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The Menzies Centre for Health Policy is going from strength to strength, ensuring a unique, evidence informed voice in health policy concerned with equity, governance, sustainability, health futures and health care for chronic and complex conditions. In addition we are developing some specific new areas. Areas that we are interested in researching include the extent to which new models of care for chronic and complex conditions are effective in the mixed public-private health care environment of Australia, the relationship between these and the new national disability insurance scheme, the complex interplay of physical and mental health and health care and its implications for policy and health system organisation and governance, and the broader social determinants of health inequities, with implications for public policy development and implementation.

Professor Sharon Friel has taken on the role as the Director of the ANU node of Centre. Sharon brings an international reputation in health equity with policy-focused research interests in areas of social determinants of health; global health; climate change; food systems; urbanisation and non-communicable disease prevention. Sharon is a co-investigator on grants with both Andrew Wilson and Dr Anne-Marie Thow in the Sydney node. So this will strengthen the Menzies’ depth particularly in the prevention and public health policy areas as well as contributing to the cohesion of the collaboration.

This report also introduces Associate Professor Adam Elshaug who has joined the Sydney node of the Centre. Adam’s interest in the policy aspects of value in health care and identification of waste (low value or ineffective health care practice) adds a new dimension to the Menzies’ interest in health governance. It also brings a new partnership for us with the support both financially and inkind provided by the HCF Health and Medical Research Foundation for his position and work. This reflects our intention to encompass more fully the breadth of the Australian public and private health care sector. When you include general practice, some 65% of health care in Australia is provided in the private sector, yet this has not been evident in much of the public and academic discourse in health policy. Given that 65% of all health care in Australia is funded directly or indirectly from public funds, the issues of value in health care are relevant to the whole sector.

In the period since the establishment of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy, the Australian scene has become much richer in the diversity of groups researching, publishing and thoughtfully commenting on health care and prevention policy. It was timely for us to review our strengths and direction and having done so we think we are strongly placed to continue to grow. Our approaches that include ensuring ongoing relationships with funders and providers of health care, helps ensure we are addressing substantive and real issues. For example, our ongoing engagement with service providers and consumers in Western Sydney directly links us into real world health equity issues. We expect this retuning of our general directions to become more evident in our profile over the next year as we seek opportunities to fund and progress these specific interests.

Finally we would like to bring to the attention of Directors the release of a new book co-authored by Associate Professor Jim Gillespie (Deputy Director of the Sydney node) and Dr Anne-Marie Boxall (who completed a PhD with MCHP, and is now Director of the Deeble Institute and an associate of MCHP) titled “The Making of Medicare”. The book is a detailed analysis of the political origins of Medicare and of the political machinations that led to its creation. It contains interesting insights into the contributions that Sir Robert Menzies made to a national health insurance scheme in Australia.
What’s New

July - August

- The Menzies Centre for Health Policy ANU moved in August to the Research School for Population Health. MCHP (ANU) will draw on the interdisciplinary work of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health (NCEPH); Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI); Centre for Research on Ageing and Wellbeing (CRAWH); Centre for Health Health Research (CMHR) and The Australian Centre for Health Economic Research (ACHER).

- Honorary Professor Peter Heywood and colleagues completed an “institutional assessment” of the HIV/AIDS control program in Indonesia. The report was accepted by the Indonesian government for printing and dissemination. The assessment was guided by the approach used by Elinor Ostrom and colleagues at the University of Indiana. As a result of Peter’s work on this assessment, the The Vincent and Elinor Ostrom Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis invited Peter to join them as a visiting scholar for 3 months (1 Feb-30 Apr 2014) to work with them and participate in the events of the workshop.

- Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri held a successful round table event on the theme of health & ageing on Thursday 18 July.

- Helen Trevena began work on a multidisciplinary project on food taxation with Anne Marie Thow, Shauna Downs, Alexandra Lobb (external) and Chris Mayes (VELiM). The group have worked on a paper on the best option for food taxation to improve health, taking into account nutrition, industry, economics, policy, ethics and epidemiology. This work contributed to an invited presentation given by Anne-Marie Thow at the Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society Conference on food taxation for obesity prevention in November.

September – October

- PhD candidate Ashley McAllister and her husband moved to Sweden on 17th September. Ashley is continuing her PhD under Steve Leeder’s supervision, and is now located at the Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm), working with Professor Bo Burstrom who leads the equity and health policy research group there.

- Associate Professor Adam Elshaug commenced his position as HCFRF Principal Research Fellow on Wednesday 18th September.

- New project: Negotiations to finalise an agreement between WentWest and the MCHP (Sydney) were under way. MCHP (Sydney) will work to deliver a research project that will inform the Partners In Recovery program. It is hoped that a research officer will soon be employed through MCHP (Sydney) to work with Dr Jennifer Smith Merry and Nicola Hancock at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

- Dr Mario D’Souza commenced the position of Research Officer (Statistics) for the Care Navigation NHMRC Project.

