

## Guest editorial: Raising the bar on Indigenous quality of care at the Lowitja Institute



**Professor Ian Anderson,  
Director of Research and  
Innovation, The Lowitja  
Institute**

Improving the standard of primary health care for First Australians is a key priority at the Lowitja Institute, Australia's National Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research. Community controlled health organisations are among our core research partners, and one of our three research program areas – Healthy Start, Healthy Life (Program 1) – has a particular focus on supporting efforts to lift the performance of community controlled health care providers. Success in this area will have a major beneficial impact on current efforts to close the gap in Indigenous health outcomes.

Two relevant and inter-related projects are already underway:

- ⇒ a workforce development package auspiced through the One21seventy National Centre for Quality Improvement in Indigenous Primary Health Care to support the delivery of high-quality care through the community controlled sector
- ⇒ support for the ABCD National Research Partnership, a NHMRC-funded initiative which works alongside One21seventy to undertake in-depth research on the local and regional factors that influence quality of care.

Brisbane-based One21seventy <[www.one21seventy.org.au](http://www.one21seventy.org.au)> was established in 2009 to continue and expand on the work of the long-running Audit and Best Practice for Chronic Disease (ABCD) project originally supported by our predecessor organisation, the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health. There are now 162 health centres around Australia registered to use One21seventy's continuous quality improvement process, which includes audit tools and other quality improvement facilitation services. With the support of the Lowitja Institute, One21seventy is also in the midst of delivering training to staff in participating health centres

to enable them to use One21seventy products and services at the highest level. Some 235 primary health care staff received training during 2010 and courses are ongoing.

Meanwhile, the ABCD National Partnership is examining variations in quality of care through extensive analysis of qualitative and quantitative data collected by One21seventy-registered health services. In each participating State and Territory the project brings together the peak Aboriginal community controlled health service body, the relevant health department and a lead research institution to provide support for the development of research capacity in community health services. So far 12 health services have joined up with pending membership from many more across Australia.

The Lowitja Institute also plays a general brokerage role for mainstream health organisations wishing to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care providers, either in research or in the delivery of services. With our extensive networks throughout the health and research sectors and a 14-year record of research excellence, there is no other organisation better placed to do this vital work. <[www.lowitja.org.au/](http://www.lowitja.org.au/)>

Even better than last year: 2011 PHC Research Conference	2-3
Roadmap Of Australian primary health care Research	4
ReportWatch: The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: an overview 2011	4
Medicare Locals, progressing	5
AGPN National Stakeholder Roundtable	5
Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group	6
APHCRI update	6
Snapshot of Australian primary health care research 2011	7
PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative	7-11
BookWatch: Primer for health research: Design and basic statistics	11

**PHC RIS Assist  
1800 025 882  
[www.phcris.org.au](http://www.phcris.org.au)**

# Even better than last year: the 2011 PHC Research Conference

## Inspirations, collaborations, solutions

### Ellen McIntyre, PHC RIS

More than 145 speakers and over 130 posters were presented at this premier conference in Brisbane last month. Five hundred delegates including a strong contingent from New Zealand were actively involved in the presentations, workshops, symposia, meetings and discussions throughout the three days. Networking was once again a key feature. The well-paced program and friendly atmosphere enabled delegates to discuss the content of what was presented, to debate general primary health care issues and to obtain valuable input to their work.

Dr Dame Claire Bertschinger, Director for Diploma in Tropical Nursing, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the opening plenary keynote speaker, was inspiring in describing how she was able to make a difference. She set the scene for the Conference by encouraging us to be the change we want to see. The many stories she told can be found in her book *Moving Mountains*.

Professor Kim Bennell, Director of the multidisciplinary Centre for Health, Exercise and Sports Medicine, University of Melbourne, was excellent in providing a comprehensive overview of the possible interactions and integrations of research and practice demonstrating how inspirations and collaborations can work together to produce solutions to our current health issues.

Prominent throughout the Conference were the many meetings, conversations and presentations relating to health reform matters such as the research being undertaken by newly formed Centres of Research Excellence and the establishment of Medicare Locals across the country. There was no lack of topics for conversation.

With the 2012 Conference aimed for 18-20 July in Canberra, planning is already underway. It may be cold in Canberra in July but this will be a hot conference! We look forward to seeing you there.



Abstracts, presentations and posters (where author permission has been given) are available at [www.phcris.org.au/conference/browse.php?catid=1259](http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/browse.php?catid=1259)

An evaluation report will soon be available from: [www.phcris.org.au/conference/2011/](http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2011/)

## AWARDS

### AAAPC Distinguished Paper

Nicholas Zwar, University of New South Wales, *A cluster randomised controlled trial of nurse and General Practitioner partnership for care of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease*

### AAAPC Best First Time Presenter

Chelsea Bond, Inala Indigenous Health Service, *"It had to be my choice" Indigenous smoking cessation and negotiations of risk, resistance and resilience*

**Australian Journal of Primary Health Prize** for best research paper or symposium relevant to the interest of the journal.

