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Introduction

My six months in the position of Director of the Sydney node of Menzies Centre for Health Policy has been a roller coaster ride of learning the ways of new organisations and partners. The Menzies Centre for Health Policy is having to adjust to major changes in leadership with Professor Leeder’s retirement at the Sydney node and Bob Wells from the ANU node. These two founders of the Centre were a unique combination bringing different perspectives on health policy knowledge and practice, corporate wiliness, and decades of links with power players in politics and government. I acknowledge their important contributions and look forward to working with both in their new roles.

The NHMRC program grant on chronic and complex conditions (SCIPPS) which has formed one of the unifying collaborative ventures between the two nodes has also come to an end. So coming in fresh at this time has posed it’s challenges.

However we have begun a journey to fashion new directions. Chronic and complex conditions will remain a cornerstone of our interests and we will continue work looking at how the health system can be made more responsive to the needs of people with chronic and complex conditions through changes to policy, funding and strategy. There is still a lot to be learnt from the rich data gathered from the SCIPPS projects and we will continue publication of this.

Growing from this, we are exploring a range of research opportunities with partners in the Medicare Locals around the broader concept of integrated care including in mental health. Our research has also pointed to issues with access to ambulatory specialist care and we are planning an investigation into issues around barriers to such care and the impact on care and outcomes for people with chronic and complex conditions.

Building on existing and new research links between Sydney and ANU node members there is an opportunity to expand our research profile to include some policy aspects of chronic disease prevention both nationally and internationally. This will also be facilitated by my Directorship of the new NHMRC Partnership Centre in systems perspectives on the prevention of lifestyle related chronic conditions. The Centre involves investigators from both ANU and the University of Sydney. The Director of the Menzies Centre for Health Research in Darwin, Professor Alan Cass, is also an investigator in this Centre, presenting another new link.

A further new development is the appointment of Associate Professor Adam Elshaug to the Sydney node as the HCFRF Principal Research Fellow. Dr Elshaug is currently completing a Harkness fellowship at Harvard University and the Commonwealth Fund. He has a growing international research and policy reputation in the field of indemnification of low value health care. We have been able to attract him to work with us thanks to additional support provided by the HCF Research Foundation. This will enable us to grow a new area of health services research in an area of interest to private and public funders.

In our next report we will be reporting further on the evolution of the partnership that is core to the Menzies Centre for Health Policy following a joint strategic planning day. Meanwhile we are actively continuing development of new research areas.

Professor Andrew Wilson
Menzies Centre for Health Policy
University of Sydney
What’s New

**January**

- **New Director:** Professor Andrew Wilson commenced this year as the new Director of MCHP (Sydney).

- **New lecturer:** Dr Carmen Huckel-Schneider commenced as part time lecturer (0.4 FTE) for the Health Policy teaching program.

- **International conference:** Jan 14 – 15: Dr Anne Marie Thow was a keynote speaker at the Thai Ministry of Health (International Health Promotion Programme) conference on trade and healthy diets, Jan 15. Her two presentations focused on the implications of free trade agreements for food and nutrition in low and middle-income countries, as well as their possible effect in limiting policy space for prevention interventions. She also gave a seminar at Mahidol University on food taxation on Jan 14.

- **International travel:** Jan 31 – 1 Feb: Professor Stephen Leeder travelled to India to participate in the annual International Advisory Panel to the Ministry of Health regarding the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) of India and to meet with the Model Districts Project team from the Columbia Global Center. While he was there he met with co-authors Drs Prabhakaran and Harikrishnan to work on the next edition of his book "A Race Against Time".

**February**

- **Staff Travel:** Feb 11-14 Anne Marie Thow attended a subregional workshop on trade and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) for Pacific Island countries held in Nadi, Fiji. The workshop was a collaboration between the Centre for Preventing Obesity and NCDs (CPOND) at the Fiji National University, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the WHO and the UNDP. Anne Marie presented on: trade, agriculture and NCDs; developing trade-compliant health promotion strategies; and on the fatty meat bans implemented in Fiji and Samoa (in collaboration with representatives from countries).

- **National project:** Feb 27 - Dr Anne Marie Thow participated in an expert panel on food taxation, which comprises part of a Griffith University research project on food taxation in Australia. The project is funded by the Australian National Preventive Health Agency.

- **New alliance:** Dr Jennifer Smith-Merry and Associate Professor James Gillespie joined the Steering Committee of Western Sydney Partners in Recovery.

**March**

- **International Conference:** March 5 – 6 Professor Stephen Leeder and Associate Professor James Gillespie travelled to London for the Wellcome Trust Frontiers Meeting – The Growing Global Burden of Non Communicable Diseases. Jim’s paper was “‘Policy spaces and politics of NCDs: from the global to the local’.”
High impact publication: Shauna Downs was interviewed and quoted extensively regarding a peer reviewed article The effectiveness of policies for reducing dietary trans fat: a systematic review of the evidence, published in the Bulletin of the World Health Organization. Shauna was the lead author for the paper, which was co-authored by Anne Marie Thow and Stephen Leeder.

MCHP Visitor: Dr Oliver Herbert has flown back to Munich after a 3-month stay pursing his doctoral studies analysing the effects of modernisation and westernisation on public health within indigenous societies with his Australian supervisor Stephen Leeder. During his stay, Oliver held a series of meetings with contacts at MCHP and the University. We look forward to his next visit in 2014.

New PhD student: Ghazal Torkfar joined MCHP (Sydney) to complete her PhD project under the supervision of Stephen Leeder. The topic of her research is “Equity of Access to Health Care Services Amongst Older Overseas Born Residents of New South Wales with Cardiovascular Disease”.

New staff member: Eliza Drury, who has recently completed her Masters of International Public Health and is now working with Anne Marie Thow as a Menzies research affiliate. Eliza is undertaking research on trade, food and health in Southern Africa, as part of a project led by Anne Marie in collaboration with colleagues at the University of the Southern Cape in South Africa. Eliza's responsibilities include literature searching, data extraction, analysis and manuscript preparation.

Research Award: Congratulations to Ashley McAllister who was awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Doctoral Research Award to complete her PhD. Ashley and her husband will be moving from Australia to Sweden later this year, where Ashley will complete her PhD thesis.

National recognition: In April Dr Milton Lewis was interviewed by Dr Ann Moyal AM, for the National Library. Since 1960, the National Library has recorded oral history interviews with Australians who have distinguished themselves in fields, including the arts, sport, politics and government, the law media, business, education and science. Milton was recognised for his outstanding and pioneering career as an historian of medicine and public health.

International conference: Professor Stephen Leeder spent a week in China to attend the 4th International Conference on Non-Communicable Disease prevention and control. He gave a presentation in the forum of ‘Exchange experience for the regionalisation of NCD management and comprehensive NCD prevention and control national demonstration areas’.

Conferred PhD: Congratulations to Ian Potter Foundation Fellow, Dr Beverley Essue, who was awarded her doctorate at the University of Sydney graduation ceremony on Friday 10th May. Her thesis was entitled: “Towards a holistic assessment of the household economic burden of illness” and was conferred on 18 February 2013
April - May

- Student Recruitment: Andrew Wilson presented a webinar on the 2 May as part of a program run by Sydney Medical School to showcase career opportunities for postgraduate programs offering mid-year entry. Andrew’s webinar was called "Fixing the system: policies to improve the prevention and management of chronic disease". The webinar is available for viewing, or in slide form from the MCHP(Sydney) website.