- Dr Jennifer Hunter has submitted a thesis by publication to the University of Sydney and has been recommended for the award of PhD.
**Staff Travel:** Dr Anne Marie Thow travelled to South Africa and Ghana in August for meetings and fieldwork. In Capetown (Aug 14-16), she met with Professor David Sanders, Dr Thandi Poane and Ms Lungi Tsolekile at the University of the Western Cape as part of an ongoing collaboration on regional food trade and diet-related NCDs in the Southern African Development Community (also with Dr Joel Negin). Anne Marie gave a presentation at the School of Public Health entitled “Trade, food and nutrition” which was attended by approximately 60 people – mainly from the University of the Western Cape, the University of Capetown and the National Research Council.

**Staff Travel:** Dr Anne Mare Thow also travelled to Ghana (Aug 16-Sept 2) and worked with Dr Reginald Annan (from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology) to conduct an analysis of an innovative trade policy which uses food standards to limit the percentage of fat in imported meat. Ghana has an ongoing problem with high rates of child undernutrition (approx. 35% of children are stunted) and also rising rates of obesity and diet-related NCDs (3.6% have diabetes) – fatty meats are of concern in relation to both under- and over-nutrition (ie. do not deliver much protein and are also high in saturated fat). Drs Thow and Annan conducted 30 interviews with policy makers and industry representatives in Accra and Kumasi, and administered a store survey. This fieldwork was funded by a University of Sydney School of Public Health Academic Development Scheme Grant, administered by the KNUST. They found that the policy functions practically to ban turkey tail and chicken feet imports into Ghana, and that enforcement has been supported by pressure from the health community. The percentages of fat permitted in meats were based on analysis of the fat content in local meats. This research project aims to assess food policies designed to improve the food supply (rather than consumer focused policies), and to inform public health policy makers in other countries about trade-compliant policy approaches to reduce low quality meat imports.

**Staff Travel:** Professor Andrew Wilson travelled to China (27 October – 2 November) as the Dean of Sydney Medical School’s representative in a delegation for the Division of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy. The delegation visited and made presentations in Beijing to the School of Public Health (PKUHSC) and the George Institute for Global Health. In Shanghai the delegation visited Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Public Health and Fudan University School of Public Health.

**Staff Travel:** Dr Anne Marie Thow will travel to Delhi, India and Geneva to complete two research fellowships over summer. Further details are provided in the Research section.

**Professor Andrew Wilson and colleagues in China**
Visitors

MCHP (Sydney) has had the pleasure of hosting several international guests over the period from June to November 2014.

Dr Ana Gil-Lacruz
Senior Lecturer (empirical health economist)
University of Zaragoza - Spain
15 June – 15 August.

Ana’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. Ana worked with Kirsten McCaffery from the School of Public Health and met with various members of the School and MCHP. Her report is available on the MCHP website.

Associate Professor Yan Yu & Yang Yuxuan
Visiting Scholars
Visit organized through the George Institute, China
17 July 2013 - 15 September 2013

Yu Yan her PhD student Yang Yuxuan visited from the George Institute in China 16 July – 30 August. They were from the Department of Public Health at Xi’an Jiaotong University and visited MCHP (Sydney) under a grant funded by the China International Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention network, hosted by the George Institute for Global Health at Peking University Health Science Center. The University of Sydney and Xi’an Jiaotong University are partner institutions of the University Health Science Center. Yu Yan worked on a project regarding medical students, under the supervision of Professor Stephen Leeder.

Assistant Professor Stefano Calciolari & Dr Laura Gonzalez-Ortiz
Date of visit: 15 July 5 August

Stefano & Laura visited from the Italian-speaking University of Lugano in Switzerland (known as USI). They met with MCHP and SSPH staff to work on developing an international collaboration with researchers around models of care integration. They worked on a comparative survey of aspects of care integration across case studies in Mount Druitt NSW and the Local health unit of Forli (Emilia-Romagna, Italy). The research included some interviews with stakeholders in Mount Druitt and the development and preliminary testing of a survey instrument.

Masoud Mirzaei – Honorary Associate of the Menzies Centre, visited from 12 August – early September to provide teaching to the Master of Health Policy program.

Anna Marie Hendriks
PhD student from Maastricht University, Netherlands
15 September – 11 December

Anna Marie is studying the development of integrated public health policies for the prevention of childhood obesity within local government. Anna Marie has been appointed as a Visiting Scholar to work at the MCHP on a project in collaboration with the Premier’s Council on Active Living (PCAL), directed by Peter McCue, to plan a process and outcome evaluation of the resource that PCAL developed for councils. The resource was designed to enable each council to integrate physical activity ("active living") into their Integrated Planning and Reporting strategy (which is an initiative of the Department of Local Government). Anna Marie’s research project will contribute to this project and she will work closely with Dr Anne Marie Thow.
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.

Current projects 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.

