology and has worked at the School of Public Health, Lanzhou University for the past 7 years. She currently works as a Lecturer at Lanzhou University and is in charge of courses such as Organisational Behaviour, Health Economics, Social Medicine and Prevention Medicine.
**Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS)**

**Work in Progress**

**Evaluation of the Blue Mountains GP Network Chronic Disease Self-Management Project**

SCIPPS Sydney has agreed to partner with the Blue Mountains GP Network to conduct the evaluation of a training package that is being proposed as part of the Chronic Disease Self Management/Lifestyle and Risk Modification Program, to be funded by the Department of Health and Ageing.

Interim ethics approval was granted by SWAHS HREC executive on 15 December 2009 for the Evaluation of the Blue Mountains GP Network Chronic Disease Self-Management Project. The full SWAHS HREC ratified the interim approval of the evaluation on January 27th 2010.

The first focus group with Moving On participants took place on 8 February 2010. The second focus group is scheduled for the first week of April when the Moving On program has concluded. Individual interviews with project staff and the consumer reference and professional working groups will take place in April.

**HealthOne Mt Druitt (HOMD)**

HealthOne Mt Druitt is a system of managing people with chronic illness that integrates both primary and community health services.

An evaluation plan was developed in consultation with the HOMD steering committee staff in September – October 2009. An ethics application was submitted to the SWAHS HREC on 16 November 2009. The full SWAHS HREC approved the evaluation on January 27th 2010.

Recruitment for individual interviews with NSW Health policy makers has begun in consultation with HOMD staff. Planning of remaining focus groups and individual interviews and observation of the operation of HealthOne at the Mount Druitt Community Health Centre has also commenced.

**Care Navigation**

The aim of the RCT is to determine if there is any difference between standard care and Care Navigation (a new model for the management for individuals with chronic illness) for individuals with chronic illness who present to Nepean emergency department.

Ethics and Governance approvals have been obtained for the SCIPPS evaluation of Care Navigation. SCIPPS is ready to begin the evaluation and are currently waiting for Nepean Hospital to hire an Inbound Care Navigation Nurse so that recruitment can start by the end of March 2010. An NHMRC project grant application is being developed for funding beginning 2011. Pending hiring of key Care Navigation staff and receiving grant funding; the study is scheduled to run until mid-2013, with data analysis and manuscript preparation expected to be complete by the end of 2013. If NHMRC project grant funding is not received, SWAHS will allow key Care Navigation staff to assist with RCT data collection.

**Recruitment of additional Aboriginal patients and carers to SCIPPS**

The recruitment of additional Aboriginal participants to SCIPPS in Sydney West and ACT has been completed and 18 indigenous people are included in the study; this increase is intended to allow data saturation to be reached in relation to key issues. A coding frame has been developed that amends the original framework to provide a better coding set as well as to ensure that the transcripts are coded in a manner that captures the experience of living with chronic illness as an Aboriginal person. All the new interviews have been coded, and work is now continuing to code the original 7 interviews against the new framework. Interviews will then be checked and analysed. Analysis will commence in April.
SESIAHS Aboriginal Chronic Care Program

A draft plan for the evaluation of Aunty Jean’s Chronic Care Program operating in the southern part of the AHS was prepared in 2009. Clive will now be continuing this work through the Bullana Poche Centre for Indigenous Health.

Root cause analysis of hospitals admissions

The Root Cause Analysis study has been completed as a preliminary study to assess the feasibility of using the root cause analysis method to determine what has led to a hospital admission. The project was carried out as a population health project by medical students with the supervision of the study team. Findings show that the method produces rich results, incorporating the recognition of medical exacerbation leading to hospital admission, but also identifying other social and behavioural factors which may be more important in any intervention to prevent unnecessary admission. The report of the study was submitted for consideration for publication in the Medical Journal of Australia in October 2009.

45 and up data-linkage study

A study is being developed using the 45 and Up data set to explore patterns of service utilisation by people with cardiac disease and/or diabetes, and the links between those patterns, particularly the use of the Medicare items relating to the management of chronic illness, and health outcomes.

An agreement on costs of access to the data has been reached, a data analyst identified and contract negotiated with that person. Access to data from Medicare is said to be imminent, and we are one of a number of research teams in the same position. We are hoping to do the analysis of the 45 and Up data and Medicare data on the use of management plans in the next couple of months; the second stage, assessment of impact on future hospitalisations, will take place next year.

Impact of chronic illness on socio-economic well being of senior Australians

One of the key findings of the SCIPPS study was the experience of economic hardship experienced by people with chronic illness. This experience was reported by people with chronic illness and their carers during interviews as well as by health professionals who took part in focus groups. These findings are reported in a paper on economic hardship, currently in press.