- International Conference Travel: Professor Stephen Leeder travelled to Washington to attend a two day WUN Public Health Global Challenge Meeting - Researching life course interventions for preventing NCDs. Steve chaired the introductory and wrap up sessions on day 1 and then led discussion in a panel on "Next steps and finalising of a position statement for the meeting".

- New project applications: Dr Anne Marie Thow and Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri have both submitted Menzies led applications in the latest round of AusAID ALAF grants.

- New staff member: Emily Morrice joined the Health and Sustainability Unit on a fixed term contract as a research assistant.

- New reports: Menzies associate Lesley Russell has produced two new reports "Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage: An analysis of provisions in the 2013-14 Budget and implementation of the Indigenous Chronic Disease Package" and the second was "Analysis of the Health Provisions in the 2012-13 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook (MYEFO)". Both reports are available from the MCHP (Sydney) website.

June

- International visitor: on 17 June, MCHP (Sydney) welcomed Dr Ana Gil Lacruz from the University of Zaragoza, where Dr Gil is a Senior Lecturer (empirical health economist) in the Department of Business and Management. Dr Gil’s main research interests are individual behaviours and health care access. She is especially interested in research related to the interaction of lifestyles in the prevalence of illness and access to health goods and services and the evaluation of public policies aimed at improving the citizen’s state of health. Her visit will continue until 15 August.

- International Conference: Dr Carmen Huckel-Schneider attended the International Conference on Public Policy in Grenoble from June 26-28. She presented two well received papers: ‘Generating sustained political priority for non-communicable diseases: What is a suitable governance model?’ which she co-authored with Jim Gillespie and Anne Marie Thow. The second paper was called ‘Barriers and Facilitators to evaluation of health policies and programs: Policy maker and researcher perspectives’.

- Staff resignation: Kylie-Ann Mallitt resigned from the Care Navigation project, as she was successful in gaining a lectureship at UNSW. Kylie-Ann has been a great contributor to the Care Navigation project and has been appointed as an honorary associate of MCHP (Sydney).
• New staff member: Ms Sandie Tolliday commenced a casual contract working with Steve Leeder one day a week until the end of the year. Sandie worked previously as the Dean’s & Pro Dean’s executive assistant in the Faculty of Law.

• New staff member: Nafisa Chowdhury commenced a short-term casual contract working with Anne Marie Thow on her Ghana project. Nafisa will work remotely from Adelaide and has previously been working with Anne Marie on a voluntary basis.

• Project conclusion: The NHRMC project “Developing service policies for Australians with dual sensory impairment: An integrated, collaborative pilot project for Australians with Dual Sensory Impairment” concluded at the end of June. Two researchers who have worked with the project, Dr Julie Schneider and Moira Dunsmore will continue with MCHP (Sydney) as honorary associates. Moira will commence a Master of Philosophy under the supervision of Jim Gillespie at the beginning of 2014.
Research

Research is a core activity of the MCHP. MCHP 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 MCHP mentor and supervise research students enrolled at both The Australian National University and the University of Sydney. The MCHP also hosts academic and student visitors pursuing projects that align with the research strengths and interests of MCHP staff.

Research is grouped into the following work areas. Current projects for each work area are listed below and updated in detail on the following pages. Work in areas without specific projects is captured in Publications and Events. Please see relevant sections later in this report.

**Chronic Disease and Aged Care**
- Care Navigation RCT
- Childhood Asthma Prevention Study
- Chronic Illness Management in the 21st century: is universal access enough to protect the poor
- Equity of access to health care services among Iranian immigrants in Australia.
- Evaluation of HealthOne Mt Druitt
- Health Economics Research, Modelling, Evaluation and Strategy (HERMES)
- NSW models of care that reflect innovation in ageing and chronic disease management and their links to policy
- Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS)
- Understanding and ameliorating the human health effects of exposure to air pollution from knowledge to policy and public health practice (CREAP)

**Global Health**
- 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 (The)
- Governance of human resources in the Vietnamese healthcare system: A critical analysis of maternity services (The)
- Health Sector Aid Effectiveness in the Pacific
- Impact of the Health Insurance Program on the near-poor in Vietnam (The)
- Initiative for Cardiovascular Health Research in the Developing Countries
- Standardizing a Self-Care Heart Failure Index (SCHFI) and using it to compare the effect of education by volunteers and health workers in Iranian patients with heart failure
- Trade, food and health in the Southern African Development Community
- What brings Indian physicians and nurses to Australia? Implications for future rural clinical workforce
Health and Sustainability

Health Care Financing
- Public-private funding and service delivery in the Australian hospital sector

Health Reform
- NSW Health advisory role

Health Services Research
- Centre of Research Excellence in Reducing Healthcare Associated Infections (CRE-RHAI)
- Engaging the public in healthcare decision making: quantifying preferences for healthcare through Citizens’ Juries
- Patient feedback - improving health care safety and quality?

Health Surveys
- Survey on Attitudes towards the Australian health system

Mental Health
- Comparing how disability income support is designed in Australia and Ontario for people with mental illness

Obesity and Nutrition
- Food policies to improve diets and reduce chronic disease in India
- The impact of trade policy on diets and health in Ghana
- Taxation as a tool for improving diets and preventing chronic disease

Research Policy
- Contemporary HIV & drug policy advocacy in the Russian Federation
- Developing a minimum dataset for use in an Australian integrative medicine clinic
- Development of an environmental health policy for nanotechnology in Australia (The)
- Is there a role for researchers to influence organisational change with regard to the use of Research Evaluation Metrics (REMs)?

Sensory Impairment
- Vision-Hearing Project
Research Projects

Chronic Disease and Aged Care

Care Navigation RCT

The aim of this mixed-method evaluation is to determine the efficiency of Care Navigation, a coordinated care plan for chronically ill patients in Western Sydney, and to identify facilitators and barriers to its implementation.

Quantitative outcomes are being measured using a pragmatic RCT to which 500 participants were randomly allocated between standard care and Care Navigation, between 17 May 2010 and 25 February 2011. The two-year follow-up period ended 25th February, 2013, and participant data has now been collected from all electronic data sources except MBS/PBS data, and quality assurance measures have been carried out to describe validity and completeness of the data. We are now in the process of hiring a statistician, after which the statistical analyses can begin.

Collecting qualitative data on facilitators and barriers to the implementation of Care Navigation has involved interviews with decision and policy makers at NSW Health, Local Health District and Hospital levels, and also interviews with on-the-ground health staff. Staff interviewed have included the Inbound and Outbound Care Navigators, continuing care coordinators, ASET CNC, respiratory and cardiac CNCs, Emergency Department NUM, GP Liaison Nurse, and Community Health nurses. Interviewing of participants is underway, with interviews of GPs to follow.

The protocol paper has been published:


Funding comes from NHMRC Project Grant 1004343, with monies budgeted to the end of June 2014.

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Research Projects continued

Chronic Disease and Aged Care continued

**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. Enrolled subjects continue to be studied and interest has grown in understanding the relation of adolescence to asthma.

