

News from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine
 Newsletter #27; September 2005
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 October edition deadline is 3 October, all items to k.forde@unsw.edu.au

1. Recent Achievements
2. Learning and Teaching Award
3. New Appointment
4. UNSW Library
5. A Journey to Public Health Mecca – Geneva

1. Recent achievements

- Over the past few months staff in the School have been successful in securing research funds from numerous sources – apologies to anyone who has not been mentioned.

E Comino	08/04/2005	\$ 13,000.00	2004/2005	2005 Faculty Research Grant Program (FRGP) Equity of access to quality diabetes care: a case study using the 2002/3 NSW Health Survey
L Jackson Pulver, I Blignault, J Guthrie	08/04/2005	\$ 26,568.00	2005	Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation - Service Planning and Evaluation Project
M Eisenbruch	15/04/2005	\$ 25,000.00	2005	Australian Federation of Medical Women - Achieving gender and cultural competence by Australia's Medical Workforce
G Powell-Davies	15/04/2005	\$ 36,300.00	2005	Victoria Council on Fitness and General Health (VICFIT) Inc. Lifestyle prescription resource guide RFT060/0405
D Smith	05/05/2005	\$ 25,000.00	2005	RACP: Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine - Bristol Myers Squibb Scholarship for Dr D Chan A Study to determine the relationship between plasma HIV-1 viral load (VL) and seminal plasma VL and the risk of concomitant sexual transmission depending on treatment status
J Guthrie, P Dance, L Jackson Pulver	06/05/2005	\$ 27,273.00	2005	Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service (Act) Incorporated. Evaluation of the Substance Use Service for Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service (Act) Incorporated.
D Perkins	06/05/2005	\$ 9,000.00	2005	Shoalhaven DGP Better outcomes in mental health care evaluation
R Richmond	11/05/2005	\$ 546,240.00	2005, 2006, 2007	NHMRC 2005 Grant: A multi-component intervention for smoking cessation among Australian male prison inmates
M Harris	20/05/2005	\$ 128,604.00	2005	Commonwealth Dept of Health and Ageing Primary Health Care Research and Development (Additional funding 2005)
A Mant, S Pearson	12/05/2005	\$ 42,830.00	2005	National Prescribing Service P/L. The use of secondary databases in evaluation of health outcomes from the NPS/NHF/NICS collaborative initiative to improve management of chronic heart failure
D Perkins	20/05/2005	\$ 55,700.00	2005	Coast City Country Training Ltd GP and medical student training study.
M Harris, J Beilby, R Ruffin, B Pekarsky	20/05/2005	\$ 235,000.00	2004, 2005	University of Adelaide Shared NHMRC Project Grant Id#299024 Systematic practice-based asthma care in the Australian setting
M Gattellari	28/04/2005	\$ 20,000.00	2005	FRGP - The identification of management of symptomatic and asymptomatic non-valvular atrial fibrillation (NVAf): examining the evidence-practice gap amongst general practitioners in NSW.
S Pearson, E Lyn Tan, A Mant, C Ringland	27/05/2005	\$ 34,545.00	2005	Cancer Institute of NSW - Evaluation of Cancer Institute NSW Standard Cancer Treatment Protocols