Further work has been done, led by Steve Jan and Bev Essue exploring the issue with a group of people with COPD who attend a clinic in western Sydney.

The current study is designed to examine the ways in which the health of senior Australians influences their economic situation and the way they live their lives. The research will allow the team to develop an in-depth understanding of the financial and day to day living experiences of households where health problems occur and contrast this with those households with less or no health problems. Findings will be used to inform government and the wider community about these issues and to develop policy to assist senior Australians.

The study is being carried out with the assistance and in partnership with National Seniors Australia. A survey, approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee has been sent to a stratified sample of 10,000 NSA members across all of Australia. The response rate has been over 40%. Data are currently being entered and will be analysed using SPSS. Early analysis suggests that our intention to describe differences between people with and without chronic illness, and with different numbers and types of chronic illness will be able to be realized.
At the same time, a review of literature is being carried out to identify research in the Australian and international contexts about the impact of chronic illness on social and economic wellbeing which will provide the foundation for our specific analysis, leading to a better understanding of the issues relating to older people and chronic illness.

All data are now coded and papers underway; one which looks at chronic illness, workforce participation and need for assistance is a short listed paper for the special issue of *Chronic Illness*; another paper will be presented at the International Federation of Ageing in Melbourne in May, and one will be submitted for the Primary Care Conference in Darwin.

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**Other Projects**

- **Translation of research findings into policy relevant interventions:** the purpose of the interventions is to develop and test policy and systems interventions that would be able to add to the evidence available to policy makers in the design of chronic illness models. SCIPPS delivered a presentation to DoHA in November as part of the process of engaging policy makers. This meeting was successful with good attendance from a number of DOHA sections but no additional sessions are planned at this stage.

- **Support for diabetes management in general practice:** SCIPPS will be involved in the evaluation of a pilot project in which specialist endocrinologist and nursing staff will work with general practices to test whether this is a potential option for testing on a wider scale. The lead clinician with the interest in this study is working on identifying interested practices. A preliminary study of referral patterns and reasons for referral is underway to determine the parameters of and to support the next phase of the project. We do not expect to continue with this project until early 2010. The report of referral patterns and identification of key issues has not yet been completed.

- **A tender document for implementing the sentinel sites component of the Commonwealth Indigenous Chronic Disease Package’s monitoring and evaluation measure was prepared by Quality Management Services in response to this request (closing date 17 November 2009). SCIPPS was invited to participate but the tender was not successful.**

- **Survey study of GPs to explore the ‘no symptoms- no disease’ hypothesis:** practice experience suggests that for many patients the lack of frank symptoms of the disease leads to a belief that the disease has ‘gone away’ and may lead to less than optimal management. This project is underway and participants are being recruited to the study. Data collection has been completed, and analysis is underway.
SCIPPS continued

- The first stage design for three policy studies is being worked up by Robert Wells, Jim Gillespie, Paul Dugdale and Laurann Yen. The first of these, an analysis of the strategies used by the COAG reform processes and their effect on the culture and behaviour of health services provision was presented at the Health Services Research and Policy Conference in November in Brisbane. An additional piece of work has now been planned in which policy makers in health and central agencies at state and commonwealth level in Victoria and NSW will be interviewed to provide information about the process of translation at the senior bureaucratic level from government statement to implementation.

- SCIPPS is proposing to undertake an additional survey to: quantify the types of costs associated with illness for people with CI and people who are involved in their care; determine the possible impact on workforce and income policy; and identify what the expectations are of ‘the system’- health and social care. The Lung Foundation and NSA have both indicated their interest and willingness to allow us to send the survey to their members.

Publications


Papers in press


Papers in Submission


Health and Sustainability Unit (formerly The Diabetes Unit)

The Health and Sustainability Unit is dedicated to policy development and implementation; strategic planning for population health; health services research and development; chronic disease prevention and sustainability and health – particularly the influence of the way we live and manage our societies now on climate change and the unprecedented growth in obesity and chronic diseases.

Established at the Australian Health Policy Institute (now Menzies Centre for Health Policy) in 2005, The Health and Sustainability Unit is a new iteration and extension of its predecessor, the Australian Centre for Diabetes Strategies, which was located at the Prince of Wales Hospital, University of New South Wales. The Health and Sustainability Unit complements the Menzies Centre for Health Policy’s existing strengths by:

- maintaining an Oxford Health Alliance presence in the Asia-Pacific Region
- pursuing local and international activities in health services research and development, capacity building, and population health improvement
- contributing to the evidential and consensual basis on which policy for the prevention and care of diabetes and related chronic diseases is founded

The Health and Sustainability Unit contributes directly to The University of Sydney by leading the Institute for Sustainable Solutions Health Theme.