The study has taken a new direction in the past three years, due to the interest of Professor David Celermajer and his colleagues in studying the relation between dietary fats and changes in the walls of the carotid arteries. These studies have emphasised the importance of exposure during early childhood to different dietary fats for the development of changes in the arterial walls that may signify long-term cardiovascular risk.

Further grant applications have been submitted pertaining to this birth cohort to explore sleep disorders, cardiovascular disease and asthma. The birth cohort is a valuable epidemiological resource aside from the original research questions.

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**Chronic Illness Management in the 21st century: is universal access enough to protect the poor**

This project was funded by a grant from the Ian Potter Foundation in 2010.

Project work has been undertaken at both nodes of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy with the appointment of Ian Potter Fellows at each node.

- University of Sydney - ongoing
- Australian National University - complete

**University of Sydney**

At the Sydney node, the project is building on existing work that has investigated the household economic impact of chronic illness and disability in Australia and in other lower income settings. This project will contribute to this body of research by applying consistent methods to generate evidence on the links between economic hardship and other common chronic illnesses. In addition, an analysis and deconstruction of existing health and social policies will elucidate the mechanisms within Australia’s social insurance systems that lead to negative consequences for socioeconomically disadvantaged patients. Finally, this project will provide evidence on the effectiveness, including cost-effectiveness, of options to mitigate the negative consequences associated with chronic illness management.
Chronic Disease and Aged Care continued

Chronic Illness Management in the 21st century: is universal access enough to protect the poo (continued)

Publications


Invited non peer-reviewed publications


Conference Presentations

- Improved household economic circumstances after cataract surgery: Results from the VISIONARY study. 9th International Health Economics Association World Congress; Sydney, Australia. 8-10 July 2013. Platform presentation in an organised session.

- Balancing government funding and co-payments to gain most value and economic efficiency. 10th Annual Future of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme Summit. Presentation. 29-30 April 2013, Sydney. Invited platform presentation.

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Chronic Disease and Aged Care continued

**Equity of access to health care services among Iranian immigrants in Australia.**

This study aims to investigate equity of access to healthcare services for older overseas-born residents with cardiovascular disease in Australia.

The study will be conducted in two stages. The first stage includes review and synthesis of the existing literature, and the second stage consists of several in-depth interviews, involving older overseas-born and Australian-born patients with cardiovascular disease, healthcare workers and carers.

This is expected to yield a theoretical sample of not more than 50 people, which is large enough to generate relevant themes and theory regarding the study. So far, twelve patients, even carers and twelve healthcare professionals have been interviewed continues to focus on analysing the data and also engaged an external consultant to assist with the use of NVivo 10.

This PhD study is a work in progress and planning to submit thesis in August 2014

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**Evaluation of HealthOne Mt Druitt**

HealthOne Mt Druitt (HOMD) is a system of managing people with chronic illness that integrates primary and community health services. The linchpin of the HOMD model of care is the two GP liaison nurses (GPLNs) who identify the patient’s needs based on referrals received and assessments made and facilitate communication, case conferencing and care coordination between the various health professionals and other providers involved in the patient’s care.

SCIPPS Sydney worked in close collaboration with the Mount Druitt Community Health Centre and HealthOne staff to conduct a mixed method evaluation of HOMD.

The qualitative component of the evaluation commenced in 2010. Interviews with NSW Health and WSLHD decision and policy makers, steering committee members and HOMD staff were completed by the end of 2010. Interviews with patients were completed in March/April 2011. Interviews with these patients’ GPs were completed by end November 2011. A focus group with Mount Druitt Community Health staff was held in November 2011.

Patient emergency department presentations and hospital admissions data were extracted in August 2011. CHIME (Community Health Information Management Enterprise) data were extracted in October 2011. A survey to all service providers with HealthOne enrolled patients was distributed in May 2011.

The Report was finalised in February 2013:

Chronic Disease and Aged Care continued

Evaluation of HealthOne Mt Druitt (continued)

Findings

Changes in Patient Outcomes

• Patient outcome analyses showed that among people with chronic and complex conditions enrolled in the HOMD program the number of emergency department presentations, and length of stay in the emergency department, in the 12 months following enrolment in HOMD was significantly less than in the 12 months prior to enrolment.

Changes in Health Services

• The pattern of service utilisation changed in the 12 months after enrolment in HOMD, with more referrals to allied health services such as physiotherapy, podiatry, occupational therapy, dietetics and psychosocial services.
• Source of the referral changed with fewer referrals from the acute care (hospital inpatient) setting and more from other health service providers and families, friends and neighbours.
• The GPLNs improved coordination and integration of services for clients with chronic and complex illnesses.
• The GPLNs improved formal and informal communication between community health, general practice and other health and social care providers through care planning, case conferences, and partnership building.

Process Evaluation

• The process of forming enduring partnerships is a long and difficult one, with unity of vision, trust and leadership at all levels of the partner organisations necessary for the successful implementation of a HealthOne service.
• GPLNs were crucial to all aspects of the development and implementation of the service, with engagement with clients kicking off the process of forming appropriate relationships and providing care, and where necessary, referral to new services, including social care and psychosocial services.
• GPLNs needed to be flexible and work with GPs, other providers and partner organisations to add value to the care provided to clients rather than compete by providing duplicate services. Policy and decision makers also needed to remain flexible to allow innovation to occur at the local level, reflecting local needs, while still providing the broader policy framework or management decisions when necessary.
• The seniority and expertise of individuals in Liaison Nurse roles are critical to earn and maintain respect of health and other professionals, along with leadership skills to initiate a cross-organisational culture change conducive to coordination and integration within the primary health care sector.
• Sustainability of HealthOne services depended on the continued commitment of leaders at all levels of the partner organisations, and a continued commitment from funding bodies to employ GPLNs and provide wider workplace support.

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Research Projects continued

Chronic Disease and Aged Care continued

Health Economics Research, Modelling, Evaluation and Strategy (HERMES)

National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia, Capacity Building Grant (#571372)

Chief Investigators: Stephen Jan, Glenn Salkeld, Phillip Clarke, Kirsten Howard, John Chalmers, Stephen Leeder. AU$1.8 million.

Team Investigators: Joel Negin, Beverley Essue, Rachael Morton, Alison Hayes, Tracey Laba, Germaine Wong, Martin Howell, Tom Lung, Rachel Knott, Merel Kimman

Health Economics Research, Modelling, Evaluation and Strategy (HERMES)

(continued)

This project involves training, salary and scholarship support for a number of early career health economists to research chronic diseases. The program ‘Using health economics to strengthen ties between evidence, policy and practice in chronic disease’, is a collaboration between the George Institute, School of Public Health and MCHP (Sydney). It aims to 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?

The NHMRC have approved the extension of this project to 31 December 2014.

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

Angela Littleford has interviewed 30 health leaders from NSW and Australia to gain their views on the changes needed to the health care system in order to meet the needs of an ageing population with increasing rates of chronic disease; including models of care that are delivering innovation in the areas of chronic disease management for older people.

Angela is working towards submission by thesis and therefore has developed the chapter layout and commenced work on writing the Introduction and Method chapters. Angela continues to focus on refining her analysis of the data and has engaged an external consultant to assist her with the use of NVivo 10.

Angela continues to put her research in to practice and will present at the TheMHs conference this year an innovative Model of Care in the delivery of tele-psychology services to meet the needs of mental health clients in rural and remote South Australia.