A Bauman	27/05/2005	US \$24,500	2005	WHO ref C2-AHP-05-05 Preparation of a background document on the review, evaluation and guide on physical activity interventions for developing countries.
A Bauman	27/05/2005	\$ 9,500.00	2005	WHO ref C2-AHP-05-06 Preparation of a background document on the review, evaluation and guide on physical activity interventions for developing countries.
A Mant, S Pearson, C Ringland	03/06/2005	\$ 50,000.00	2005	Department of Veteran's Affairs - Investigation into the use of minor analgesics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) in DVA clients using administrative data
L Jackson Pulver, I Blignault, J Guthrie, A Clifford	08/06/2005	\$ 44,453.00	2005	World Vision of Australia: Agreement No: DP MoA001 Bringing Them Home - Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Cooperation Strategic Plan
M Harris, C Hobbs, G Powell- Davies (additional)	10/06/2005	\$ 454,000.00	2005/2006	NSW Department of Health - Community Health Risk Factor Management
A Whelan	10/06/2005	\$ 32,363.64	2005	SSWAHS - Communicating across language and culture in the health system
M Eisenbruch	10/06/2005	\$ 50,000.00	2005	Telstra Foundation - Telstra Community Development Fund - Cultural Competence in Promoting Early Childhood Development
D Long	10/06/2005	\$ 20,000.00	2005	FRGP - A project to examine peer support in six hospital - based health care professions.
M Harris, N Zwar, P Crookes, D Perkins, J Proudfoot, G Powell Davies	17/06/2005	\$ 450,000.00	2005-2009	Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council (AHMAC) Outcomes of multidisciplinary care in general practice
E Harris	29/06/2005		2005	Round 1 ARC Linkage Grant - LP0560285 - A randomised trial of early childhood sustained home visiting in a disadvantaged community.
M Harris, G Powell Davies (additional)	30/06/2005	\$ 175,000.00	2005	Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing Research, evaluation and development in support of primary health care policy and practice
L Jackson Pulver	01/07/2005	\$ 302,727.00	2005-2008	The Health Administration Corporation Otitis Media Community Awareness Services
J Braithwaite	07/07/2005		2005	2005 Round 1 ARC Linkage Project - LP0560737, Examinations of the relationship between accreditation and clinical and organisational performance.
E Harris, C McMahon, S Matthey, G Vimpani, T Anderson, V Schmied	15/07/2005	\$ 337,610.00	2005/2006/ 2007	NSW Department of Community Services ARC Linkage Industry Partner - LP0560285: A randomised trial of early childhood sustained home visiting in a disadvantage community.
E Harris, C McMahon, S Matthey, G Vimpani, T Anderson, V Schmied	15/07/2005		2005/2006/ 2007	SSWAHS - ARC Linkage Project Industry Partner - LP 0560285: A randomised trial of early childhood sustained home visiting in a disadvantage community
E Harris, C McMahon, S Matthey, G Vimpani, T Anderson, V Schmied	15/07/2005	\$ 45,000.00	2005	NSW Department of Health (Health Administration Corporation) ARC Linkage Industry Partner - LP0560285: A randomised trial of early childhood sustained home visiting in a disadvantage community.
C Finch, A Zwi	2005		2005-2009	NHMRC Capacity Building Grant
A Bunde Birouste, A Zwi	2005	\$ 13,000.00		Faculty Research Grant
R Richmond	02/08/2005	\$ 132,000.00	2005	Department of Health & Ageing Three year follow up of a randomized controlled trial of an intervention for tobacco dependence among those with a psychotic illness
D Perkins	18/08/2005	\$ 80,300.00	2004/2005	Illawarra Division of General Practice Department of Health and Ageing Subcontract - The Introduction of Electronic Prescribing in Residential Aged Care Facilities (Illawarra)

- In addition, the Centres for Primary Health Care & Equity is now an official research centre of the University .

2. Learning and Teaching Award

Two SPHCM staff are involved in project that has been awarded a 2005 Learning and Teaching Award. The project team, led by Eva Segelov from St Vincent's Clinical School, includes Leah Bloomfield (educational adviser) and Alix Magney (project officer). The project will implement and evaluate the "RIME" clinical assessment and feedback system, which was developed by Hemmer and Pangaro in the Department of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University in the USA. "RIME" refers to the observable elements of the student's clinical performance: "**R**eporter" "**I**nterpreter" "**M**anager" and "**E**ducator".

3. New Appointment

Linda Kurti has been recently appointed National Director of the Anglican Board of Mission—Australia (ABM).

Linda is currently completing a PhD thesis on faith-based international development agencies with SPHCM.

4. UNSW Library

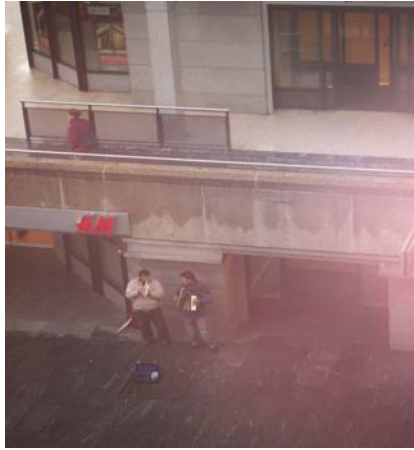
The Library is always interested in receiving monographs to add to their collection. Please send these publications to Suzanne Munro, Monographs Librarian, UNSW Library.