New Projects

• Australian food policy for future generations
• Health care in Thailand
• Healthy Urban Systems Collaboration
• Improving the food supply for NCD prevention in the context of continuing high rates of undernutrition: a policy space analysis in India
• Inequities in health care and health outcomes: The Role of Health Sector Reform Strategy in Nepal
• INFORMAS (International Network for Food and Obesity/Non-Communicable Disease Research, Monitoring and Action Support): Trade and investment
• Partners in Recovery: improving and evaluating recovery and system integration in mental health
• Policy Club @ ANU
• The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre
• The role of communities in health policy as a social determinant of health
• Towards a broader economic and social perspective on chronic disease evaluation
• Trade policy: maximising benefits for nutrition, food security, human health and the economy
• Value in Healthcare

Continuing Projects

• Care Navigation RCT
• Care Integration
• Centre of Research Excellence in Reducing Healthcare Associated Infections (CRE-RHAI)
• Childhood Asthma Prevention Study
• Chronic Illness Management in the 21st century: is universal access enough to protect the poor
• Comparing how disability income support is designed in Australia and Ontario for people with mental illness
Research continued

- Contemporary HIV & drug policy advocacy in the Russian Federation
- Development of an environmental health policy for nanotechnology in Australia (The)
- Engaging the public in healthcare decision making: quantifying preferences for healthcare through Citizens’ Juries
- Equity of access to health care services among Iranian immigrants in Australia.
- Food policies to improve diets and reduce chronic disease in India
- 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)
- Health & Sustainability Unit
- Health Economics Research, Modelling, Evaluation and Strategy (HERMES)
- Impact of trade policy on diets and health in Ghana (The)
- Initiative for Cardiovascular Health Research in the Developing Countries
- Is there a role for researchers to influence organisational change with regard to the use of Research Evaluation Metrics (REMs)?
- NSW models of care that reflect innovation in ageing and chronic disease management and their links to policy
- Patient feedback - improving health care safety and quality?
- Public-private funding and service delivery in the Australian hospital sector
- 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
- Taxation as a tool for improving diets and preventing chronic disease
- Trade, food and health in the Southern African Development Community
- Understanding and ameliorating the human health effects of exposure to air pollution from knowledge to policy and public health practice (CREAP)

Concluding Projects
- Developing a minimum dataset for use in an Australian integrative medicine clinic
- Vision-Hearing Project
New Research Projects

**Australian food policy for future generations**
This PhD research aims to identify the barriers and opportunities for developing and implementing food policy that integrates health and environmental goals. The methods used are based on systems thinking, document analysis and key informant interviews.

Contact: Ruth Kharis  
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**Health care in Thailand**
A series of equity studies have been conducted as part of the Thailand Health Risk Transition project. So far, these studies have focused on Universal Health Coverage system in Thailand, disabilities (hearing and vision), as well as more general analyses of the geo-demographic distribution of a variety of health outcomes and their social determinants.

Contact: Vassontara Yiengprugsawan  
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**Healthy Urban Systems Collaboration**
There is a recognised relationship between the urban environment and human health. The challenge for evidence informed policy is to better understand the broad impact of built environments on health, the elements within it that promote health, and build future neighbourhoods and communities that promote physical and mental health. This program of research is located in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and is a collaboration between ANU, CSIRO and ACT Health. The aims of the research are to:

1. Expand the conceptual understanding of drivers of urban health inequities to include complex and dynamic interactions between the natural, social and built environment;
2. Develop advanced methods, models and tools to investigate the interface between socio-spatial and socio-economic inequities in urban health risks and outcomes; and
3. Provide the empirical and policy-relevant evidence base on the relationship between urban characteristics and population health and health equity, to inform interventions.

Project partners: Sharon Friel (ANU), Charmian Bennett (ANU), Guy Barnett (CSIRO Ecosystems) and Cathy Baker (ACT Health)

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Improving the food supply for NCD prevention in the context of continuing high rates of undernutrition: a policy space analysis in India

Anne Marie Thow is currently undertaking a research fellowship at the International Food Policy Research Institute (Delhi office) on the potential to integrate policy approaches for under- and over- nutrition in India. Her project focus is on the opportunities and barriers for incorporating food supply policies for preventing NCDs into current policy action on undernutrition. Anne Marie will be conducting interviews with nutritionists and policy makers in agriculture, trade and finance during her time in India.

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Inequities in health care and health outcomes: The Role of Health Sector Reform Strategy in Nepal

This PhD explores the changing patterns of inequities in health care utilisation and health outcomes in Nepal. It assesses the health system and wider social barriers to health care utilisation among different social groups, and investigates how the Nepalese health sector reform strategy contributed, or not, to improved and more equitable health system performance.

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INFORMAS (International Network for Food and Obesity/Non-Communicable Disease Research, Monitoring and Action Support): Trade and investment

The International Network for Food and Obesity/NCD Research, Monitoring and Action Support (INFORMAS) is a global network of public-interest organisations and researchers that aims to monitor, benchmark and support public and private sector actions to create healthy food environments and reduce obesity and NCDs. The INFORMAS monitoring framework includes two ‘process’ modules, focused on policies and actions of the public and private sectors, seven ‘impact’ modules focused on key characteristics of food environments, and one ‘outcome’ module concentrated on quality of population diets. The Trade and Investment module aims to improve the understanding of the risks and benefits to healthy food environments and diets from trade agreements, and to establish an action-oriented monitoring framework.