Chelsea Bond, Geoffrey Spurling, Noel Hayman, Deborah Askew, Inala Indigenous Health Service, *"It had to be my choice" Indigenous smoking cessation and negotiations of risk, resistance and resilience*

### PHC RIS Best Poster

Catriona Bradshaw, Marie Pirotta, Jane Hocking, Suzanne Garland, Deb De Guigand, Glenda Fehler, Andrea Morrow, Sandra Walker, Lenka Vodstrcil, Christopher Fairley, University of Melbourne, *Randomized placebo controlled trial (RCT) of oral metronidazole plus either vaginal clindamycin or an oestrogen-containing vaginal probiotic for the treatment of bacterial vaginosis (BV)*



Nick Zwar,  
AAAPC  
Distinguished  
Paper



Chelsea Bond  
AAAPC Best  
First Time  
Presenter &  
Australian Journal  
of Primary Health  
Prize



# 2011 PHC Research Conference: Inspirations, collaborations, solutions



*Keynote speakers, Professor Kim Bennell, & Dr Dame Claire Bertschinger*



*The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Mental Health and Ageing*



*Paul Glaziou receives the AAAPC's Bridges-Webb Medal from last year's winner, Mark Harris*



*Diane Walker, Gail Garvey & Alison Laycock, launching the Lowitja Institute's new publication Researching Indigenous health a practical guide for researchers*



*A full plenary session at the Conference*



*Viewing posters at the Poster Reception*



*Stilt walker leading delegates to the Conference dinner*



# Roadmap Of Australian primary health care Research (ROAR)

Mikaela Lawrence & Christina Hagger,  
PHC RIS

## Is your Research Profile on ROAR?

Since 2005 primary health care researchers have listed their profiles, projects and publications on this searchable web-based interface. They are drawn by the ease of collaborative opportunities as well as the opportunity to promote their work in primary health care to both policy makers and their peers.

Research profiles include contact information, research interests, current research projects and publication output. Profiles can be browsed via an A-Z listing or by Australian state or an international category. Topic experts can be located by keyword searches eg. Indigenous, chronic disease or workforce. The Top Ten Researcher Profiles viewed for the month and the

Top Ten Profiles with publication output can be viewed on the ROAR Profile page  
<[www.phcris.org.au/roar/profiles](http://www.phcris.org.au/roar/profiles)>

ROAR projects is a searchable repository of current and completed projects in primary health care with over 900 projects currently listed. A project can be found by the funding organisation, keyword or from a researcher's profile page. As an example, a search for chronic disease retrieves 63 current and completed projects.

ROAR has many benefits for both the contributor and the user. It:

- ⇒ brings together Australian primary health care experts and projects
- ⇒ promotes Australian primary health care research by being accessible on the world wide web
- ⇒ identifies experts and their collaborators



## Roadmap Of Australian Research

⇒ enables researchers, policy makers, funding bodies and practitioners to identify and contact experts.

Submitting your research profile, your projects, and keeping your information current is simple. To create/update your profile on ROAR just click on the web-based forms available at <[www.phcris.org.au/roar/](http://www.phcris.org.au/roar/)>

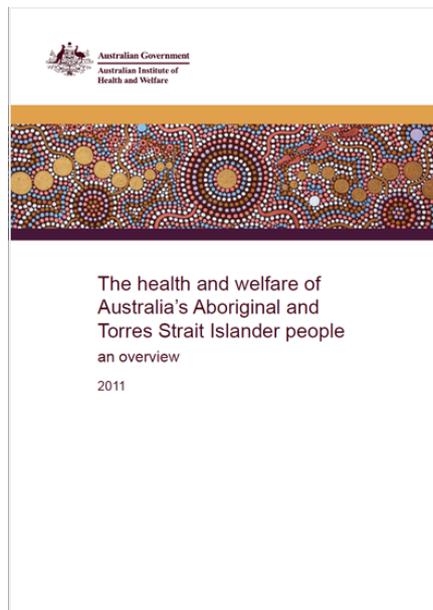
Do you want to know more about ROAR? Contact Mikaela Lawrence, ROAR Coordinator via [roar@phcris.org.au](mailto:roar@phcris.org.au)

## ReportWatch: The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: an overview 2011

Bradley Smith, PHC RIS

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare have released an updated summary of *The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*. The 140 page report is designed to provide a 'statistical picture' of health and welfare of Australia's Indigenous population, who are well known to experience disproportionate levels of education, employment, social disadvantage and health.

The report covers several areas, including demographics; determinants of health; health and functioning (including disease and injury); mortality; health across the lifespan; health and welfare services; and health care expenditure. For all statistics, differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians are highlighted (many of which are a focus of COAG's Closing the Gap program). This allows for accurate identification of



the gaps, and to ascertain the various factors that can be addressed to reduce Indigenous disadvantage.

Many areas of Indigenous health and socioeconomic areas have improved over the past decade, including infant

mortality rates, school retention rates, home ownership, smoking rates, and health care checks to name a few. However, even with substantial improvement, compared to non-Indigenous populations, Indigenous populations remain at a disadvantage. The report also flags areas that require urgent attention, including the prison rates, life expectancy, and obesity among women. In many respects, the 'gap' between Indigenous and non-Indigenous health is still wide open.

The report is available for download at <[www.aihw.gov.au/indigenous-observatory-health-and-welfare/](http://www.aihw.gov.au/indigenous-observatory-health-and-welfare/)>

**Reference:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2011). *The health and welfare of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, an overview 2011*. Cat. no. IHW 42. Canberra: AIHW



# Medicare Locals, progressing



**Dr Emil Djacic, Chair AGPN**

It is early days for the new model of primary health care that Australia is delivering through its Medicare Locals, but over time consumers, carers, GPs and allied health professionals will start to appreciate the subtle changes these new primary health care entities will deliver. <[www.agpn.com.au/media/Primary-Health-Care-Reform](http://www.agpn.com.au/media/Primary-Health-Care-Reform)>

While the reform pathways to establishing Medicare Locals (MLs) have presented challenges, the announcement that 19, not 15, first tranche MLs will be established from Divisions is testament to the strong primary health care platform that the Network brings to this significant evolution in health care delivery.