The Health and Sustainability Unit sees its role as a conduit between theory and practice, and works as a bridge between academia, the broader chronic disease community and the general population. It employs a pragmatic approach and is mindful of the diverse needs, perspectives and prevailing forces that impact on health across all levels of society.

What’s New

- To better reflect the true scope of its current role and future intent of its increasingly ‘ecological’ focus on health - notably chronic disease prevention - as both an output and an input to a sustainable future, as of January 1, 2010, The Diabetes Unit changed its name to the Health and Sustainability Unit.
- The Health and Sustainability Unit (HSU) will still incorporate The Diabetes Unit and its functions but will increasingly turn its attention more discretely to health and sustainability - that complex interaction between the health of people and the health of the planet. HSU will continue to concentrate on:
  - building and analysing the evidence base for intervening
  - identifying and testing innovative health and public policy solutions
  - engaging and working collaboratively with a range of relevant private and public sector players
- raising awareness of the link between the socio determinants of health, and economic and environmental sustainability
- Dr Hali Halphen completed her time as a TDU volunteer in December, returning to Melbourne with her family.
- University of Sydney undergraduate student Ms Kia Noble (Health Sciences and Nutrition) undertook a Summer Scholarship in the unit between December 2009 and February 2010 under the supervision of Dr Jenny Jobling and Dr Seham Girgis on a literature review and journal article on low SES and food purchasing.
- Ms Felicity Richmond joined the HSU as a volunteer from January to March 2010. Felicity is a Specialist Dietitian (Diabetes and Stroke) from the UK with five years of practical experience and will be assisting with a literature review on low SES supermarket shopping habits.
Grant Applications

- Ruth Colagiuri is CI on an NHMRC grant “Increasing patient involvement in diabetes management in primary care” in collaboration with Prof Les Irwig of the School of Public Health. The study will investigate whether a tailored Question Prompt List (QPL) can increase patient involvement and patient-centred care among people with type 2 diabetes attending primary care.
- A funding application has been submitted to the Medical Foundation under the title “Preventing Cardiovascular Disease and Diabetes in Pacific Island Countries: An Environmental Approach”.
- Continuing to explore, seed and establish commercial partnerships for:
  - an ARC Linkage Grant with Sydney City Council, RTA and USyd Transport Institute.
  - an AusVEG application on “Increasing Fruit and Vegetable Consumption: Beyond Social Marketing”.
  - Pursuing Knowledge Net partnerships with food agencies and corporations.
  - Developing an AusAID proposal in collaboration with USyd’s RIAP to host an Australian Leadership Awards Fellowship training program for Pacific Island country personnel on chronic disease prevention and climate change to be held in late 2010.

Projects

Low SES & Supermarket Shopping

A research donation was received from Woolworths Ltd to explore drivers for low SES supermarket shoppers’ comparatively higher purchase of non-core foods.

Dr Jenny Jobling and A/Prof Ruth Colagiuri convened an Oxford Dialogue on 10 November to gain insights into drivers of people from low SES buying significantly more non-core foods than their high SES counterparts. Participants included representatives from the Australian Food & Grocery Council, Diabetes Australia, WSAHS, the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

Following on from the Oxford Dialogue held in November, Dr Jenny Jobling convened a further Oxford Dialogue on 4 December to gain insights from CALD community health and nutrition workers into drivers of people from low SES buying significantly more non-core foods than their high SES counterparts.

NSW Health Multicultural Review

The Sax Institute, on behalf of the NSW Health Primary and Community Care Branch, commissioned the Health and Sustainability Unit to undertake a rapid review of evidence into the variations in health outcomes and health service utilisation by ethnic and cultural groups in Australia. The objective of this project was to provide an impartial review of the scientific evidence and advice on the most significant current and emerging health issues for culturally and linguistically diverse groups (CALD) in Australia.

Dr Seham Girgis and A/Prof Ruth Colagiuri presented a rapid review of evidence into the variations in health outcomes and health service utilisation by ethnic and cultural groups in Australia to NSW Health Primary and Community Care Branch in early December.

The project was completed with the report delivered to NSW Health in January 2010. The Sax Institute, which commissioned the review on behalf of NSW Health, has expressed strong interest in commissioning the HSU for future reviews in 2010.
Type 1 Diabetes NHMRC Guidelines

The Health and Sustainability Unit has been subcontracted by the Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) to assist with the development of an NHMRC guideline on Type 1 Diabetes in children and adolescents and the extension of these guidelines into adulthood. Ms Maria Gomez is working with ADS research staff on systematic reviews to support the guideline recommendations.