Angela plans to submit her thesis by December 2014.

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Chronic Disease and Aged Care continued

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS)

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy was awarded a $3.5 million National Health and Medical Research Council grant in 2006 to research cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS) examined the experiences of older Australians to find out what problems they really face in managing their health, and what might be done to help using policy and systems interventions.

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS) (continued)

Health professionals and people affected by chronic conditions as patients and carers - and many people are both - took part. Indigenous people and people from diverse cultural and language backgrounds were included in the study. An in-depth study of a collaboration to improve chronic condition outcomes was conducted in Western Sydney. We carried out two national surveys of older Australians to establish the economic and other costs of chronic conditions, and the time spent on health care with a chronic condition, as well as how well care coordination works on the ground.

The main findings of the research program show that:

• People are affected by the costs of health care and medicines to the point where many avoid filling prescriptions or attending services; we estimate that around 250,000 older Australians are spending more than 20% of their available income on meeting out of pocket health care costs;

• Carers need help so they can help their family members who need them: they need help understanding what to do, when to do it, and where to find more formal help; of all older people caring for a person with a chronic condition, most have a chronic condition themselves;

• Indigenous people with chronic conditions find great support in their families and culture and the holistic support they receive in aboriginal medical service, which contrasts with their continued perception of racism in mainstream services;

• People with multiple chronic conditions find that the lack of communication and connection between people who are responsible for their care causes problems, delays, and unnecessary time spent on getting care;

• Most people spend less than an hour a day looking after their health, but the top 10% spends about 2 hours a day - every day; and carers with a chronic condition themselves are spending up to four times that amount;

• The unique element in highly diverse patterns of illness and health services use is the patient experience, and to ensure that the best use of resources and best outcomes are possible, this needs to be reflected in new policies and practices.

SCIPPS set up discussions with policy makers, practitioners, consumer groups and researchers to look at three areas of findings that were complex, and difficult to address from a policy and systems perspective; the complexities associated with multiple morbidity; the economic impact of chronic illness; and health literacy of individuals and their communities.
Research Projects continued

Chronic Disease and Aged Care continued

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS) (continued)

From these workshops, further dialogue with a range of stakeholders, consumers, researchers, public and private providers and policy makers identified potentially useful approaches to address issues brought up as part of the research, which are in the attached report.

The value of the SCIPPS project is its foundation in user experience and the developing dialogue with a range of groups and people with both interest and expertise in an area that is both complex and increasingly costly.

Findings


Snapshots

- Self-Management and the Reform Context

Awards & Recognition

The Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (Western Sydney Local Health District, Mount Druitt Aboriginal Medical Service Wununga, Nimmitiyjah Aboriginal Medical Service, ACT) won the “Closing the Gap in Aboriginal Health Through Excellence in Research, Evaluation and Building Evidence Award” at NSW Health’s 2012 Aboriginal Health Awards.

As part of their commitment to closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, the research team conducted a sub-study in which they recruited 19 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with at least one of the chronic illnesses of interest. The project was conducted in a manner that was culturally responsive and holistic in partnership with two Aboriginal Medical Services – Mount Druitt (NSW) and Winnunga Nimmityjah (ACT). Staff at both services played a vital role in the project which seeks solutions to the increasing burden placed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by chronic illness.


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**Chronic Disease and Aged Care continued**

**Understanding and ameliorating the human health effects of exposure to air pollution from knowledge to policy and public health practice (CREAP)**

Stephen Leeder is an investigator in an NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence awarded in 2011 for $2.5 million for the project “Understanding and ameliorating the human health effects of exposure to air pollution from knowledge to policy and public health practice.” The project is led by Professor Guy Marks at the Woolcock Institute for Medical Research (WIMR), will run for 5 years, and will facilitate research, research training, translation and collaboration in the field of air pollution and health. The CRE comprises a multi-institution collaboration with main foci of research activity to take place in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. During 2012 several research projects have begun in NSW and Victoria under the auspices of several of the chief investigators and new PhD students recruited to the study.

The CRE has proved to be both durable and productive. The capacity building aspects of the Centre have been especially encouraging as have the expansion and growth of several research projects and programs initiated or extended by the principal investigators.

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**Global Health**

**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**

John Hall is a public health physician with long experience of working in the Pacific Islands and other low resource settings. 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.

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Research Projects continued

Global Health (continued)

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 was extended in 2010 to investigate regional health sector governance mechanisms. The research is being done in collaboration with the World Bank and Secretariat of the Pacific Community partners. 2011 projects included finalising the regional health governance project and continued work on health financing in Solomon Islands as donors attempt to adhere to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. The projects in 2012 have extended to an examination of human resources for health challenges in the region especially in light of the deep engagement of the Cuban government in medical training. Additionally, Joel will examine the available models for Australian engagement in the health sector in the Pacific in light of the Independent Review of Aid Effectiveness released in 2011.

Joel Negin has been in continuing conversation with AusAID and other Pacific development partners about the impacts of the current regional health governance model. AusAID and NZAID in particular have sought his advice based on recently completed work on the proliferation of regional health governance mechanisms.

The Knowledge Hub closed as of end June 2013 so this engagement has been completed.

Contact: Dr Joel Negin
Email: joel.negin@sydney.edu.au

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, has now been published. This study has been coordinated from Delhi and Stephen Leeder has chaired the overseeing committee.


Dr Harikrishnan continues to work with Stephen Leeder and NY colleagues on a revision of the monograph A Race Against Time, first published in 2004. This is now with the printers.

Contact: Professor Stephen Leeder
Email: stephen.leeder@sydney.edu.au
Global Health (continued)

Standardizing a Self-Care Heart Failure Index (SCHFI) and using it to compare the effect of education by volunteers and health workers in Iranian patients with heart failure

This study seeks to a) develop a domestic tool for measuring self-care in patients with chronic heart failure (CHF) among patients who use the Persian language, b) establish the baseline of personal characteristics and use of self-care among patients with CHF living in Kermanshah, Iran and c) explore whether volunteers could work as effectively as paid health workers to educate chronic heart failure (CHF) patients in the principles of self-care.

The study is in four stages. First, the self-care heart failure Index (SCHFI) as an instrument for evaluation self-care among patients with CHF has been translated and validated to create the Persian SCHFI (pSCHFI). Second, a descriptive study was conducted to provide baseline information about patients with CHF. The third stage was a randomized control trial, 231 participants were randomly assigned to one of three groups - a control and two intervention groups (health care worker education and volunteer education). The interventional groups received a pamphlet regarding self-care information and were educated by a general practitioner, in three small groups, at a conference room, or by nine trained female volunteers through a face to face educational program at the patients’ homes. Two month later participants were interviewed again. Data have been collected analysing commenced.

Contact: Dr Soraya Siabani
Email: ssia5034@uni.sydney.edu.au

Trade, food and health in the Southern African Development Community

Anne Marie Thow is leading a collaborative project examining recent dietary change in relation to trade policy in the Southern African Development Community countries. Trade has long been associated with negative changes to dietary patterns in Africa, and since the establishment of the WTO in the mid 1990s, there has been growing pressure for liberalisation. This pressure has come from both extra-regional actors (TNFC, HIC) and intra-regional actors (SADC, COMESA, etc). South Africa is a hub for some TNFCs and as such may play a mediating role in opening economies of neighbouring countries to trade and investment, and thus facilitating dietary change from within the region. Key food groups associated with the nutrition transition and likely to be affected by trade include packaged and processed foods, meat and dairy.