Furthermore, while the goals of the newly announced Medicare Locals are clearly aligned with Australia's First *National Primary Health Care Strategy*, all have also developed individual priority areas to focus on during their

early operational phase, reflecting a distinctive and locally tailored needs-driven agenda.

A review of these priorities<sup>i</sup> demonstrates a common focus in several areas, in keeping with the need for MLs to embrace their new and extended mandates. These areas include:

- ⇒ engaging with a much broader range of primary health care stakeholders to develop better integrated, multidisciplinary, team-based models of primary health care
- ⇒ population health planning, data collection and needs analysis to deliver locally responsive services and to fill service gaps
- ⇒ facilitating and promoting the uptake and use of eHealth solutions across the primary care setting
- ⇒ prevention and health promotion strategies; particularly as they relate to chronic disease management



- ⇒ developing formal relationships with Local Health/Hospital Networks and community and aged care stakeholders to ensure a coordinated continuum of care through the health system.

Australia is truly turning a new leaf in the way it conceptualises and delivers health care in this country, and it is an exciting time for all involved.

## Reference

<sup>i</sup> New individual Medicare Local priority areas can be viewed on the Government's *yourhealth* website. <[www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/mediloprofiles](http://www.yourhealth.gov.au/internet/yourhealth/publishing.nsf/Content/mediloprofiles)>

## AGPN National Stakeholder Roundtable

**Canberra, 29 June 2011**

**Attended by Amanda Carne & Rachel Katterl, PHC RIS**

Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) hosted a roundtable on 29 June to explore opportunities for engagement between healthcare reform stakeholders and Medicare Locals. Ninety-six registered delegates came from various national organisations, including Divisions of General Practice, State Based Organisations, non government organisations, professional associations and government funded bodies.

The objectives of the Roundtable were to:

- ⇒ inform national organisations about Medicare Locals in the context of the National Health Reforms; their objectives, organisation and the way they are being established

- ⇒ identify the value for national organisations and their members in being engaged with Medicare Locals
- ⇒ identify opportunities for engagement in the development and operation of Medicare Locals.

An early morning information session was held for participants who had little or no knowledge of Medicare Local objectives or organisation.

The Chair of AGPN, Emil Djacic, opened the Roundtable. Speakers included Megan Morris, Acting Deputy Secretary of the Primary and Ambulatory Care Division of the Department of Health and Ageing) who highlighted the Department's vision for Medicare Locals. Claire Hewat, Chair of the National Primary Health Care Partnership, delivered a presentation on the value of engagement with Medicare Locals for national organisations and their members. Question and answer time was allowed after each session.

The afternoon of activities included a panel discussion with Medicare Locals and national, professional and industry organisations who identified the purpose of engagement, how it will help to meet Medicare Local strategic objectives, and the challenges and opportunities encountered throughout the engagement process.

To wrap up the day, group work activity focused on how best to address barriers to effective engagement through offering ideas. Delegates identified a need to have a greater overview of the function and detail of Medicare Locals in a format that is coherent, accurate, and concise. AGPN will be producing a report focusing on the outcomes from the Stakeholder Roundtable in the near future.



# Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4)

Katie Shaw, Research & Communication Coordinator

## PC4 Bolsters Cancer Research in Primary Care

PC4 is the Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group funded by Cancer Australia to 2013 to develop cancer research in primary care. Since 2009 PC4 has mentored researchers, facilitated international collaborations, and bolstered research capacity for its growing portfolio of cancer clinical trials.

To balance its scope across the cancer continuum, PC4 recently formed three Scientific Working Groups in: Prevention and Early Diagnosis, Shared Care and Survivorship, and End-of-Life Care.

In order to build capacity and partnerships for its members, PC4's aims and activities are to:

- ⇒ foster patient-centred research: PC4 established its Joint Consumer Advisory Group in partnership with the Psycho-Oncology Co-operative Research Group (PoCoG)
- ⇒ enable the development of pre-trial studies: Concept Development Workshops provide new investigators a forum for expert feedback
- ⇒ provide specialist research services: Members have access to experts at Cancer Australia's Clinical Trial Development Unit and Chair in Quality of Life, and the Cancer Research Economics Support Team
- ⇒ up-skill and train researchers: PC4 conducts workshops on clinical trials in primary care and sponsors members to attend external educational workshops
- ⇒ mentor: The PC4/RACGP Training Award funds a new investigator each year
- ⇒ initiate research: PC4 developed a study on shared care follow up of



men with prostate cancer in primary care, *ProCare* (now funded by NHMRC), and aims to initiate future research.

PC4 offers its nearly 200 members assistance in developing research concepts, recruiting potential collaborators (researchers, health professionals and consumers), providing scientific and consumer review of proposals, and coordinating access to specialist support.