Contact: Professor Sharon Friel
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Partners in Recovery: improving and evaluating recovery and system integration in mental health

Partners in Recovery (PIR) is an Australian Government program aiming to improve the coordination and integration of care for people with severe and persistent mental illness. PIR aims to improve the system response and outcomes by:

- Facilitating better coordination;
- Strengthening partnerships and building better linkages;
- Improving referral pathways; and
- Promoting a community based recovery model.

The Western Sydney Partners in Recovery consortium is led by WentWest/Western Sydney Medicare Local and includes six non-government organisations involved in the delivery of mental health services. This mixed methods study, funded by the Western Sydney Medicare Local, will work with the consortium members to evaluate the implementation of PIR in the Western Sydney region. It focuses measuring improvements (if any) in

- recovery amongst those who access the program.
- Integration of mental health and other health and social support services in Western Sydney

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Policy Club @ ANU

MCHP@ANU holds a policy club every fortnight, where those interested in health policy meet to discuss different aspects of policy making. Topics covered in the policy club this year include:

- Understanding policy process
- Theoretical, conceptual and methodological considerations in policy research
- My life as a meta policy intervention: reflections on how knowledge brokers can leverage research and policy networks to improve health policy
- Doing public policy research: update from the health equity PhD students
- Environment scanning in public policy: identifying short term opportunities to influence policy and long term reform agendas
- How government policy processes work, why things are hard to change, and chinks in the system
- The determinants of political priority for public health issues: agenda-setting in public health policy.

Contact: Professor Sharon Friel
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New Research Projects continued

The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre

The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre is a major initiative that will identify what works and what doesn’t in helping people make lifestyle changes to prevent chronic disease.

It will be pivotal to a united Australian effort to address this major public health challenge and will conduct leading research to help us adopt the type of programs and policies that make a real difference to people’s health.

The research the centre conducts will help us learn about what works in chronic disease prevention. It will also investigate how to get the best prevention messages out to the community and give health decision makers the best evidence on preventing chronic disease.

Funded by the NHMRC, Australian National Preventive Health Agency, NSW Ministry of Health, ACT Health, HCF and the HCF Research Foundation, the centre is managed by the Sax Institute in partnership with the Centre of Excellence in Intervention and Prevention Science (CEIPS). Professor Andrew Wilson is Director of the Centre.

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The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre @ ANU

Eating a healthy diet is a complex challenge, and encouraging such habits in an equitable and culturally sensitive way requires multifaceted approaches. In the ‘Systems Approach to Healthy and Equitable Eating’ project in TAPPC, we aim to establish the ‘HE2 - Healthy and Equitable Eating’ rating of the food system and current Australian food policy actions, and identify opportunities to align food policies that advance public health nutrition in an equitable way. The project will also develop a systems-based method to assess the level of coherence between nutrition goals and different National / State & Territory level government departments’ policies.

Project partners: Sharon Friel (ANU), Amanda Lee (QUT), Alan Shiel (CEIPS), ACT Health, NSW Health, ANPHA

Contact: Professor Sharon Friel
Email: sharon.friel@anu.edu.au

The role of communities in health policy as a social determinant of health

The aim of this PhD is to investigate how marginalisation impacts the ability of different groups (communities) in the PNG/Australia cross-border region to influence health policy and ensure sustainable health programs.

Contact: Tony Kiessler
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Towards a broader economic and social perspective on chronic disease evaluation

**NHMRC Sidney Sax early career fellowship recipient**

Dr Beverley Essue's research is focused on the fields of health economics, and health policy around economic outcomes for populations affected by chronic illness. With the support of this fellowship, Dr Essue will examine the impact of economic and social consequences of living with chronic disease in Australia and Canada, and review commonly used methods of economic assessment in this field and develop a measure to assess this impact. Dr Essue will spend the first two years of her fellowship at McMaster University, Canada, and will then return to Australia. Her research will help influence health care system policy, practice and research.

**Contact:** Dr Beverley Essue  
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Trade policy: maximising benefits for nutrition, food security, human health and the economy

This three year ARC Discovery Project is examining the implications of emerging 21st century regional trade agreements (RTAs) for food security, nutrition and health, and assessing governance capacities to deliver trade agreements that integrate economic, social and health goals. It is focused on the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement, a major RTA which is been under negotiation since 2010 and currently involves Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam.

Project partners: Sharon Friel (ANU), Gabriele Bammer (ANU), Libby Hattersley (ANU), Adrian Kay (ANU), Deborah Gleeson (La Trobe University), Ann-Marie Thow (University of Sydney), Wendy Snowdon (Deakin University, Fiji), Ron Labonte (University of Ottawa), David Stuckler (Oxford University).