By identifying potential negative impacts on nutrition we can develop strategies for preventing and/or mitigating these, and improving coherence between health and trade policy decision making, which will have beneficial social, health and ultimately economic effects.

Anne Marie will be meeting with colleagues in Capetown to work on data analysis during August 2013.

Contact: Dr Anne Marie Thow
Email: annemarie.thow@sydney.edu.au
Health and Sustainability

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. 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 affect health across all levels of society.

What’s New

In February, Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri (RC) returned to the Menzies Centre for Health Policy. She has reduced her work time to three days per week and will concentrate on policy issues rather than project work. She brought with her Research Fellow, Dr Si Win Tin, who currently spends half his time at the Menzies Centre and the other half at the Boden Institute. RC was subsequently joined in May by her part time research assistant, Emily Morrice.

Dr Win Tin is a public health physician who, before joining HSU, spent considerable time working in the Pacific, initially as Director of Public Health in Nauru and then as NCD advisor at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. Dr Win Tin is currently undertaking a PhD on the quality and sustainability of diabetes care in Pacific Island countries. Ms Morrice is a political economist by training and has a particular interest in the political economy of health.

Teaching

The University of Sydney launched a masters course in Sustainability in 2010. RC developed the initial health component of this course, unit of study (UoS) on health and Populations, and now co-coordinates this UoS with the Boden Institute. Dr Win Tin and Ms Morrice also teach in this course.

Projects

HSU’s three year World Diabetes Foundation capacity building project in the Solomon Islands is in its final phase and will be completed in November 2013. This year has involved team visits to the Solomon’s and repeats of the baseline measurements on quality of diabetes care and cost and health systems indicators. One journal article has been published so far this year and a second article has been accepted with minor changes.

Events

- Invited participated in the Climate Change and Health Association Health and Energy Think-Tank, Canberra - Feb 12.
Health and Sustainability (continued)

- Hosted a roundtable on policy issues relating to the ageing population entitled “The Ageing Population: How Prepared Are We”. Participants included representatives of the Sydney City Council, the NSW Local Government organisation, the Council of the Ageing, the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association, academics from Sydney University and others – held The University of Sydney, July 18.

- Invited participant and presenter in the Australian Women’s Health Network think tank to develop indicators for measuring women’s health – July 31.

Invited presentations

Ruth Colagiuri was:

- The keynote speaker at the World Sugar Research Organisation’s annual international conference in Sydney, speaking on “WHO Strategies for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases” – May 2.

- The invited speaker Concord Department of Medicine on Diabetes Prevention in the Global NCD Policy Context – March 5.

- Invited interviewee in the Climate and Health Association’s advocacy video on ‘Health and Coal’

Publications

Published


Health and Sustainability (continued)

Accepted


Submitted

• Sim KA, Girgis S, Morrice E, Cochrane J, Colagiuri R. A systematic review of the health impacts of living near coal mines and coal-fired power stations. [Submitted Medical Journal of Australia, April 2013.]

In preparation

• Colagiuri R, Sim KA, Wilson A, Girgis S. Health in all Policies: Panacea or Pie in the Sky? [In preparation]
• Colagiuri R, Morrice E. The Resource Curse: A Review of Coal Related Social Injustice in Australia’s Hunter Region. [In preparation]
• Win Tin S, Colagiuri R. A Profile of Diabetes in Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice. [In preparation]

Contact: Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri
Email: ruth.colagiuri@sydney.edu.au

Health Care Financing

Public-private funding and service delivery in the Australian hospital sector
A joint project between the MCHP (J. Gillespie), Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (Anne-marie Boxall) and Catholic Health Australia.

Australia has a hybrid health system with health services funded and provided by the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. The relationship between the sectors is complex, particularly in the area of hospital care. Private patients are routinely treated in public hospitals and public patients are routinely treated in private hospitals, with each sector funded by a bewildering mixture of government, private health insurance and out-of-pocket payments. This project examines some case studies of these changing relationships and their significance for national attempts to reform the health system.

Research has been completed and a joint issues paper will appear later in 2013.

Contact: Dr Jim Gillespie
Email: james.gillespie@sydney.edu.au
Health Reform

NSW Health advisory role

The MCHP was engaged by NSW Health in 2010 to provide independent policy advice on key significant areas of work required during the roll out of the COAG National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement in NSW.

The MCHP is evaluating the chronic illness ‘module’ of HealthOne Blacktown-Doonside in the Western Sydney Local Health District. NSW Health requested that the HealthOne Blacktown-Doonside Evaluation use a similar methodology to that employed in the Evaluation of HealthOne Mount Druitt carried out by MCHP. A second component of the HealthOne Blacktown-Doonside Evaluation will be to develop evaluation methods that can be used in the evaluation of HealthOne services elsewhere in NSW.

HealthOne Blacktown-Doonside has been in development from mid-2011 and is being implemented in 2013. MCHP is evaluating the development and early implementation process. Interviews with decision makers and HealthOne Blacktown-Doonside staff were carried out in June 2013 with a draft report of this first component due end July 2013. A final report is due end December 2013.

Contact: Dr Justin McNab
Email: justin.mcnab@sydney.edu.au

Health Services Research

Centre of Research Excellence in Reducing Healthcare Associated Infections (CRE-RHAI)

CRE-RHAI is an exciting collaboration tasked with generating new knowledge about strategies to reduce healthcare associated infections, and providing data on the cost-effectiveness of infection control programs. The new knowledge generated by the CRE-RHAI over the next five years will have a direct impact on decisions about infection control at both a clinical and policy level, with the major output of the research being information about the cost-effectiveness of infection control programs and the translation into health services.

Contact: Professor Andrew Wilson
Email: a.wilson@sydney.edu.au
Health Services Research (continued)

Engaging the public in healthcare decision making: quantifying preferences for healthcare through Citizens' Juries

This project promotes public engagement and quantifies preferences in key areas of relevance to the industry partners Queensland Health and South Australia Health. These areas identified are elective surgery priorities, optimising appropriate use of emergency care, and interventions for obesity. A series of choice experiments and citizens' juries will be used. The project will facilitate identification and application of optimal methods for engaging the public in healthcare decision making, provide guidance on the appropriate population groups to consider when eliciting consumer preferences, and provide direct public input to guide health policy. The approach will be able to be applied to different policy areas.

Contact: Professor Andrew Wilson
Email: a.wilson@sydney.edu.au

Patient feedback - improving health care safety and quality?

Deborah Schaler is undertaking a comparative study of the impact of three patient feedback mechanisms (patient complaint policy, patient satisfaction surveys and patient journeys) on the safety or quality of a selected health service. The study also aims to develop, trial and evaluate a method for the health service to systematically analyse its patient feedback data (through triangulation of quantitative and qualitative data). The policy implications of the study are that health services might review their level of investment and/or selection of patient feedback strategies and analyse their patient feedback data more effectively.