Registration for membership is open and free. To gain access to PC4's services, join on-line at: [www.pc4tg.com.au/-Join-PC4-.html](http://www.pc4tg.com.au/-Join-PC4-.html)

## APHCRI update

Robert Wells, Director, APHCRI

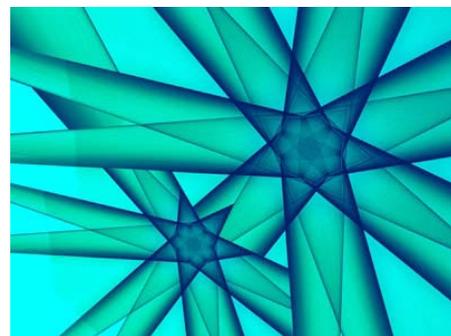
The first three APHCRI Centres of Research Excellence (CRE) in primary health care are well into their operations with contracts and partnership agreements in place, advisory committees established, research plans agreed and recruitment of staff underway.

The CRE network has been established involving APHCRI, the three initial CREs, Primary Health Care Research and Information Service, Health Workforce Australia and the Department of Health and Ageing. The agenda of issues includes shared approaches to higher degree research training, recruitment of academic staff and approaches to improved communications across the network. The 2011 Primary Health Care Research Conference included a session on the work of the first three CREs.

Twenty-nine applications have been received for the second round of CREs and the assessment process is now underway. We plan to complete the process and have the Research Advisory Board's advice on the outcome available for announcement by October 2011. The new CREs will commence by early 2012 and will join the network.

APHCRI opened a new 18-month funding stream on 20 June for research into the needs of vulnerable groups and more innovative system responses to meeting their needs. For this stream a new funding approach is being implemented with short expressions of interest called in the first instance. Selected candidates will then be invited to submit full applications by 2 September. For more details visit the APHCRI website and follow the *Coordination and the Vulnerable Consumer Health Care Research* link at [www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/](http://www.anu.edu.au/aphcri/)

In April APHCRI organised two training workshops for researchers on consumer participation in research. The



workshops consisted of practical tools, methods and exercises to encourage participants to think critically about consumer involvement in research. The feedback from participants was extremely positive and researchers reported that they have had a 'paradigm shift' in the way they think about their research. For useful resources on consumer involvement visit *Involving People in Research* [www.involvingpeopleinresearch.org.au/](http://www.involvingpeopleinresearch.org.au/)

*Ed: Also see PHC RIS infoByte: Involving consumers in your research written in collaboration with the Health Issues Center* [www.phcris.org.au/infobytes/consumer\\_participation.php](http://www.phcris.org.au/infobytes/consumer_participation.php)



# Snapshot of Australian primary health care research 2011

## Belinda Lunnay, PHC RIS

*Snapshot of Australian primary health care research 2011* was released at the annual PHC Research Conference in Brisbane last month by the Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Mental Health and Ageing.

*Snapshot 2011* is the fourth in a series of national publications showcasing outstanding primary health care (PHC) research funded under the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) Strategy.

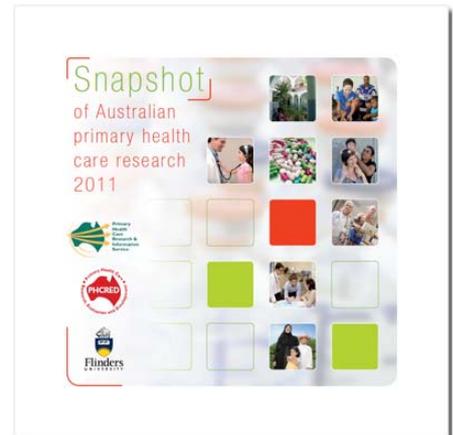
*Snapshot 2011* includes the work of researchers receiving funds through the many components of the PHCRED Strategy (eg. early career participants of the Research Development Program, Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI) fund holders, NHMRC project grant recipients, and others). They have undertaken larger studies as well as smaller local studies, demonstrating that the whole continuum of research is needed to influence primary health care policy and practice.

*Snapshot 2011* focuses on research that seeks to identify and optimise access to best practice primary health care and improve Australian's

experience of their health care system. Projects that present evidence-based strategies for achieving practice change and building research capacity are featured alongside research stories that outline the feasibility of interventions and the requisites for quality improvement.

Elizabeth Comino and her team's story, for example, features the results of a systematic review that examined strategies to enhance access to best practice primary care. This important work supported by APHCRI stream funding emphasises the significance of flexible care delivery models and engaging other primary care disciplines in multidisciplinary care teams to provide more accessible chronic disease management and preventive care. It provides practical insight into interventions to engage both providers and patients in primary health care.

I-Hao Cheng and his team's story takes a more specific approach to targeting improvement in access by focusing on one of Australia's primary health care disadvantaged groups – refugees and asylum seekers. Through a systematic literature review supported by a Research Capacity Building Initiative Grant, this policy-relevant work



presents evidence that focused clinical education and specific primary health care policies, systems and financing structures are all necessary steps toward better services for refugees and asylum seekers at a local practice level.

New to *Snapshot 2011* is a link to further information on each featured researcher and research project accessible via their ROAR profile page.

View *Snapshot 2011* on-line at <[www.phcris.org.au/snapshot/2011](http://www.phcris.org.au/snapshot/2011)> or a limited number of FREE hard copies are available from PHC RIS Assist on 1800 025 882.

## PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative

### GENERAL PRACTICE AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH UNIT

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME, FREMANTLE



Dr Dana Hince  
Research Officer  
P: 08 9433 0601  
E: [dana.hince@nd.edu.au](mailto:dana.hince@nd.edu.au)

#### Returning research officer

I re-joined the General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Unit at The University of Notre Dame Fremantle in March 2011 after a two years absence, during which I had a baby girl and broadened my career

focus in other areas. My role with the Unit involves assisting with the completion of a number of ongoing research projects as well as facilitating manuscript preparation and publication of completed studies. Some of the topics covered were as diverse as prostate cancer, multi-morbidity and sexually transmitted diseases in the primary care setting.