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Value in Healthcare

Associate Professor Adam Elshaug commenced as HCF Research Foundation Principal Research Fellow and NHMRC Sidney Sax Fellow in the MCHP (Sydney node) on September 18, 2013. This follows a three-year stint in the US as a 2010-11 Commonwealth Fund Harkness Fellow based at AHRQ, then as a NHMRC Sidney Sax Fellow in the Department of Health Care Policy, Harvard Medical School. Associate Professor Elshaug focuses his research in the area of defining, measuring and developing policy processes to reduce low-value practices in health care - waste.

Since joining MCHP (Sydney) in September, Associate Professor Elshaug has been meeting and reacquainting with local and national stakeholders in his area of research, in order to consider and start planning for potential research and grant-writing collaborations and advisory relationships moving forward. Meetings have occurred with academics based in NSW,
Victoria, Qld and SA, local health administrators, federal Department of Health employees, and private health insurers. Conversations have also commenced with prospective doctoral candidates to work under Associate Professor Elshaug’s supervision.

Associate Professor Elshaug has also been continuing his collaborative work with international groups that developed while he was overseas. Specifically, he has numerous manuscripts under review or in development:

- **New England Journal of Medicine**: co-author on a research paper currently under review for work conducted with colleagues at Harvard Medical School measuring low-value care in US Medicare.
- **Medical Journal of Australia**: co-author with Harkness alumni on a debate article currently under review which compares and contrasts the US and Australian health care systems.
- **Pharmacoconomics**: Lead author on an invited review article under development which involves 6 international authors and focuses on disinvestment in the pharmaceutical arena.
- **BMC Health Services Research**: Co-author on a research article currently under review reporting outcomes of stakeholder engagement sessions with various stakeholders. This work emanates from The ASTUTE Health Study, a winding down NHMRC-funded project grant on which Associate Professor Elshaug was a chief investigator.

Now back in Australia, Associate Professor Elshaug has recommenced his role as advisor to government agencies who are interested in and/or conducting work in appropriateness in health care. For example, on October 24, 2013 he was invited to the South Australian Clinical Senate (SA Health) in Adelaide, presenting ‘Methodologies for Disinvestment and HTA: Is there evidence of benefit?’ and facilitating two workshops over the day. On October 28th he was asked to Canberra to meet with staff from the Dept. of Health’s Medical Benefits Division to discuss progress and plans for the Medicare ‘Comprehensive Management Framework’ reform program. Another meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2013.

Associate Professor has delivered two conference addresses since joining MCHP (Sydney):

- **Elshaug AG.** Through the looking-glass: Reconciling contrasts between the US and Australian health care systems. {Keynote} Menzies Centre for Health Policy 8th annual Emerging Health Policy Research Conference. Sydney, Australia, October 14, 2013.
- **Elshaug AG.** Levers for reducing low value care, international examples. {Plenary} AHWI (Uni Melb) Symposium: Why don’t we practice what we preach: Bridging the evidence-practice gap in healthcare. Melbourne, Australia, October 7, 2013.

In December 2013 Associate Professor Elshaug will deliver a keynote address in Wellington New Zealand, at the 8th Health Services and Policy Research Conference of the Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand (HSRAANZ). Immediately following he will travel to Boston in the United States to Chair a ‘setting the research agenda’ workshop attached to the 2013 Lown Institute conference on Avoidable Care. This will be followed by several institutional visits.

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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.

All data for quantitative outcome and process measures have been collected. Statistician, Mario D’Souza, began working on 30th September for 6 months, at 0.8 FTE. Mario will continue the work started by Kylie-Ann Mallitt.

Interviewing for the process evaluation is almost complete. Final participant interviews are being carried out by Justin McNab, with interviews of GPs to follow.

Natalie Plant has drafted manuscripts for outcome and process measures. Natalie is also heading a paper about the problems faced in running an RCT within the health service context.

Funding comes from NHMRC Project Grant 1004393, with monies budgeted to the end of June 2014.

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Care Integration

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.

As part of this work, 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.

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

The Centre of Research Excellence in Reducing Healthcare Associated Infections (CRE-RHAI) is an NHMRC funded research collaboration based at Queensland University of Technology focused on developing and investigating innovative and cost-effective strategies to reduce the incidence of healthcare associated infections in Australia. The CRE-RHAI is led by Professor Nick Graves and brings together a diverse group of experts from clinical and academic fields to work together on research that will translate into improved infection control decisions at clinical and policy level.

The CRE-RHAI research areas include:

- Modelling the transmission dynamics of multi-resistant organisms
- Assessing the impact of antimicrobial stewardship programs
- The cost-effectiveness of infection control interventions, such as environmental cleaning in hospitals
- The factors that drive decision making in healthcare infection control
- Improving the surveillance of healthcare associated infections in Australia

Professor Andrew Wilson is a Chief Investigator.

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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.

