

**\*\*\*News from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine; Newsletter #10, June 2003\*\*\***

Edited by Justine Brindle

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**1. Update from the Head of School**

The Vice-Chancellor's strategic planning activities highlight areas of emphasis across the UNSW Faculties. (see - <http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/forstaff.staffmatters>). The Faculty of Medicine is seeking the support of the University to fund junior and senior post-doctoral fellows, to support the development of the Biohub and new Medical School building, to fund the extra costs associated with introducing the new curriculum, and to promote a greater flow-through of funds derived from international student fees. A number of areas to which the School is committed received attention: postgraduate coursework, local and international research and teaching, linkages between research and policy and practice, and work in key areas such as population health, HIV/AIDS, drugs and alcohol, and social justice.

The School's draft strategic plan and key activities, responsibilities and timelines are available to view on the School website (<http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/forstaff.staffmatters>). Please have comments to Joan Burns ([j.burns@unsw.edu.au](mailto:j.burns@unsw.edu.au)) and copy to me ([a.zwi@unsw.edu.au](mailto:a.zwi@unsw.edu.au)) by June 30th so the document can be finalised and signed off. It seeks to specify our commitments - both current and strategically focused on the future - for the next few years. Please make sure that activities which contribute to achieving the overarching School objectives and promote our values receive attention through these documents. I'm especially interested to learn of what contribution you yourself would be willing to make to achieving these objectives - we will need to work collectively and to share the load to do so. The documentation would also benefit from inputs and ideas from our Centres - please feed these in.

The School has now launched its Career Development program - with a series of meetings and focus groups to identify how best to simultaneously promote gender equity, career development, and the objectives of the School. Comments on the draft School document on Workload balance (see - <http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/forstaff.staffmatters>) and career development are sought by Monday June 30th - to Tessa Ho ([tessa.ho@unsw.edu.au](mailto:tessa.ho@unsw.edu.au)).

New appointments - we've made an excellent appointment to take forward capacity building for research on indigenous health and are about to advertise a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer position in health management, planning or policy and a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer in General Practice and Primary care to replace Giovanna Zingarelli who we will miss. Watch the website. New appointments have also been made to the administrative team - with others to follow shortly.

Contact me with any comments, complaints, or tributes to staff or students in the School.

Anthony Zwi ([a.zwi@unsw.edu.au](mailto:a.zwi@unsw.edu.au))

## 2. From the Frontline

Well not much has changed since my last profile. I have moved from the inner city suburb of Glebe to Leichhardt, yes I feel like I am in the suburbs - children and dogs everywhere, Tali my cat is quite stressed which has resulted in him going into early retirement - if only I could?..

### NEW Staff

Welcome to Anne W. Bunde-Birouste who has been offered an appointment as visiting Fellow for next year.

Anne Bunde-Birouste moved to Australia in September 2002 to take on the challenge of building the International Health Promotion program for the Australian International Health Institute (AIHI). The AIHI is based in Melbourne, but Anne drives the program from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine of the University of New South Wales (UNSW-SPHCM) as one of the UNSW-SPHCM - AIHI collaborative initiatives in international health. Originally from the US, Anne's long experience in international health started out in Mauritania, north -west Africa, where she worked in a primary health care program with the US Peace Corps, followed by a term with USAID as Human Resources Director. Following a short time back in her midwestern US home state, she spent the next 17 years in Paris, France. Beginning as a pioneer in HIV-AIDS prevention at both NGO and ministerial levels, she then moved on to the position of Program Director for the International Union for Health Promotion and Education, the only global NGO in the field. She became well known internationally in this field for her work as initial developer and director of the Global Program. Anne's current work is particularly devoted to leadership development, capacity building in health development work. She also has a keen interest in conflict prevention and peace building. Passionate about her work, Anne also loves music, dancing, and has a lively family including 4 young children, animals. She is particularly enjoying the sea, bush and outdoors living that Australia offers.