The study is mixed method and includes situational analysis mapping to better understand the meso-level relationships. A pilot site (the Women and Children’s Division in the ACT Government Health Directorate, Canberra, comprising the Women and Children’s Hospital and a range of community based services) has been recruited. Data collection (qualitative and quantitative) and initial analysis are completed. A proposed new model for patient feedback management is under consideration by the pilot site. The new model comprises changes to (i) the complaint management process; (ii) change to the patient feedback data system; and (iii) strengthened governance arrangements to strengthen the link between patient feedback and service improvement.

Contact: Deborah Schaler
Email: dsch7006@uni.sydney.edu.au
Health Surveys

Survey on Attitudes towards the Australian health system

A report on the third Menzies-Nous Survey on Attitudes to the Health Care System has been published. The survey asked respondents questions about their use of, understanding of, satisfaction with and attitudes towards the Australian health and aged care systems.


The Report was launched at invited roundtables in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and a public seminar in Canberra. The roundtables included representatives from health departments, hospital administration, professional colleges and professional organizations, Medicare locals, aged care providers and consumer groups.

The Survey involves staff from the University of Sydney (J. Gillespie), ANU (L. Yen, I. McRae, R. Wells) and the Nous Group.

Contact: Dr Jim Gillespie
Email: james.gillespie@sydney.edu.au

Mental Health

Comparing how disability income support is designed in Australia and Ontario for people with mental illness

Ashley McAllister’s project is a unique comparative multi-case study between Australia and Ontario (Canada) that investigates contemporary (since 1991) disability income support (DIS) reforms. She will explore how these programs have evolved over the past 20 years.

Most literature on DIS focuses on what is wrong with the person, asking how can we provide an incentive or make a person more employable. In this project, the design of the system in relation to mental illness will be critically analysed to identify areas of improvement within the system rather than the person. Her aim is to understand how disability is defined in DIS policy; how DIS is designed; and to identify key areas for improvements to better meet the needs of those with a mental illness. While she recognise that boundaries need to be drawn when determining eligibility for DIS, she aims to develop evidence that demonstrates the unique needs and challenges of designing policy for those with a mental illness. This project has the potential to reduce the risk of marginalisation among those with mental illness by facilitating knowledge translation between those who work with people with mental illness and those who create the policies.

Ashley has almost completed her final phase of data collection having done over 30 interviews with major policy-makers in Australia and Ontario involved in designing DIS to determine the drivers and policy barriers relevant to the local policy environment. She has recently presented her preliminary analysis at the International Health Economics Association World Congress which was held in Sydney, Australia July 8th to 10th, 2013.

Contact: Ashley McAllister
Email: ashley.mcallister@sydney.edu.au
Obesity and Nutrition

Food policies to improve diets and reduce chronic disease in India

Shauna Downs is examining trans fatty acids (TFA) in the Indian food supply. Her project uses food supply chain analysis to:

• determine the sources of TFAs in the food supply,
• identify key points for policy interventions to reduce their consumption, and
• determine the feasibility of these policies.

The project examines the processes and actors that take food from farm-to-fork, while identifying potential pressure points in the food supply for policy interventions.

A feasibility assessment of the proposed policy interventions has been conducted with key stakeholders (including government ministries, public organizations and relevant leaders from the private sector) in India. This project has the potential to improve diets and help reduce chronic disease in India by identifying feasible multi-sectoral policy options. The novel use of food supply chain analysis will provide scope for applying this methodology to other key aspects of the food supply. Shauna has completed nearly 40 interviews with various stakeholders in India as part of the data collection for this study. She is currently analyzing her data and writing manuscripts for publication. In addition to her PhD work, Shauna is also a Co-Investigator on a Wellcome Trust/Public Health Foundation of India Capacity Building Grant to investigate trans fat intakes and the feasibility/cost-effectiveness of product reformulation to reduce trans fat in India.

Contact: Shauna Downs
Email: shauna.downs@sydney.edu.au

The impact of trade policy on diets and health in Ghana

Anne Marie Thow is leading a collaborative evaluation of an innovative trade policy that aims to improve diets and health in Ghana. In 2000, in order to protect human health, the Government of Ghana implemented a policy to limit the amount of fat in imported meat products.

This study aims to analyse the possible role of trade policy in the emerging nutrition transition in west Africa, and to evaluate the effectiveness of this innovative trade policy intervention to improve diets. It will also identify contextual factors in policy development, to inform development of healthy trade policies in other jurisdictions.

Anne Marie will be traveling to Ghana to assist with data collection during August 2013.

Contact: Dr Anne Marie Thow
Email: annemarie.thow@sydney.edu.au
Obesity & Nutrition (continued)

Taxation as a tool for improving diets and preventing chronic disease

Anne Marie Thow is currently leading ongoing research into fiscal policy (taxation and subsidies) as a strategy for improving diets and preventing chronic disease. This work focuses on the best way to develop and implement fiscal policies to improve diets and health, taking into account the political, social and economic context of such intervention, as well as the public health evidence for effectiveness.

Contact: Dr Anne Marie Thow
Email: annemarie.thow@sydney.edu.au

Research Policy

Contemporary HIV & drug policy advocacy in the Russian Federation

Since the late 1990s, injecting drug use has fueled an HIV epidemic in the Russian Federation. Despite considerable international evidence concerning the effectiveness of a comprehensive package of evidence based interventions, the Russian government has maintained a punitive prohibitionist stance and committed limited resources to drug treatment and care programs. Successive international donor programs have sought to engage federal, provincial and local tiers of government to support evidence based illicit drug harm minimisation approaches.

Efforts at changing Russian federal illicit drug policy have been largely unsuccessful. The policy change process is complicated by the institutional character of Russian public administration. Public administration is widely regarded as ineffective, and governed by informal and opaque processes.

Andrey then chose to focus on surveillance problems associated with illicit drug policy. He followed on from the work conducted by Ginsberg et al (2008) on influenza surveillance using Google search patterns. In the course of conducting this research he discovered that the unique characteristics of the Russian online search market make it an ideal environment for developing public health policy research methods based on online search patterns.

He has therefore focused the writing of his thesis - by- publication on developing online methods for the analysis of health policy problems. These methods should be generalisable to a broad range of communicable and non-communicable diseases and policy problems, and to emerging online data sources.

Contact: Andrey Zheluk
Email: andreyzheluk@gmail.com
Developing a minimum dataset for use in an Australian integrative medicine clinic

A case study of the first four years of a primary care integrative medicine (IM) clinic in Sydney was undertaken to describe the clinic and its IM team; and identify its successes and challenges. A lack of data measuring patient outcomes prompted the need to develop a minimum data set.

Jennifer has undertaken a systematic literature review of patient questionnaires for use in primary care integrative medicine clinics. From over 2000 questionnaires, 412 potential questionnaires were identified and a final shortlist of 42 robust tools are recommended. In-depth interviews with patients and practitioners at the clinic were undertaken to explore their views about the use of questionnaires to measure holistic health. Based on these findings 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 health and wellbeing.

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 Complementary Medicine seed funding grant.