The research undertaken at Notre Dame has added to the body of knowledge in the respective fields in addition to providing research skill learning opportunities for RDP Fellows, GPs and practice nurses. I include myself in the list of those who have benefited from this endeavour to increase research capacity – with a PhD in behavioural neuroscience and research experience in psychopharmacology I have been able



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NOTRE DAME**  
A U S T R A L I A

to apply, but importantly have learned to adapt, my skills to primary care questions.

Loss of PHCRED funding is likely to significantly impact on the General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Unit due to the early stage of our development. We would like to be in a position to continue to build on the establishment funding to deliver our unique flavour of primary care research collaboration into the future.

# PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative

## PHCRED TRI-STATE

### FLINDERS UNIVERSITY



Marnie Joyce  
PHCRED Tri-State  
Coordinator  
P: 08 7221 8535  
E: marnie.joyce  
@flinders.edu.au

### Celebrating a decade of research capacity building

The 2011 PHCRED Tri-state Annual Conference (15-16 September) is an exciting opportunity for all those in the primary health care sector to network and share research in a collegiate environment. This year's Conference will be a celebration of ten years of research capacity building, with participation by both early, mid career and experienced researchers. The

Conference is also open to allied health professionals, GPs, policy makers, consumers and students.

PHCRED Directors from the five university departments across South Australia, Victoria and Northern Territory will discuss the highlights of their research programs. There will be a panel discussion and a workshop. Short presentations and posters will be judged by peers with the best prizes awarded by Steve Georganas MP, Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Health and Ageing.

A highlight will be the Conference dinner, to be held at the Adelaide Zoo on the first evening. Participants can meet immediately prior to the dinner for a 'zoo walk', and watch the feeding of the tigers from the safety of the other side of the fence. The zoo is set adjacent to the Botanic Gardens.



Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this exciting primary health care event. The Conference itself will be held in The Education Centre in Hindmarsh, close to the city centre. Conference registration (\$110) includes the two days and the Conference dinner, with additional dinner tickets \$55 each. For registration details please go to <[www.phcredtristate.org.au/conference](http://www.phcredtristate.org.au/conference)>

## DISCIPLINE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

### UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Susan Goode  
PHCRED Coordinator  
P: 02 4968 6737  
E: susan.goode@newcastle.edu.au

### RDPs 2011

In 2011, the Newcastle University Discipline of General Practice has three Researcher Development Program (RDP) fellows each funded for one day a week.

#### Roanne Morris

I am currently employed part-time by the Discipline as a research nurse working on a TIA (Transient Ischemic Attack) pilot study aimed at identifying new cases of TIA/minor stroke via general practices and then following up these cases to observe interaction within the health system and other patient outcomes over time.

The RDP will enable me to undertake my own research project exploring the barriers and drivers to the implementation of this pilot project in the primary care setting. The RDP will further develop valuable research skills

and knowledge. I am also currently enrolled in a Masters of Public Health.  
E: roanne.morris@newcastle.edu.au

#### Laura Juratowitch

I have been involved in health as a Quality Analyst, developing strategies for various aspects of data collection in a tertiary health care setting.

My RDP fellowship project is based on public attitudes to testing for dementia; a condition which will shape the working lives of my generation. This project is in the early stages of developing the study protocol and determining the data collection tools.

A large part of my fellowship experience is exposure to ongoing research and researchers within primary care while I formalise my skills. I am currently enrolled in a Graduate Diploma of Clinical Epidemiology.  
E: laura.juratowitch@newcastle.edu.au



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA

#### Paula Convery

I am in my second year as an RDP Fellow. My focus this year is an opportunity to enhance my qualitative research skills through involvement in the *Nurse Led Dementia Screening in General Practice Project*. This project provides an avenue to further develop my skills in primary health care systems research, a natural progression for me having previously worked in health promotion systems research in remote Indigenous communities. My focus is exploring an expanded role for nurses in early identification and management of dementia in primary care using a participatory action research approach.  
E: paula.convery@newcastle.edu.au



Roanne Morris & Laura Juratowitch



Paula Convery

# PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative

## DISCIPLINE OF GENERAL PRACTICE

### UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Amanda Rosso Buckton  
PHCRED Program Manager  
P: 02 9556 7211  
E: amanda.rossobuckton@sydney.edu.au

#### PHCRED Program Update

I have recently taken up this position from Raechelle Rubenstein who I would like to thank for her excellent work in managing the project over the last five years. Raechelle brought a high level of research experience and management skills to the program, much appreciated by those who worked with her. We wish her well in her future role.

My background is in anthropology and mental health nursing. I have experience in ethnographic research, qualitative health research and cultural studies. My research interests are culture and health. I look forward to working on this program and to a highly productive year of teaching and research activities.

## UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR RURAL HEALTH, NORTH COAST

### UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



Deborah Donoghue  
PHCRED Coordinator,  
Research fellow – grants,  
PhD scholar  
P: 02 6620 7330  
E: deborah.donoghue@ucr.edu.au

#### PHCRED capacity building at the UCRH

##### Introducing our 2011 RDP

Judy Singer's project, *Complementary therapies in primary health care: a pilot scoping study*, investigates the uptake of complementary therapies in public health care settings. Her study explores the rationale for including complementary therapies, and the factors influencing such decisions. She is mentored by Dr Megan Passey, Director of the PHCRED Program at the UCRH.