### Giovanni Zingarelli - the real story (a work of fiction)

Yes, the wonderful Giovanni has left the fine shores of the SPHCM and ventured to the other side, the dark, seedy side of Medicine – a Pharmaceutical company out somewhere west (you know where they do all the druggy things and make the stuff), approximately 1-2 hours on the M4. Just a tad longer than the short trip from Coogee really.

Who is the real Giovanni Zingarelli anyway? Glimpses of TRGV (The Real Giovanna Zingarelli) came out regularly on a Friday evening in the Rural Health Unit after a few vinos. It's a shame that Sue Pugh destroyed all the evidence - must have something to do with the "GP we are all in this together - woe is me aren't we hard done by club".

All that Italiano bizzo was all a facade; my spies tell me that she had already sold her soul many years ago to 'Thievum, addictum and exploitum'

Pharmaceutical Company and she was planted here to see what the 'goody two shoes Public Health we want to help everyone' people were planning in their bid to take over the world, and make it a better place?

Perhaps I should stop here, I am getting a bit carried away, and I must point out Gio asked, yes asked that I am not serious when I write something about her. This is when I become all-serious now, Gio will be sorely missed by everyone here in the school, especially the 3rd floor. Her wonderful sense of humour and love of life (especially cakes, coffee and wine) is something that was unique to her. You may see Gio wandering the corridors of the Samuel's building in the future - I just don't think she can keep away....well we do have drinks next Friday who could pass up a glass of red with us entertaining lot (that's David Sutherland if you are wondering who supplies the entertainment)

## **SPHCM Meetings**

Next School Meeting  
2nd July 1-2pm, Room 315, Samuel's Building

Evening seminar - International Health  
Dr Karen Hofman  
June 26th, 5.15-6.30pm

## **Biomedical Library Courses**

Please find below a listing of Biomedical Library courses offered by the Faculty.

URL: <http://notes.med.unsw.edu.au/medtraining1.nsf/website/frontpage?opendocument>

Courses currently scheduled are as follows:

E-Journals and Keeping Up-to-date: Wed 16 July, 2003  
Ovid Medline and Pub Med: Wed 13 August, 2003  
Evidence Based Medicine Research Skills: Wed 3 September, 2003  
Health Statistics and Epidemiological Research: Wed 1 Oct, 2003

Course descriptions can be found at the following site:

<http://notes.med.unsw.edu.au/medtraining1.nsf/website/Descriptions?opendocument>

To enrol in a course: <http://notes.med.unsw.edu.au/medtraining1.nsf/Coursenames>

Please ensure the following prior to booking into a course:

- \* You meet the prerequisites outlined in the Course Description
- \* Read carefully the booking policies and procedures

If the URL links provided do not work, please copy and paste the link into your web browser's Location box and press Enter. If the information that appears on your browser is out-of-date click the Reload or Refresh button. If you encounter other technical problems please contact the UNSW Computer Helpdesk on (02) 9385 1333.

If you have any further queries please contact Jacqui Miller on (02) 9385 1925

Lund University Launches Directory of Open Access Journals  
Lund, Sweden - Lund University Libraries today launches the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

<http://www.doaj.org>

Supported by the Information Program of the Open Society Institute

<http://www.osi.hu/infoprogram/>

along with SPARC (The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, <http://www.arl.org/sparc>). The directory contains information about 350 open access journals, i.e. quality controlled scientific and scholarly electronic journals that are freely available on the web. The service will continue to grow as new journals are identified. The goal of the Directory of Open Access Journals is to increase the visibility and accessibility of open access scholarly journals, thereby promoting their increased usage and impact. The directory aims to comprehensively cover all open access scholarly journals that use an appropriate quality control system. Journals in all languages and subject areas will be included in the DOAJ.