Type 2 Diabetes NHMRC Guidelines

The four guidelines (Blood Glucose Control, Patient Education, Case Detection and Diagnosis, Renal Disease) have now been approved by the NHMRC. The completed Primary Prevention Guideline has been endorsed by the NHMRC.

Review of workplace health

Dr Hali Halphen undertook a review of the literature on workplace health and has prepared a first draft journal article with A/Prof Ruth Colagiuri and Dr Tim Driscoll (SPH).

The World Diabetes Foundation Pacific Islands Capacity Building Project

The current projects in Nauru and Vanuatu have been completed and the final project report submitted.

Funding of a new three year project in the Solomon Islands has been awarded for a project entitled Dealing with Diabetes: Building capacity in the Solomon Islands to improve diabetes outcomes and strengthen prevention efforts.

IDF Global Survey on National Diabetes Plans (NDP)

The survey results have been presented to the IDF Executive Board in Brussels, and have been incorporated into a book chapter on National Diabetes for inclusion in the 4th Edition of the Diabetes Atlas which was being launched at the 20th World Diabetes Congress in Montreal in October, 2009. A paper on the results has been published in volume 87 of the Journal of Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice.

Systematic Review of Healthy Urbanisation

In collaboration with Sydney South West Area Health Service a systematic review to identify the status of peer reviewed evidence about the relative health and cost benefits of various transport and urban design interventions is being pursued.

Presentations

- Ruth Colagiuri. The status of national diabetes programmes: from silos to synergies. 20th World Diabetes Congress, Montreal, Canada. 21 October 2009.
- Seham Girgis “A Rapid Review of Health Outcomes and Health Service Utilisation by Ethnic and Cultural Groups in Australia” to NSW Department of Health on 8 December 2009.
University of Sydney Institute for Sustainable Solutions (USISS)

USISS was launched in mid 2008 and has four themes or workstreams - Health, Environment, Energy and Development. The Director of the Health and Sustainability Unit, Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri was appointed, and funded on a half time basis, by the Faculty of Medicine to lead the Health Theme.

Permanent Director

Ms. Sam Mostyn was appointed as the permanent Director of the University of Sydney Institute for Sustainable Solutions in December 2009.

Knowledge Network

Pepsico Pty Ltd and the Australian Food and Grocery Council each provided a $10,000 donation towards the Knowledge Network pilot project.

Events

Past Events

13 October 2009: Dr Derek Yach, Pepsico's Head of Global Health gave a public lecture in the USISS Focus on the Future series entitled “Health and Sustainability – Performance with Purpose”.

In planning:

Planning is in progress for a National Summit Meeting entitled “Prescriptions for a Healthy Planet: Acting on Health and Sustainability” which is being co-convened by Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA) the USISS Health Theme and the Oxford health Alliance Asia pacific Centre and scheduled for 16 April 2010.

Oxford Health Alliance (OxHA)

- OxHA Asia Pacific joined the Australian Health Promotion Association in developing a response to the Henry Review of Australia’s Tax System.

- Oxford Dialogue on food purchasing and low SES conducted 4 December, as detailed above.
Lesley Russell recently met with Professor Alan Tidwell who is currently the Director of the Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies located in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He is interested in pursuing some of the work that Joel Negin and Lesley have proposed on poverty, health and climate change in the Pacific Islands. Discussions on this to continue with Professor Richard Southby also involved.

Lesley Russell was invited to be part of a policy group on the Denticare Australia proposal. October 2009.

Lesley Russell received an invitation from ANCAD to do a report on federal and state programs along the lines of those done previously on mental health. Discussions about the scope of the report are continuing.

Advice has just been received from the Acting Director, Mental Health Policy, DVA that they will be happy to work with a consortium from MCHP, Brain and Mind Research Institute and Mental Health Council of Australia on a project to analyse DVA data on delivery of mental health services in primary care. Ethics approval will first need to be obtained, but with DVA support this is not expected to be a problem.

Angela Beaton and Lesley Russell have produced an analysis of the 2009-10 Commonwealth, State and Territory Health Budgets, an update at the time of the release of the Mid Year Economic Fiscal Outlook, and a Scorecard on Government Health Commitments which is regularly updated.

Stephen Leeder travelled to India in February to participate in Columbia University’s International Advisory Panel (IAP) to the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare’s National Rural Health Mission (NHRM). The IAP meets biannually to identify high priorities for the implementation of the NHRM and its objectives. Steve is the panel’s expert on the burden of chronic disease. While in India Steve has also met with collaborators working on the IC Health project and with a prospective visitor who has expressed interesting taking a sabbatical here at MCHP. On behalf of the Sydney Medical School Steve also met with Professor Jain (Registrar and Dean of Students) from Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi to exchange information about our universities, relevant courses, students and potential collaboration.