Publications

- Jan S, Essue BM, Glozier N, Lindley R, Li Q and Hackett L. Are rehabilitation services following stroke accessed equitably in Australia? Findings from the Psychosocial Outcomes in Stroke (POISE) cohort study. BMC Public Health. Accepted: August 2013

Conference Presentations

- 1. International Health Economics Association World Congress, July 7-10 2013, Sydney.
- 2. Emerging Health Policy Research Conference – The household economic burden of chronic illness in Australia, an under-recognised problem in Australia – Oct 14th

Engagement

- Invited attendee at the Emerging Leaders in Health forum hosted by PWC – 22 August 2013
- Advisor to Kanyini Vascular Collaboration reference group: Aboriginal chronic care model planning meeting - Adelaide, Oct 3rd 2013
- Panel member for the post-graduate research student annual review interviews, October 22nd

Contact: Dr Beverley Essue
Email: beverley.essue@sydney.edu.au
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 boundaries obviously 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 recently completed her final phase of data collection, having done 43 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. From October, she will be a visiting PhD student in the Equity and Health Policy Research Group at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. She will be also be providing policy analysis on the Research Group’s current projects.

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

Contemporary HIV & drug policy advocacy in the Russian Federation

Since the late 1990s, injecting drug use has fuelled 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.

He is aiming to submit in early 2014.

Publications


Contact: Andrey Zheluk
Email: andreyzheluk@gmail.com

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

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

The study lead by Professor Paul Scuffham at Griffith University aims to promote public engagement and quantifies preferences in key areas of relevance to the industry partners (Queensland Health and Southern Adelaide Health Service). 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. The study is due to be completed in 2014.

Contact: Professor Andrew Wilson
Email: a.wilson@sydney.edu.au
Equity of Access to Health care Services for Older Overseas-born Residents of New South Wales with Cardiovascular Disease

This study aims to improve equity of access to healthcare services for older overseas-born residents with CVD in Australia. More precisely, the study will be guided by the following research questions:

How access to care, health coverage and patterns of service delivery for older immigrants with CVD vary, compared with Australian-born citizens? What are the primary factors contributing to lower health coverage rates and greater access barriers among older overseas-born people with CVD 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

Contact: Ghazal Torkfar
Email: gtor2513@uni.sydney.edu.au

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 analysing 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

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 settings with poor resources, inadequate trained workers and fragile governance structures.

Contact: Dr John Hall
Email: John.Hall@newcastle.edu.au

Health & Sustainability 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 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.

Teaching

The University of Sydney launched a Masters course in Sustainability in 2010. RC developed the initial health component of this course, a unit of study (UoS) on Health and Populations and co-ordinated it for its first two years. Since 2012 she has co-ordinated this UoS with the Boden Institute. Dr Win Tin and Ms Morrice also teach in this course. The 2013 UoS has been successfully completed.
Projects
HSU’s three year World Diabetes Foundation capacity building project in the Solomon Islands is currently being completed and is on track to be reported on by the end of the year. This project has been successful in strengthening diabetes services and will report some tangible outcomes. This year, in addition to clinical team visits, and assessment of the quality of diabetes care, cost of illness and health system indicators, a national diabetes training program has been implemented to upskill the workforce and strategies to reduce lower limb amputations have been introduced.

One peer-reviewed journal article from this project was published earlier this year and a second article was accepted for publication in October.

HSU is conducting a review and analysis of aid policies, priorities, funding and partnerships in the Pacific, which was commissioned by the USyd International Office. The penultimate report has been reviewed by the International Office and the final report will be submitted in early November.

HSU is working with the Boden Institute of Obesity, Nutrition, Exercise & Eating Disorders under contract of ANPHA on the development of Evidence Briefs for obesity, physical activity, and sugar sweetened drinks.

Events
- Ruth Colagiuri and Andrew Wilson held a meeting of the NCD NGO group (heart, diabetes, cancer, kidney, and stroke) on August 1 to begin a process of formulating and progressing an advocacy strategy for NCDs in the Pacific and South East Asia. As well as the 5 chronic disease NGOs, this informal group includes the Nossal Institute for International Health (UniMelb) and the MCHP and is known as the NCD Initiative. A further meeting is scheduled for October in Melbourne.
- Ruth Colagiuri attended a World Economic Forum Roundtable hosted by the University of Sydney on health and productivity/workplace/workforce issues in August.
- Ruth Colagiuri attended the 49th annual scientific meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes in Barcelona in September.

Presentations
- Ruth Colagiuri gave three invited presentations at the annual Australian Diabetes Educators Association Conference, August 28-39 in Sydney ie:
  - a plenary lecture on the impact of the social, economic and physical environment on NCDs
  - a Symposium on grant writing and publishing with Jennie Brand Miller
  - a Meet the Professor session on the WHO Monitoring Framework for NCDs.
- Ruth Colagiuri made a podcast in September for the MJA with Dr Astika Kappagoda on diabetes and related NCDs as a national (Australian) and global public health problem - currently available on the MJA website.
- Ruth Colagiuri gave the invited presentation ‘Non-Communicable Diseases and Sustainability: Different Drums – Same Orchestra’ for the Charles Perkins Centre.
Research Projects continued

- Dr Win Tin and Ms Morrice both presented papers at the Menzies Centre’s Emerging Health Policy Research Conference in October:
  - Morrice E, Colagiuri R. ‘Coal mining, social injustice and health: A universal conflict’

Publications

Accepted

Submitted

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

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

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.