The PHCRED Program is pleased to have Ms Alex McLaren continuing this year. Her work on the *Evaluation of the Practice Health Atlas* is well underway. Our two new RDP Fellows for 2011 are Ms Marika Franklin and Ms Karen Hutchinson. Marika's project examines health practitioners' experiences and perceptions of the needs of siblings of children and young people with a cancer diagnosis. Karen Hutchinson's project encompasses a phenomenological analysis of people with brain trauma living in the community and the perception of their needs by health workers. All three of our RDP Fellows have successfully submitted abstracts for the 2011 PHC Research Conference. We look forward to hearing reports on their experiences at this conference.

The Youth Health Research Interest Group (YHRIG), a multidisciplinary research network supported by our PHCRED Program presented its annual Breakfast Session at the recent PHC Research Conference. This year's session was entitled *Research-inspired solutions for youth health guided by youth input: examples from the field*. YHRIG's new chairperson,

While the inclusion of complementary therapies (such as Western herbal medicine, massage, acupuncture and naturopathy) within clinical settings is a recent phenomenon, it is increasingly becoming part of mainstream health care. However, there is little literature about these therapies in primary health care settings other than general practice. This study forms the first stage of a project devised by Judy and



Judy Singer



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Dr Melissa Kang and former chairperson Dr Carol Kefford facilitated the session along with other YHRIG members.



**The guide for you on how-to!**  
**Information presented clearly and succinctly**

We've scoured the web and talked to the experts to design fact sheets that present information simply, clearly and succinctly.

Basically we've done the hard work so you don't have to!

<[www.phcris.org.au/factsheets/](http://www.phcris.org.au/factsheets/)>

a colleague to create a practical guide to inform organisations that have implemented, or are intending to implement complementary therapies programs as part of their service delivery.

Judy is a naturopath and has practiced in a variety of clinical contexts. For 10 years she was the Coordinator of the complementary therapies program at the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture, a multidisciplinary mental health service for refugees.

##### Introducing our 2011 PHCRED Coordinator

Deborah Donoghue rejoins the PHCRED Program at the UCRH coordinating the research seminars and other programs. She adds her extensive research experience to the team. Her own doctoral studies involve why clinical networks work.

# PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative

## DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



Andre Priede  
RDP Fellow  
P: 03 8344 3371  
E: m.temple-smith@unimelb.edu.au

### Diabetes and oral disease: implications for health professionals

I am currently working as a dentist in the Undergraduate Clinic at the University of Melbourne, and in oral health promotion with Department of Human Services Victoria. My area of interest is the relationship between oral health and diabetes, and for my PHCRED project I will examine the oral health knowledge and behaviours of people with diabetes.

On 4 May 2011 the New York Academy of Sciences and Columbia University

presented a symposium to increase awareness of the bidirectional relationship between diabetes and oral health, and to provide impetus for medical and dental professionals to collaborate in the management of a person with diabetes. I successfully applied through Diabetes Victoria for a *Gwen Scott Diabetes Professional Development Grant* to attend the symposium. The grant provides financial support to Victorian health professionals to enhance their diabetes knowledge and understanding, and to develop networks with other health professionals through participation in continuing professional development. Dentists, general practitioners, nurses and other health care professionals, as well as epidemiologists and other researchers attended the day. The topics addressed included the importance of oral health in the routine healthcare for people with diabetes, and the critical need for interprofessional patient management in the care of dental and diabetic patients.

## PHCRED WA

COMBINED UNIVERSITIES CENTRE FOR RURAL HEALTH UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Lyn Brun  
PHCRED Coordinator  
P: 08 9956 0200  
E: lyn.brun@cucrh.uwa.edu.au

### Capacity met for Grant Writing Workshop

The Combined Universities Centre for Rural Health, Geraldton recently hosted a very successful *Grant and Submission Writing Workshop*.

This capacity filled session was attended by many and varied organisations from the Midwest/Murchison district of Western Australia. Attendees included representatives from local government, not-for-profit, Aboriginal organisations and health practitioners.



Mrs Jacki Ward, CUCRH PHCRED Coordinator said:

*People were interested in attending this targeted workshop to gain skills in how to apply and succeed in grant and submission writing. We are finding that there is a need for rural and remote agencies to up-skill in these areas, but opportunities to attend such regionally organised workshops are rare. This event was so successful we are planning another later in the year.*



I was fortunate to meet with two of the speakers from the Conference the next day at the Columbia University, Dr Carol Kunzel and Dr Evie Lalla. Dr Lalla has recently published a study which demonstrated that patients could be successfully screened for undiagnosed diabetes and prediabetes by using information from a medical history and a standard oral examination.

The information presented at this Conference was directly relevant to my PHCRED research. I feel privileged, as a novice researcher, to have been in a position to be inspired by meeting these internationally recognised researchers. Thank you PHCRED!