Stephen Leeder travelled to Hong Kong and Shanghai in February. While in Hong Kong Steve visited the Chinese University of Hong Kong and presented a seminar entitled “Non Communicable Diseases – a social challenge for us all” as part of the Lunchtime Leadership Lecture Series organised by the SPHPC Student Government. Steve also met with a team of CUHK researchers, led by Professor Sian Griffiths - Director of School of Public Health and Primary Care, to discuss non-communicable disease research and also to progress a breakthrough collaborative project which MCHP and CUHK have been developing in conjunction with the Association of Pacific Rim Universities World Institute (APRU – AWI). In Shanghai Steve was an invited speaker at the 9th Annual Novo Nordisk Diabetes Update. The presentation entitled “The clinician’s role in policy to reduce morbidity and mortality from diabetes mellitus” was well-received by conference participants.
Lesley Russell US Activities

Dr Lesley Russell, the Menzies Foundation Fellow, is currently in Washington DC where she is part of the health team at the Center for American Progress, a Democrat think tank, and a Visiting Professor in the Department of Health Policy at George Washington University. Recent activities include:

- A discussion paper on tackling racial and ethnic disparities in health care in the context of health care reform. This was released in December and has received considerable policy and media attention. http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/health_disparities.html
- A paper on why health care reform is needed which has been widely circulated on Capitol Hill and to the media. http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/02/we_need_reform.html
- A draft discussion paper on the delivery of mental health services in primary care settings has been prepared and is currently out for review.
- Regular reports on the progress of President Barack Obama’s health care reform commitments, and other aspects of health policy are reported through her “Letters from Washington”. Letters can be viewed at http://www.menzieshealthpolicy.edu.au/hpa_usa_aus_health.php Other opinion pieces are regularly published in the Canberra Times and Australian Policy Online.
- Three classes taught to Masters of Health Policy students at George Washington University in the winter semester, 2009.
- Comparative health policy seminar series set up at GWU. First seminar “Health reform issues for the US and Australia” was given on 12 November, 2009 with Prof Richard Southby. Second seminar ‘Health workforce issues facing the US, Australia and the developing nations of Africa and the Pacific’ was given on 26 January, 2010 with Prof Fitzhugh Mullan. Seminars on mental health and maternal and child health are planned in the next 3 months.
- Seminar on health care reform in Australia and the US given at the Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies, Georgetown University on 19 November, 2009.
- Active involvement in policy development, discussion papers, policy and data analysis and talking points at CAP – reactively at the request of Members of Congress and proactively to help address issues and drive health care reform.
Education

One of the principal objectives of the Centre includes training researchers to such a level that they will have the capacity to participate meaningfully in national and international research programs on health policy and to undertake research training activities and programs that are consistent with these objectives. The Menzies Centre has provided a focus for expanding postgraduate programs in health policy at the University of Sydney and a new Master of Public Health program at the Australian National University.

The University of Sydney

2009

The Master of Health Policy offered three units in second semester:

- HPOL5003 Analysing Health Policy gives an intensive introduction to the language and methods of epidemiology for policymakers. It follows this with a workshop covering the main approaches used in public policy and evaluation of processes and outcomes.

- HPOL5007 Global Health Policy draws large numbers of Masters of International Public Health and well as Master of Health Policy students. This unit explores the impact of globalization on health policy, and the way in which global health problems – HIV/AIDS and the prevalent chronic diseases, for example – shape policy. The educational goal of the unit is to equip students with skills to appraise critically global health policy proposals and to offer informed advice on how these policies may be made more effective.

- HPOL5009 Health Policy Project was taught for the first time, offering masters students the chance to consolidate their studies in a ‘capstone’ research-based unit of study.

- Dr Jim Gillespie coordinated the Centre’s contributions to training workshops for visiting health executives from Shanghai (October) and Kazakhstan (December).

2010

- Dr Jim Gillespie coordinated the Centre’s contributions to training workshops for visiting health executives from Thailand (February 2010).

- This year we have two Associate Lecturers to assist with the delivery of the program: Beverley Essue and Anne Marie Thow. Bev superbly supported the program last year and is reducing her work hours this year to allocate more time to her studies. Anne Marie is completing her PhD this year and is available to job share the Associate Lecturer position with Bev. Anne Marie has worked with Jim over the last two years on the Global Health Policy subject and delivered guest lectures in other MHPol subjects so she is well suited to increase her involvement in the program.