5. A Journey to Public Health Mecca – Geneva

Mary-Louise McLaws reports on a recent visit to WHO in Geneva.

After two taxi rides, three changes of plane and 27-hours of flying I found luxury in a typical European hotel room aimed at pleasing the weary researcher. The size of the room and the positioning of the bed is everything – according to interior design best practice the bed apparently must be close enough to the TV you can change channels with your toes, close enough to the bathroom you can brush your teeth from the comfort of the bed while watching TV and have the wardrobe close enough so you can undress and hang up your clothes all from the comfort of the bed – hotel architects are so ingenious!

From the first morning I found my alarm clock would become redundant, not because of my persistent jetlag but it was effectively replaced by the French piano accordion from the street below, at day break, followed by an organ grinder with a fluffy white cat (the protection laws for wild animal from the cruelty of listening to organ grinding doesn't include the domestic pussy cat!).



The Geneva that tourist know is closed in May and remains firmly shut until June 1, but wandering around while Genevans sleeps in was a beautiful experience - the Parc des Bastions, the old town, the original *Universite de Geneve* campus and the Lake were all full of history and cost nothing – that is until I needed my first latte at a staggering 5 Swiss Francs (AUD5.35) for the smallest size – sacre blu it nearly caused me to give it up!

Geneva was for a long time under the rule of the dukes of Savoy who treated the bishoprics as their own private property. The dawning of the C16th saw the Reformation take place in neighbouring Switzerland which gave the Genevans the impetus to rid themselves of the oppressive Savoyard influence.

Geneva won independence in a very short period of time - by 1602 it became "Protestant Rome". Influential Protestant leaders, Knox, Clavin and others are depicted in stone on the Wall of the Reformation in the *Parc Des Bastions* opposite the back door of the *Universite*. The Republic and Canton of Geneva remained outside the Swiss Confederation until 1815 and (as a result or independent from this action???) acquired a reputation for joylessness which apparently still sticks – this I find hard to believe as it is a city that shares its love of art and sculpture with the public everywhere – this is surely a joy?!

With the aid of jetlag and with the first meeting scheduled for the afternoon I had plenty of time for my passion - museums and any museum will do (except its May and



Geneva

is closed, right?). Well I was in for a public health Mecca treat – taking a bus to the United Nations where WHO is located I found the museum of the International de la Croix-Rouge. This and working at the WHO head quarters should be a mandatory entry requirement into the profession of public health – here the museum documents the origins of the Red Cross film, audio tapes but mainly with art and it is exquisitely presented. The conception of the Red Cross could be considered a chance occurrence – Henry Dunant, a Genevan businessman, on his way to meet with Napoleon III in 1859 saw injured soldiers from the both sides of the Solferino war (French and

Piedmontese soldiers fighting the Austrians out of the north of Italy) being left for dead. When he returned Dunant wrote "A Memory of Solferino", in which he proposed the States "*formulate some international principle, sanctioned by a convention, inviolate in character, which, once approved and ratified, might serve as the basis for societies for the relief of the wounded*". He so inspired several leaders of the time that they worked tirelessly to establish the International Committee for the relief to the wounded soldiers and drew up the First Geneva Convention.

The Red Cross has provided mankind with many important achievements unfortunately as a result of wars – including the important rights of prisoners of war and the rights of civilian prisoners of war who were not previously protected the Geneva Conventions. I could go on at length about this museum but I'd spoil it for you - (it opens Mon & Wed-Sun 10am-5pm; Sfr10; bus #8 or #F from Appia), I had thought WHO would be the public health Mecca, and so it was, but I defy anyone to loose their faith in human kindness after visiting the Red Cross museum. Needless to say the WHO meeting was a treat; I had the great privilege of working with 30 participants who gave up their time and traveled across to globe to develop a consensus document for *Clean Care is Safer Care*, although not a very sexy subject, we were to aim to transcend culture, religion and hospital resources to improve patient safety. Of course I purchased many kilos of Swiss chocolate – but I ate it before landing – as you do on a long flight.