Contact: Dr Beverley Essue
Email: beverley.essue@sydney.edu.au
Impact of trade policy on diets and health in Ghana (The)

Anne Marie Thow is leading a collaborative evaluation of an innovative trade policy that aims to improve diets and health in Ghana. In the early 1990s, 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 and a collaborator from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Kumasi, Ghana) collected policy data during August 2013. The first manuscript has been submitted and the second is nearing completion.

Contact: Dr Anne Marie Thow
Email: annemarie.thow@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.

It complements his work in 2003-4 examining the macroeconomic effects of CVD.


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

Collaboration with Institute of Public Goods and Policies, Centre for Human and Social Sciences, Spanish National Research Council, Madrid. J. Gillespie (MCHP) and G. Derrick (Madrid/Brunel University).

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

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, Method and Results Chapters. Angela is continuing analysis of the data and has engaged an external consultant to assist her with the use of NVivo 10.

Angela plans to submit her thesis by December 2014.

Contact: Angela Littleford
Email: alit1367@uni.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 ACT Health, 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. Deborah proposed a new model for patient feedback management that has been accepted in principle by the pilot site. The new model comprises changes to (i) the complaint management process to include a tiered response to complaints based on risk assessment; (ii) change to the patient feedback data system codes to facilitate systematic analysis of patient feedback; and (iii) strengthened governance arrangements to strengthen the link between patient feedback and service improvement. Steps to implement the new model are in train with evaluation of the new model planned for mid 2014.

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

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
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

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.

Anne Marie presented preliminary findings from this policy analysis as invited speaker at the Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society Conference in October 2013.

Contact: Dr Anne Marie Thow
Email: annemarie.thow@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 met with colleagues in Cape Town to work on data analysis during August 2013, and preparation of the first manuscript is now underway.

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

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.

Contact: Professor Stephen Leeder
Email: stephen.leeder@sydney.edu.au
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.

A thesis by publication was submitted to the University of Sydney and Jennifer has been recommended for the award of PhD for this work.

Publications

Concluding Research Projects continued


Presentations

- Abstract – Patients’ concept of health that is more than the absence of disease. Research Presentation Day - Influencing Public Health Policy and Practice through the Next Generation of Researchers. University of Sydney, Australia, 2012.

- Abstract – Motivators for participating in, or supporting observational research. Research Presentation Day - Influencing Public Health Policy and Practice through the Next Generation of Researchers. University of Sydney, Australia, 2012.


Contact: Dr Jennifer Hunter
Email: jennifer.hunter@sydney.edu.au
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.

The project was completed with NHMRC at the end of June 2013. In the period since we have focussed on dissemination, distributing summaries to participants and preparing project reports for the partner organisations.

Conference abstracts submitted


Presentations completed


Schneider, J. Screening for hearing loss among older Australians with vision impairment: The Vision-Hearing Research Project. Menzies Centre for Health Policy, University of Sydney, 30th July, 2013.

Publications


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 University of Sydney

Three core units for the Master of Health Policy are offered in Semester Two. 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 5003 Analysing Health Policy (Jim Gillespie) (Enrolments 44)

This unit develops skills for the effective critical appraisal of health policy, and aims to familiarize students with the principles, and limitations, of evidence-based health policy and a broader understanding of its political context. This unit builds policy analysis and analytical skills by exploring policy design, implementation and evaluation. It looks at the methods and limitations of evidence-based health policy and the problems of integrating equity concerns when developing and applying health policy. The workshops focus on using and critiquing epidemiological and social science literature to understand and build the evidence base for policy, and on understanding the political and social contexts in which agendas are set and policies implemented.

HPOL 5007 Global Health Policy (Carmen Huckel Schneider, Anne Marie Thow) (Enrolments 84)

This unit explores the impact of globalization on health policy, and the way in which global institutions and governance shape health policy. It also investigates the potential to improve health outcomes globally through policy. This unit focuses on global health threats that transcend national boundaries; especially those whose causes or results transcend the capacity of individual states to influence, such as avian flu, HIV/AIDS and chronic diseases. We analyse the influence and power of institutions and actors in the development and implementation of global health policy, including the World Health Organisation, UNICEF, the World Bank, the WTO, the Gates Foundation and NGOs. We also investigate the governance of global health policy responses.

We saw a significant increase in the number of students enrolled in this unit (from 48 last year) due to cross-enrollments from the Masters of International Public Health Program.