The work for Jennifer’s PhD is now complete and that she will be submitting her thesis, by publication, in the next three months

Publications

- A positive concept of health - interviews with patients and practitioners in an integrative medicine clinic. Accepted for publication in Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice

Contact: Dr Jennifer Hunter
Email: jennifer.hunter@sydney.edu.au
Research Policy (continued)

Development of an environmental health policy for nanotechnology in Australia (The)

Adam Capon is being sponsored by NSW Health to complete the first major Australian study of the policy implications of the development of nanotechnologies. He has undertaken the first comprehensive review of the current regulatory and policy structures concerning public health chemicals policy in Australia and is currently undertaking quantitative research into stakeholder perceptions of nanotechnologies. Themed from a public health perspective, this work will feed into future policy options for the governance of nanotechnologies in Australia.

Researcher: Adam Capon

Is there a role for researchers to influence organisational change with regard to the use of Research Evaluation Metrics (REMs)?


This research investigates the factors that inhibit and facilitate adoption of REMs by researchers and university departments. It will also, for the first time identify how researchers are using research metrics as part of their research role and identify the (perceived or not) incentives researchers receive for compliance. This is of particular interest especially if there is no formal incentive in place for comparably successful REMs. Finally, the research will also investigate how departmental management can facilitate REM adoption (through education programs and incentives etc) and, conversely, the role researchers can play in influencing organisational change by either facilitating or resisting the adoption of REMs.

Presentation:


Contact: Dr Jim Gillespie
Email: james.gillespie@sydney.edu.au
Sensory Impairment

Vision-Hearing Project

The Vision-Hearing project is a NHMRC Partnership grant that piloted a screening model for the detection of dual sensory impairment among clients presenting to low vision services. The project, led by Stephen Leeder (CIA) and managed by Julie Schneider (Menzies), received $318,000 in NHMRC funds in addition to financial and in-kind support from partner organisations, Vision Australia and the Audiological Society of Australia.

Since January 2013, our major achievements include:

- Completion of Phase 3 which involved 19 qualitative interviews with older people with dual impairment. Preliminary thematic analysis has been undertaken.
- Submission for Ethics approval to extend the project to include a survey of professionals working in vision rehabilitation and hearing services.
- Completion of the project with the NHMRC, end of June 2013.

Presentations


Articles in submission


Contact: Dr Julie Schneider
Email: julie.schneider@sydney.edu.au
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 MCHP has provided a focus for expanding postgraduate programs in health policy at the University of Sydney and a Master of Public Health program at the Australian National University.

The University of Sydney

Three core units for the Master of Health Policy are offered in Semester One. Each Unit is coordinated by staff from the MCHP, with guest lectures from staff from the School of Public Health and a wide array of policy practitioners.

HPOL 5000 Introduction to Health Policy (Anne Marie Thow, Jim Gillespie) (Enrolments 48)

The aim of this course is to develop a critical and comparative understanding of the history, theory and practice of health policy. The course gives an overview of the political choices and frameworks - national and global - that shape policymaking. Students acquire a critical understanding of the basic history and features of the Australian health system, gain an understanding the main frameworks used to analyse and make policy and learn the main issues in the translation of policy into practice.

HPOL 5001 Economics and Finance for Health Policy (Jim Gillespie, Stephen Jan) (Enrolments 32)

This unit aims to provide students with an understanding of the financial and economic aspects of health policy. It introduces the main concepts and analytical methods of health economics, political economy and finance. Students will learn main models and debates regarding health funding and the implications for equity, delivery and governance of health services. They will be able to apply this knowledge to current Australian and global health systems and debates over reform and understand the role of economic analysis in evaluating health policy change.

HPOL5008 Evidence into Policy and Practice (Carmen Huckel Schneider) (Enrolments 18)

The aim of this module is to increase students’ understanding about the links between evidence and policy and practice and, using academic and real-world examples, how evidence from research can be applied policy change processes. In this unit students learn about theories of links between evidence and policy and apply practical tools for using evidence from research in building a case advocating for policy change.

Contact: Dr Jim Gillespie
Email: james.gillespie@sydney.edu.au
Publications and Presentations

Research Publications


Media & Industry

- Leeder S. Specialist shake-up would bring balance to system, *Australian Doctor*, 26 June 2013.
- Corderoy A. The doctor will see you, but not right now, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 June 2013. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted.
- TRANS FATS Labelling is mandatory in many countries, so why not here?, *Sunday Telegraph*, 5 May 2013. **Shauna Downs** is quoted.
- Sweet M. Some important questions about health policy and the federal election (aka your qanda cheat sheet), *Croakey*, 21 April 2013. **Professor Andrew Wilson** is quoted.
- Leeder S. Don’t bury the benefits of research, *Australian Doctor*, 11 April 2013.
- Leeder S. Don’t bury the benefits of research to improve the health system, *The Conversation*, 9 April 2013.
- Trans fat reduction policies are working to reduce consumption, says WHO, *Food navigator.com*, 9 April 2013. **Shauna Downs** is quoted.
Publications and Presentations continued

- Trans fat study (video), Yahoo 7 News, 8 April 2013. Shauna Downs is interviewed and pictured.
- Chew the fat, The Northern Star, 6 April 2013. Shauna Downs is quoted.
- Call to ban trans fats, Daily Telegraph, 5 April 2013. Shauna Downs is quoted.
- Bans on trans fats reduce diseases: study, news.com.au, 4 April 2013. Shauna Downs is quoted.
- A ban on trans fats, Science Alert, 4 April 2013. Shauna Downs is quoted.
- Bans on trans fats reduce diseases: study, The Telegraph, 4 April 2013. Shauna Downs is quoted.
- Evidence piles up for banning trans fats, University of Sydney, 4 April 2013. Shauna Downs is quoted.
- Legally Banning Trans Fat Can Improve Public Health, Study Reports, Counsel and Heal, 4 April 2013. Shauna Downs is quoted.
- Todd Neal, WHO: Banning Trans Fats Is Good Health Policy, medpagetoday.com, 3 April 2013. Shauna Downs is quoted.
- Wordsworth M. Jayant Patel walks free from manslaughter retrial, 7.30, 13 March 2013. Professor Andrew Wilson was interviewed for this story.
- Leeder S. Ensuring crucial research isn’t lost in translation, Australian Doctor, 27 February 2013.
- Corderoy A. Trading health for even fatter profits, The Sydney Morning Herald, 16 February 2013. Dr Anne Marie Thow is quoted.
- Banned meat slips in Fiji, Fiji Times, 13 February 2013. A study by Dr Anne Marie Thow of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy at the University of Sydney is mentioned.
- Smith-Merry, J, Leeder S. Right connections, MJA Insight, 11 February 2013.
- Leeder S. Taking heart from Indian progress, Australian Medicine Online, 11 February 2013.
- Leeder S. Was saying sorry enough?, Australian Doctor, 6 February 2013.
- Moran T. New President’s ‘view from the outside’, PSNews, January 2013. Recent research from the Menzies Centre for Health Policy and the Nous Group is mentioned.
Publications and Presentations continued

- AEC launch risks poor diets as junk food grows cheaper, *Bangkok Post*, 16 January 2013. Dr Anne Marie Thow is quoted.

Reports

Conference Presentations
- Wilson A. Fixing the system: policies to improve the prevention and management of chronic disease (webinar), Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, May 2013.
• Wilson A. A Systems Approach to Preventative Health - What is needed? What are the gaps? What are the barriers?, The Economics of Health Prevention: Getting Down To Business, Deakin University, Melbourne, 14 March 2013. Presentation Slides / Presentation Notes

Events

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy delivers 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.