- The 2010 Baxter Scholarship for Excellence in Health Policy was awarded to Miss Bree Stevens.
Publications and Presentations

Peer Reviewed


*In Press*


*Submitted*


• Lewis M. Alcohol control policy: politicians, proprietors and public health. *Medical Journal of Australia*.
Industry

• Russell L. In the Absence of Health Care Reform, Third world Health Care for America’s Poor, Australian Medicine, March 2010.

• Leeder S. The Health Reform We Don’t Need, RACP News, February 2010.

• Leeder S. Waiting, Australian Medicine, February 2010.

• Leeder S. Medical home is where the heart is, Australian Doctor, 29 January 2010.

• Leeder S, Beaton A. No age limit, Australian Doctor, 11 December 2009.

• Colagiuri R. Chronic diseases and climate change two crises – one solution? InTouch, Volume 26 No. 11, December 2009.

• Leeder S. Health Reform - Money’s run out: time to start thinking, Radius, December 09.

• Leeder S, Beaton A. Health policy must be informed by good research, Australian Doctor, 25 November 2009.

• Leeder S, Beaton A. Heart disease and stroke threaten developing world, Vector, Issue 10, November 2009.

• Leeder S. Securing global health demands new energy for chronic disease, Australian Medicine, 19 October 2009.

• Leeder S, Beaton A. Meddling with Medicare will not cure system’s ills, Australian Doctor, 6 October 2009.

• Leeder S. Rudd’s reforms a good start to fixing ailing health system, The Sydney Morning Herald, 4 March 2010.


• Leeder S. Medical ethics means taking time, The Australian, 6 February 2010.

• Russell L. Obama pitches to middle class, Canberra Times, 1 February 2010.

• Negin J. Rebirth of Africa opens door to land of opportunity, The Sydney Morning Herald, 1 February 2010. Joel Negin is also a Research Fellow at the Menzies Centre for Health Policy.

• Leeder S. Relax and consider a lo-tech healthy future, The Newcastle Herald, 30 January 2010.

• Russell L. Looking back on Obama’s first year, Canberra Times, 19 January 2010.

• Russell L. Why we must talk about death, The Australian, 9 January 2010.

• Russell L. Extra private health care is a costly prescription, Canberra Times, 7 December 2009.

• Russell L, Beaton A. Urgent focus on primary care, Canberra Times, 26 November 2009.

• Russell L. The truth about our public hospitals, Canberra Times, 4 November 2009.

• Russell L. Prevention better than hollow words, The Australian, 31 October 2009.

• Leeder S. There’s an optimum size for health areas, The Newcastle Herald, 28 October 2009.

• Russell L. Health reform on US agenda, Canberra Times, 26 October 2009.

• Russell L. Understanding the link between head and heart, *Canberra Times*, 1 October 2009.

### Media – Interviews and Quotes

• Cornwall D. Alarm bells sound over Rudd’s hospital plan, *ABC 7.30 Report*, 4 March 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is interviewed in this story.

• Robotham J. Experts see flaws in rewards for thrifty hospitals, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 4 March 2010. **Dr Jim Gillespie** is quoted in this article.

• Cresswell A. Experts say health blueprint ‘will not prove an instant panacea’, *The Australian*, 4 March 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.

• Ansley G. Rudd vows to end health blame game, *New Zealand Herald*, 4 March 2010. **Robert Wells** is quoted in this article.

• Sweet M. Top 10 health reform questions for the PM, *Crikey*, 3 March 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.

• Breusch J. Warning on Abbott scheme side effects, *Australian Financial Review*, 16 February 2001. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.


• Kretowicz E. ACT Libs to consult for policy on health, *Canberra Times*, 3 February 2010. **Mr Robert Wells** is quoted in this article.

• A field of dreams or a strain on the grain?, *The West Australian*, 30 January 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this story.

• McDonald T. Health costs demand productivity boost: Rudd, *ABC AM*, 25 January 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this story.

• Rudd warns of massive hikes in health cost, *ABC News*, 24 January 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.

• Dayton L. Local healthcare reform outpaces the US, *The Australian*, 16 January 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** is quoted in this article.

• Brown D. Health research needed, *Hobart Mercury*, 15 December. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.

• Fynes-Clinton, M. Let Canberra have our hospitals - Minister backs handover, but only if better deal for funding and patients, *The Courier Mail*, 3 December 2009. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.

• Butler S. Do you hear an eco? It's the language of a green revolution, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 28 November 2009. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.

• Destination Casa Blanca, the Latino Voice in Politics, *HITN TV*, 11 November 2009. **Dr Lesley Russell** was a panelist on the show to discuss Latino health disparities.