HPOL5009 Health Policy Project (Anne Marie Thow) (Enrolments 14)

In this unit students develop a research project that demonstrates their ability to apply theory, tools and skills developed in previous units of study to a real life problem or issue where health policy can make a difference. This unit is a capstone project that provides students with an opportunity to further develop their skills in policy analysis and development under close supervision of an allocated academic mentor. By the conclusion of the project, students will have developed a complete policy proposal document including: a critical literature review; an appraisal of relevant evidence and possible options; an analysis of the environment in which the policy will be introduced; a communication strategy; and implementation, evaluation and accountability mechanisms. The project is delivered via an oral presentation as well as a final report.

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

Research Publications


Publications and Presentations continued


Media & Industry

- Russell L. Social gap: economic decisions can be fatal, Canberra Times, 24 October 2013.

- Russell L. Right holds Obama hostage, Canberra Times, 7 October 2013.

- Russell L. Explainer: what is Obamacare?, The Conversation, 30 September 2013.


- Russell L. Where are Australia’s public health leaders?, Croakey, 24 September 2013.

- Russell L. Small-target health policy gets off to a shaky start, Inside Story, 17 September 2013.


- McDonald K. ICT the biggest infrastructure challenge for health: Leeder, Pulse+IT, 9 September 2013. Professor Stephen Leeder is quoted.


- Russell L. The big health issues that are unseen and unheard, The Canberra Times, 28 August 2013.

- Medew J. Out of pocket and in trouble, The Age, 26 August 2013. Associate Professor Jim Gillespie and Dr Anne-marie Boxall are quoted.

- Gillespie J. Coalition health policy is all barbs and no risks, The Conversation, 23 August 2013.
Publications and Presentations continued

- The Election Nerds, 2SER, 16th August 2013. Professor Andrew Wilson joins the show. Listen to the podcast: podcast
- Can Asia Meet the Healthcare Demands of its Ageing Populations?, UNSW Australia, 15 August 2013. Professor Andrew Wilson contributes.
- Russell L. Unhealthy irony: system too costly for most needy, Canberra Times, 14 August 2013.
- Leeder S. Health issues at risk of being lost in election waffle, Australian Doctor, 7 August 2013.
- Grogan M. Say Goodbye To Bad Fats, MiNDFOOD, 1 August 2013. Shauna Downs is interviewed.

Conference Presentations

- Wilson A. Systems Perspectives on Prevention of Chronic Disease, New Minds, Fresh Discoveries - Our Public Health research, Sydney School of Public Health, University of Sydney, 23 July 2013.
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.

Past Events

Emerging Health Policy Research Conference

Monday, 14 October 2013, University of Sydney

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

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


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* was 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.

The Hard Work of Mixed Methods Research

Tuesday, 9 July 2013, The University of Sydney

Speaker: Roland Bal, Institute of Health Policy and Management, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam

Using examples of complex interventions, and mixed method evaluations of these interventions, Bal discussed the relative strengths and weaknesses of quantitative and qualitative approaches, and ways of overcoming the difficulties of integrating them. He concluded that the ‘real’ integration of qualitative and quantitative methods is hard work, and takes a lot of time, giving the example of bi-weekly meetings of the research team where raw data is shared and interpretations and analysis is trashed out, perhaps bringing in information and data from other parts of the project to resolve contested interpretations
### Staff List

#### Directors
- Professor Andrew Wilson, The University of Sydney
- Professor Sharon Friel, The Australian National University

#### University of Sydney
- Associate Professor Jim Gillespie, Deputy Director
- Professor Stephen Leeder, Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine
- Associate Professor Adam Elshaug, HCF Research Foundation Principal Research Fellow
- Emma Dupal, Manager
- Diana Freeman, Project Officer (MCHP and SHPN)
- Dr Anne Marie Thow, Lecturer
- Dr Carmen Huckel-Schneider, Lecturer
- Dr Beverley Eissue, Ian Potter Foundation Fellow
- Dr Justin McNab, Research Fellow
- Sandie Tolliday, Executive Assistant to Professor Stephen Leeder

#### Honorary Appointments
- Honorary Professor Peter Heywood
- Honorary Professor Farhat Yusuf
- Honorary Associate Professor Paul Lancaster
- Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Dr Milton Lewis
- Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer, Dr Cathie Hull
- Honorary Associate, Dr Anne-marie Boxall
- Honorary Associate, Moira Dunsmore
- Honorary Associate, Dr Kathy Flitcroft
- Honorary Associate, Dr Fred Hersch
- Honorary Associate Kylie-Anne Mallitt
- Honorary Associate, Dr Lesley Russell
- Honorary Associate, Dr Julie Schneider

#### 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
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- 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

- Laura Ford, Research Assistant
Appendix - Analysis of Dr Lesley Russell's Papers on the University of Sydney e-scholarship website

Since May-June 2013, Dr Lesley Russell's papers and analyses prepared and made public as work done for the Menzies Centre for Health Policy during her time as the Menzies Foundation Fellow and later as a Research Associate, have been listed on the University of Sydney e-scholarship website. This has enabled the gathering of statistical information about how often these documents are accessed and downloaded and the countries of origin of these website searches. It is interesting to note that more than 50% of these searches are from countries other than Australia.

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