Future Events

S T Lee Lecture - Health Care Financing and Universal Coverage in Asia

Monday, 19 August 2013, The University of Sydney

The 2013 S.T. Lee Lecture* will be delivered by:

Professor Soonman Kwon, Dean, School of Public Health, Seoul National University, South Korea


*The University of Sydney, by way of a gift, established the S.T. Lee Lecture Fund in 2008 to invite a distinguished scholar and/or practitioner on the subject of contemporary health policy to deliver an annual lecture. The S.T. Lee Lecture is named for Seng Tee Lee, a business executive and noted philanthropist. Dr Lee is director of the Lee group of companies in Singapore and of the Lee Foundation.

Emerging Health Policy Research Conference

Monday, 14 October 2013, University of Sydney

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy will hold its 8th annual Emerging Health Policy Research Conference in October 2013.

The conference will showcase the work in progress of current doctoral and early career research workers, as well as those new to the field of health policy research.

Keynote speaker: Associate Professor Adam Elshaug, HCF Research Foundation Principal Research Fellow, Menzies Centre for Health Policy.

Topic: Through the looking-glass: Reconciling contrasts between the US and Australian health care systems.


Sydney Health Policy Network Conference

TBC End of 2013

The Sydney Health Policy Network at the University of Sydney will hold its annual conference in the last quarter of 2013.

The topic for this year will be Public and Private Healthcare.
Past Events hosted by the Sydney Health Policy Network

The Sydney Health Policy Network is a cross-disciplinary network established within the University of Sydney. The Menzies Centre for Health Policy provides operational support to foster and promote the formation and function of the Network.

Bringing Health Policy into Qualitative Health Research

Thursday, 2 May 2013

Hosted by the Sydney Health Policy Network Early Career Researcher Special Interest Group and the Qualitative Health Research Collaboration (QHeRC)

Students conducting health policy research have diverse backgrounds and may not have significant experience in health policy analysis. This forum sought to address this gap by focusing on qualitative methods.

The aim of this forum was to speak candidly with experts about the challenges, benefits and considerations of doing qualitative health policy analysis. Four guest speakers discussed different qualitative methods that they have used in health policy research, providing real examples of how they did health policy analysis. Presentations were followed by a panel discussion.

Guest speakers:
- Dr Anne Marie Thow, Lecturer, Health Policy, The Menzies Centre for Health Policy
- Dr Justin McNab, Research Fellow, The Menzies Centre for Health Policy
- Dr Jennifer Smith-Merry, Senior Lecturer, Qualitative Health Research
- Dr Allison Tong, Research Fellow, School of Public Health

Presentation (Dr Jennifer Smith-Merry)

Health Urban Planning and Design for NCD Prevention

Thursday, 11 April 2013

Every day we hear about the rise in rates of obesity, diabetes and the human and social costs of the so-called “non-communicable diseases” (NCDs). The alarming rise in these conditions has been largely attributed to the ways in which we live - the obesogenic environments that we have created. As such the solutions to these complex problems lies in the intersection between health, economic and social policy.

Students, early career researchers and young professionals were invited to attend a seminar focusing on the interface between the health sector and urban planning and design. We often hear about the need for multi-sectoral collaboration in order to prevent NDC’s but can be unclear how to do this in practice. The aim of this forum was to provide the opportunity to understand how the health sector can interface with urban planning and transport in an effort to build healthier communities.

Guest speakers:
- Michael Cullen, Urbancity
- Peter McCue, Executive Office of the NSW Premier’s Council for Active Living

This event was sponsored by the Sydney Health Policy Network, The Charles Perkins Centre and the Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network.
Staff List

Directors

- Professor Andrew Wilson, The University of Sydney
- Associate Professor Adrian Kay, The Australian National University

University of Sydney

- Associate Professor Jim Gillespie, Deputy Director
- Professor Stephen Leeder, Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine
- Emma Dupal, Manager
- Diana Freeman, Project Officer (MCHP and SHPN)
- Dr Joel Negin, Senior Lecturer
- Dr Cathie Hull, Clinical Senior Lecturer
- Dr Anne Marie Thow, Lecturer
- Dr Carmen Huckel-Schneider, Lecturer
- Dr Beverley Essue, Ian Potter Foundation Fellow
- Dr Justin McNab, Research Fellow

Honorary Appointments

- Honorary Professor Peter Heywood
- Honorary Professor Farhat Yusuf
- Honorary Associate Professor Paul Lancaster
- Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Dr Milton Lewis
- Honorary Associate, Dr Fred Hersch
- Honorary Associate, Dr Kathy Flitcroft
- Honorary Associate, Dr Lesley Russell

Adjunct Appointments

- Adjunct Professor Abby Bloom
- Associate Professor Christine Giles
- Associate Professor John Eastwood
- Adjunct Professor George Rubin, Director, Centre for Health Services & Workforce Research
- Adjunct Associate Professor Annette Schmiede

Health & Sustainability Unit

- Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri, Director
- Dr Si Win Tin, Research Fellow
- Emily Morrice, Research Assistant

Care Navigation (RCT)

- Natalie Plant, Research Officer
- Patricia Jonas, Research Assistant
- Kylie-Anne Mallitt, Research Assistant

Vision Hearing Project

- Dr Julie Schneider, Research Fellow
- Moira Dunsmore, Research Assistant

Research Students

- Adam Capon
- Shauna Downs
- John Hall
- Jennifer Hunter
- Angela Littleford
- Ashley McAllister
- Deborah Schaler
- Soraya Siabani
- Ghazal Torkfar
- Andrey Zheluk

Adjunct Associate Professor Annette Schmiede
Events continued

Research Associates

- Phillip Baker, National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health, ANU College of Medicine, Biology & Environment
- Dr Angela Beaton, Team Manager (Science and Animal Technology), Centre for Health and Social Practice, Wintec, New Zealand
- Dr Anne-marie Boxall, Director, Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research
- Kate Corcoran, Project Officer, The George Institute for Global Health
- Gemma Derrick, Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Spain
- Amanda Dominello, Senior Research Manager, Sax Institute
- Eliza Drury, Research Affiliate, Menzies Centre for Health Policy
- Dr Oliver Herbert, Research Associate
- Tony Ireland, PhD Candidate, Sydney School of Public Health
- Associate Professor Stephen Jan, The George Institute for Global Health
- Associate Professor Alexandra Martiniuk, University of Sydney Postdoctoral Fellow
- Associate Professor Sallie Pearson, Head, Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmaceutical Policy Research Group
- Belinda Reeve, PhD Candidate, Sydney Law School
- Sebastian Rosenberg, Senior Lecturer in Mental Health Policy, Brain & Mind Research Institute
- Dr Jennifer Smith-Merry, Senior Lecturer in Qualitative Health Research
- Professor Stephen Simpson, Academic Director, Charles Perkins Centre
- Professor Tim Usherwood, Westmead Clinical School

Australian National University

- Deputy Director: Dr Amanda Smullen
- Manager: Sarah Geddes
Directors’ Report

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) is the leading independent scholarly voice on health policy in Australia. It brings together scholars and practitioners with broad expertise in health policy, economics and health services research to produce high-quality analyses of current health policy issues, deliver annual public seminars, education programs and undertake comprehensive research projects. MCHP’s research program addresses four themes that include policies for health futures, serious and continuing illness, equity and governance.

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