• Cannane S. Govt needs crackdown on doctors union: Academic, *Lateline*, 23 October 2009. **Dr Lesley Russell** is interviewed in this program.

• Hall L. Overgrown with weeds, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 October 2009. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.
Online


• Leeder S. The feds are coming to a hospital near you, *ABC The Drum Unleashed*, 4 March 2010.

• Wells R. Former senior health bureaucrat gives Rudd’s health plan an average pass, *Crikey*, 4 March 2010.

• Russell L. Divided summit - Despite President Obama's remarkable mastery of the facts, the Republicans weren’t budging, *Inside Story*, 3 March 2010.


• Whelan EM, Russell L. Why We Need Health Care Reform - Four Reasons We Can’t Wait to Fix the Broken Health System, *Center for American Progress*, 25 February 2010.


• Russell L. DTC advertising - does it work?, *Pharma in Focus*, 25 January 2010.


• Leeder S. Why shouldn’t all Australians be subject to income management?, *Croakey*, 26 November 2009.

• Leeder S. Comment on ‘Would calorie-counting menus help bust Oz girths?’, *Croakey*, 17 November 2009.

• Russell L. How many calories would you like with that order?, *Croakey*, 13 November 2009.

• Russell L. The Monday morning after - Can Democrats in the US Senate use the same techniques as their colleagues in the House to turn healthcare reforms into law?, *Inside Story*, 10 November 2009.

• Leeder S. Opening another front in the public health/food industry debate, *Croakey*, 4 November 2009.

• Russell L. Govt PBS savings already $5.4bn, *Pharma in Focus*, 2-8 November 2009.


• Russell L. Prescription PSE cuts the ice, *Pharma in Focus*, 26 October - 1 November 2009.


• Leeder S. The health reform we DON’T need, *Croakey*, 9 October 2009. This article was first published in *Australian Doctor* magazine.


Reports and Discussion Papers


• Beaton A, Russell L. Budget 2009-10: Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, November 2009.


Evidence Based NHMRC Guidelines


Presentations/Conferences

• Gillespie J. Presentation to the 3rd National Symposium on Biosecurity and an invited paper to a Workshop on Infectious Diseases, Security and Ethics, National Centre for Biosecurity. February 2010.

• Russell L. Health Reform: Issues for the U.S. and Australia (Part 2), Department of Health Policy Seminar Series, 26 January 2010, George Washington University, USA. Dr Russell was joined by Dr. Fitzhugh Mullan, Murdock Head Professor of Medicine.

• Leeder S. Challenges facing Australia in preventing and managing chronic disease, Menzies’ 21st Anniversary Symposium, 14 December, Hobart.

• Leeder S. Health reform – recent Australian experience and its relevance for Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan Delegation to University of Sydney, 10 December, Sydney.

• Thow A. Session Chair - Can Rice Fortification Reduce the Burden of Malnutrition?, Rice Fortification to Enhance Nutrition and Food Security in the Pacific Island Countries, 3-4 December, Sydney.

• Lewis M. History of the Burkitt-Ford Library in the School of Public Health, University of Sydney, Burkitt-Ford Library Closing Ceremony, 3 December, University of Sydney.

• Leeder S. Multi-centre collaborative to reduce cardiovascular disease, Asia Conference on Emerging Issues in Public Health, 1 December, Hong Kong.

• Schmiede A. Overseas experience, the case of Australia, Comparative PPP models in a time of recession: the options for decision-makers, European Centre for Health Assets and Architecture (ECHAA) and European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, 26 November 2009, Berlin.


• Leeder S. How should health care be provided in the future? Concord 2020 - Concord Clinical Week, 16 November 2009, Sydney.

• Leeder S. Panelist - What Will Self Care Look Like? Why Is It In the Public Interest to Promote Wider Self Care? What Is the Responsibility of Each Key Stakeholder to Ensure That Self Care Delivers Desired Outcomes? ASMI 2009 Conference - Self Care: How much is your responsibility?, 12 November 2009, Sydney.

• Russell L. Health Reform: Issues for the U.S. and Australia (Part 1), Department of Health Policy Seminar Series, 26 January 2010, George Washington University, USA. Dr. Russell was joined by Dr. Richard Southby, Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the George Washington Department of Global Health.
• Leeder S. Public health and community medicine. Presentation to paediatric health professionals from China, Cambodia and solomon Islands. 11 November 2009.

• Tran J. The epidemiology of stroke in the Middle East and North Africa, World Hypertension Congress 2009, 29 October - 1 November, Beijing, China.


• Colagiuri R. The status of national diabetes programmes: from silos to synergies, 20th World Diabetes Congress, 21 October 2009, Montreal, Canada.