### Interested in applying for research funding?

Check out the *PHC RIS infoByte*:  
Apply for research funding at:  
<[www.phcris.org.au/infobytes/apply\\_for\\_funding.php](http://www.phcris.org.au/infobytes/apply_for_funding.php)>

PHC RIS also has details of funding opportunities such as scholarships, fellowships, and grants for primary health care research in The Roadmap Of Australian primary health care Research (ROAR) see:  
<[www.phcris.org.au/roar/funding.php](http://www.phcris.org.au/roar/funding.php)>

# PHCRED Strategy: Research Capacity Building Initiative

## PHCRED QUEENSLAND



Denise Schultz  
Statewide Coordinator  
P: 07 3346 4905  
E: d.schultz@uq.edu.au

### PHCRED Qld in 2011

Statewide activities in Queensland this year include rural and remote research skills workshops, poster presentation at the PHC Research Conference, our annual fellows meeting and workshops, policy workshop and supporting a workforce summit in collaboration with peak primary health care organisations in Queensland. In our last year of funding we are keen to support activities and events that can continue beyond PHCRED.

Primary care professionals in Weipa and Cairns in far north Queensland will receive research skills training workshops this year, and follow up support will be provided by staff from Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health and James Cook University. The training will focus on the skills, tools

and techniques of project implementation.

Following on from PHCRED Qld's showcase event, the Annual Research Informing Policy Forum in 2010, a collaboration of Queensland universities conducted a rapid research review examining the impact of telemedicine on the primary health care workforce. Outcomes of the review were presented by poster at the PHC Research Conference in Brisbane from 13-15 July.

Approximately twenty 2011 Queensland fellowship holders will attend the annual fellows meeting being held in November to present on their research projects and attend workshop sessions to build on their research skills.

A policy 'expert' will facilitate a workshop around how researchers can



successfully engage with policymakers. Participants for this workshop will be identified from present and past PHCRED staff and fellowship recipients.

Also following on the Annual Research Informing Policy Forum, PHCRED Qld in collaboration with the General Practice Advisory Committee partners will hold a workforce summit to explore issues relating to innovative ways to support Queensland's general practice and primary health care workforce. This information sharing event will be held in October.



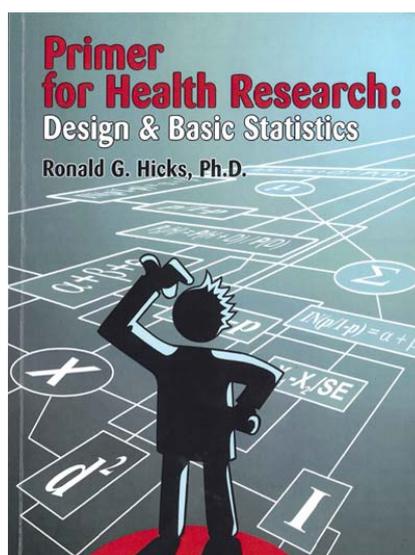
*Primary health care professionals, policymakers and academics come together at the Research Informing Policy Forum 2010*

## BookWatch: Primer for health research: Design and basic statistics

### Christina Hagger, PHC RIS

Disappointed at the evident lack of quality of experimental design underpinning conference presentations, Dr Ronald Hicks, an experienced health statistician, has sought to set out the basic requirements to ensure an adequate bioresearch design. His book is premised on the value of planning and forethought to generate an explicit question as well as a well designed experiment and thus ensure better results. As Hicks exhorts in the Preface – "Think first. Then collect data".

Early chapters in this short (124 page) book give an overview of the importance of randomisation, phrasing the question, kinds of measurement and the critical importance of describing goals in operational language. Hicks notes also the often political environment of research and



the importance of understanding both the explicit and implicit questions behind data collection. Another chapter

briefly discusses the scientific method and, as with all chapters, provides a list of suggested further readings.

The later chapters outline specifics of regression, factor analysis, cluster analysis and discriminant analysis. These chapters provide a reference point which is perhaps most applicable for researchers who already have an operational understanding of the field. An extensive glossary of statistical terms as well as some research concepts adds value to the text.

More information is available at [www.primerforhealthresearch.com.au](http://www.primerforhealthresearch.com.au)

**Reference:** Hicks RG. (2010). *Primer for health research: Design & basic statistics*. Spinoza Publishers



# Upcoming events

**29 Aug-2 Sep 2011, Sydney NSW**  
AUSTRALASIAN EVALUATION SOCIETY 2011  
*Evaluation and Influence*  
E: aes2011@arinex.com.au  
Web: www.aes2011.com.au

**29-30 Aug 2011, Vienna AUSTRIA**  
AMEE 2011  
*Inspire...and be inspired*  
E: amee@worldspan.co.uk  
Web: www.amee.org/index.asp?pg=206

**7-8 Sep 2011, Canberra ACT**  
GPET CONVENTION 2011  
*Measures of Strength*  
E: gpet@onqconferences.com.au  
Web: www.onqconferences.com.au/

**8-9 Sep 2011, Zurich SWITZERLAND**  
15TH ISHIMR 2011  
E: tobias.mettler@ishimr2011.com  
Web: http://www.ishimr2011.com

**15-16 Sep 2011, Adelaide SA**  
PHCRED TRI-STATE CONFERENCE 2011  
E: raelene.burnley@flinders.edu.au  
Web: www.phcredtristate.org.au/conference/

**16-17 Sep 2011, Graz AUSTRIA**  
EFPC CONFERENCE GRAZ  
*Integrating public and personal health care in a world on the move...*  
E: d.aarendonk@nivel.nl  
Web: www.euprimarycare.org

**19-22 Sep 2011, Perth WA**  
NATIONAL MEN'S HEALTH GATHERING 2011  
E: menshealth@pco.com.au  
Web: www.workingwithmen.org.au/