• Leeder S, Gillespie J. Healthcare in Australia, presentation to Shanghai Jading Bureau of Health, University of Sydney, 15 October 2009.

• Leeder S. Writing for the Media, Victor Coppleson Continuing Medical Education Seminar Series, 13 October 2009, University of Sydney.

• Leeder S. Facilitator, Panel debate: Three achievable steps to become the best – do we have consensus?, AHHA – AIHPS 2009 Congress: Shaping Up in Health: How does Australia become the world’s best?, 9 October 2009, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.
Events

In 2010 the Menzies Centre for Health Policy will deliver regular seminars that address contemporary health policy issues. The Menzies Oration and Emerging Health Policy Researchers Conference are regular features of the events program and attract widespread interest. The 2nd S T Lee Lecture will also be held in Sydney.

Chronic Disease - A global problem in need of a global solution

Chronic disease causes many deaths, more than all infectious diseases combined. In the developing world it has reached pandemic proportions. Interventions are complex and most are beyond simply the health sector. The global actions on tobacco provide a good example of how a wide range of organisations, civil society, patients and business can provide a co-ordinated global response to a problem. Chronic disease is a global problem in need of a global solution.

Speakers:

• Richard Smith, Director, UnitedHealth Chronic Disease Initiative and former Editor of the British Medical Journal.

• Professor Stephen Leeder, Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, will respond to the presentation.

• Dr Jim Gillespie, Deputy Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, will moderate the discussion.

Date: Monday, 22 March

Time: 5.30pm

Refreshments: are available from 4.30 pm and at the conclusion of the seminar

Venue: Conference Rooms, The Darlington Centre, The University of Sydney

RSVP: Email mchp@sydney.edu.au by Tuesday, 16 March. Seats are limited!

Richard Smith is in Australia as the guest of The Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Prescriptions for a Healthy Planet: Acting on Sustainability and Human Health

A one day think-tank to be held at the Darlington Centre, University of Sydney, Friday, 16 April 2010. Co-convened by the Doctors for the Environment Australia (DEA), The University of Sydney Institute for Sustainable Solutions (USiSS) and the Oxford Health Alliance (OxHA) Asia Pacific, Prescriptions for a Healthy Planet is designed to commence a process for acting effectively on health and sustainability by addressing chronic diseases prevention and aspects of climate change as an integrated ‘package’.

Emerging Health Policy Research Conference 2010

The date is set for Wednesday, 11 August 2010 at the Darlington Centre, University of Sydney.
Staff List

Directors
- Professor Stephen Leeder, The University of Sydney
- Mr Robert Wells, The Australian National University

Menzies Foundation Fellow: Dr Lesley Russell

University of Sydney
- Deputy Director: Dr James Gillespie
- Manager: Amanda Dominello
- Administrative and Research Officer: Yvonne Inall
- Events and Communication Officer: Diana Freeman
- Research Officer: Dr Angela Beaton
- Research Fellow: Joel Negin

Research Students:
- PhD Student: Anne Marie Thow
- PhD Student: Surianti Sukeri
- PhD Student: Jennifer Hunter
- PhD Student: Adam Capon
- PhD Student: Angela Littleford
- PhD Student: John Hall
- PhD Student: Nittita Prasopa-Plaizier
- PhD Student: Andrey Zheluk

Visitors:
- SCIPPS Visiting Fellow: Xiaohui Wang
- Research Affiliate: Oliver Herbert

Health and Sustainability Unit:
- Director: Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri
- Acting Executive Assistant and Program Manager: Jan Harley
- Senior Research and Evidence Manager: Dr Seham Girgis
- Research and Project Officer: Maria Gomez

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study:
- Research Fellow, SCIPPS: Dr Clive Aspin
- Research Fellow, SCIPPS: Justin McNab
- Research Officer, SCIPPS: Natalie Plant
- Program Support Officer, SCIPPS: Kate Corcoran

Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study:
- Postdoctoral Researcher: Julie Schneider

Australian National University
- Associate Director: Ms Laurann Yen
- Business Manager: Ms Laura Vitler

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study
- Senior Research Officer: Ms Tanisha Jowsey
The Menzies Centre for Health Policy is a collaborative Centre between The Australian National University and the University of Sydney. It aims to provide the Australian people with a better understanding of their health system and what it provides for them. The Centre encourages informed debate about how Australians can influence health policy to ensure that it is consistent with their values and priorities and is able to deliver safe, high quality health care that is sustainable in the long term.

The Menzies Centre:

- produces and publishes high-quality analyses of current health policy issues;
- delivers public seminars and education programs on a wide variety of health policy topics;
- undertakes comprehensive research projects on health policy issues.

For more information
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