**20-21 Sep 2011, Floreat WA**  
WAGPN STATE FORUM 2011  
*Highway to Health: travelling together*  
E: reception@wagpnetwork.com.au  
Web: www.wagpnetwork.com.au/

**26-28 Sep 2011, Brisbane QLD**  
PHAA 41ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
*Sustainable population health*  
E: conference@phaa.net.au  
Web: www.phaa.net.au/

**29-30 Sep 2011, London UK**  
GLOBAL HEALTH 2011  
*Policy for sustainable and effective healthcare*  
E: events@bmjgroup.com  
Web: //globalhealth.bmj.com/

**2-4 Oct 2011, Edmonton CANADA**  
ACCELERATING PRIMARY CARE 2011  
E: primarycare@buksa.com  
Web: www.buksa.com/APCC/

**6-8 Oct 2011, Hobart TAS**  
GP11 CONFERENCE  
*Explore. Collaborate. Innovate.*  
E: GP11@saneevent.com.au  
Web: www.gp11.com.au/

**7-8 Oct 2011, Honolulu HAWAII**  
CROSS-CULTURAL HEALTH CARE  
*Collaborative and Multidisciplinary Interventions*  
E: mariachu@hawaii.edu  
Web: www.cchc-conference.com/

**11-13 Oct 2011, Dubbo NSW**  
4TH RURAL HEALTH RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM 2011  
*Sustaining Rural Health through Research*  
E: jayne@eastcoastconferences.com.au  
Web: www.rhrc.com.au

**11-14 Oct 2011, Perth WA**  
CRANAPLUS 29TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
*Supporting the full spectrum of remote health practice*  
E: business@crana.org.au  
Web: www.crana.org.au/200-2011-cranaplus-conference.html

**11-14 Oct 2011, Melbourne VIC**  
THE GREAT HEALTHCARE CHALLENGE 2011  
*Achieving patient-centred outcomes*  
E: healthcollab@arinex.com.au  
Web: www.healthcollab.org.au/

**19-21 Oct 2011, Rio de Janeiro BRAZIL**  
WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH 2011  
E: sdh@who.int  
Web: http://bit.ly/edL4Ts

**21 Oct 2011, Perth WA**  
2011 PHCRED WA RESEARCH CONFERENCE  
*Looking to the Future*  
E: lyn.brun@cucrh.uwa.edu.au  
Web: www.phcredwa.org.au

**24-26 Oct 2011, London UK**  
EVIDENCE 2011  
*Transforming healthcare*  
E: events@bmjgroup.com  
Web: www.evidence2011.com/

**28-29 Oct 2011, Gold Coast QLD**  
MEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES CONFERENCE  
E: info@gchealthconf.com.au  
Web: www.gchealthconf.com.au

**28-30 Oct 2011, Alice Springs NT**  
RURAL MEDICINE AUSTRALIA 2011  
*Rural Generalism: the future of sustainable medical services*  
E: acrrm@acrrm.org.au  
Web: www.acrrm.com.au/

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

**11 Nov 2011, Sandy Bay TAS**  
TASMANIAN PHCRED SYMPOSIUM 2011  
*Making a difference - building the health of primary health research in Tasmania*  
E: phcred.tas@utas.edu.au  
Web: www.phcred.utas.edu.au/

**12-16 Nov 2011, Banff CANADA**  
NAPCRG ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
E: pnoland@napcrg.org  
Web: www.napcrg.org/

**16-19 Nov 2011, Melbourne VIC**  
AGPN NATIONAL FORUM 2011  
*Transforming for success: Building on strengths, embracing partnerships*  
E: twong@agpn.com.au  
Web: www.gpnetworkforum.com.au/

**25 Nov 2011, Monash VIC**  
2011 VICPHCRED CONFERENCE  
E: anna.chapman@med.monash.edu.au  
Web: www.vicphcred.monash.edu.au/

**29 Nov-1 Dec 2011, Christchurch NZ**  
LIME CONNECTION IV  
*Medical education for Indigenous health: Building the evidence base*  
E: ryanc@unimelb.edu.au  
Web: www.limenetwork.net.au/

**5-7 Dec 2011, Adelaide SA**  
7TH HEALTH SERVICES & POLICY RESEARCH CONFERENCE  
*Opportunities for health services research: to inform, improve, and inspire*  
E: hsraanz@plevin.com.au  
Web: www.healthservicesconference.com.au/

**6-7 Mar 2012, Brisbane QLD**  
4TH PRIMARY HEALTH CARE REFORM CONFERENCE  
*International Innovation, Policy setting and Research*  
E: mary@yrd.com.au  
Web: //aphcricremicrosystems.org.au/news-events

**18-20 Jul 2012, Canberra ACT**  
2012 PHC RESEARCH CONFERENCE  
E: phcris@flinders.edu.au  
Web: www.phcris.org.au/conference



Funded by the Australian Government  
Department of Health and Ageing

PHC RIS infonet is printed bi-monthly by Flinders Press, Adelaide.  
Editorial team: Louise Baird, Ellen McIntyre, Fiona Hawkins, Bradley Smith

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

Primary Health Care Research & Information Service  
General Practice, Flinders University, GPO Box 2100, Adelaide SA 5001  
P: +61 8 7221 8520 F: +61 8 7221 8544 E: phcris@flinders.edu.au Web: www.phcris.org.au