The database records will be freely available for reuse in other services and can be harvested by using the OAI-PMH <http://www.openarchives.org/> thus further increasing the visibility of the journals. The further development of DOAJ will continue with version 2, which will offer the enhanced feature of allowing the journals to be searched at the article level, and is expected to be available in late fall 2003.

If you know a journal that should be included in the directory, use this form to report it to the directory:

<http://www.doaj.org/suggest>

Information about how to obtain DOAJ records for use in a library catalog or other service you will find at:

<http://www.doaj.org/articles/questions/#metadata>

For more information, contact Lars Bjornshauge [lars.bjornshauge@lub.lu.se](mailto:lars.bjornshauge@lub.lu.se)

Sara Kjellberg [sara.kjellberg@lub.lu.se](mailto:sara.kjellberg@lub.lu.se)

web: <http://www.lub.lu.se/index.html.en>

The National Breast Cancer Foundation has recently advertised for applications for research scholarships

- for more information please contact:

National Breast Cancer Foundation

GPO Box 4126, Sydney NSW 2001

Tel 02 9235 3444

Fax 02 9233 3442

Email [nbcf1@nbcf.org.au](mailto:nbcf1@nbcf.org.au)

Or: [http://www.nbcf.org.au/page.asp?category\\_id=2&page\\_id=6](http://www.nbcf.org.au/page.asp?category_id=2&page_id=6)

For information on scholarships available for UNSW students please visit the UNSW scholarships web site. <http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/forstudents.resources>

Please see details below of a short course in Social Epidemiology and Social Determinants of Health - enquiries are to be made to:

Sharon Melder

Course Administration Officer

School of Health Sciences

Deakin University

221 Burwood Highway

Burwood Vic 3125

Fax: 03 9244 6785

For more information please visit the web site

[www.hbs.deakin.edu.au/healthsci](http://www.hbs.deakin.edu.au/healthsci)

Nominations for the 2004-2005 Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy The Harkness Fellowships in Health Care Policy provide a unique opportunity for promising health policy researchers and practitioners - academics, clinicians, health services managers, government officials, and journalists - from Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom to spend up to 12 months in the United States conducting a research study that is relevant to health care policy and practice in both the U.S. and the fellow's home country, gaining exposure to managed care and other innovative practices, enhancing their methodological skills, and working with leading U.S. health policy experts.

The fellowships provide up to US\$85,000, plus family allowance, for terms of 9 to 12 months.

Nominations are to be received by the 15 July 2003. For more information please contact Professor Jane Hall, Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, UTS, Sydney at

[Jane.Hall@chere.uts.edu.au](mailto:Jane.Hall@chere.uts.edu.au)

### **Occupational Health & Safety News**

As the lovely Giovanni Zingarelli has resigned from the SPHCM, I found myself in the position of a committee that comprised of Anthony Zwi and yours truly. This wouldn't do - so off I wandered the corridors of the Samuel's building looking for 'volunteers' to join the mighty OH&S committee.

So here are the new recruits

Michelle Davies - [m.davies@unsw.edu.au](mailto:m.davies@unsw.edu.au)  
Alan Hodgkinson - [a.hodgkinson@unsw.edu.au](mailto:a.hodgkinson@unsw.edu.au)  
Sue Christian- Hayes - [clingov@unsw.edu.au](mailto:clingov@unsw.edu.au)  
Mailis Wakeham - [m.wakeham@unsw.edu.au](mailto:m.wakeham@unsw.edu.au)  
Sarah Ford - [s.ford@unsw.edu.au](mailto:s.ford@unsw.edu.au)

Please visit the Risk Management web site: [www.riskman.unsw.edu.au](http://www.riskman.unsw.edu.au) where you will find the services that are offered. If you would like a workplace assessment, that is, find out why you have a sore neck or shoulders! - contact Beth Hawkin on [b.hawkin@unsw.edu.au](mailto:b.hawkin@unsw.edu.au) and she can assess your work station. I have just completed my OH&S 4 day Consultation training, so I can direct you to the appropriate resources or people in relation to OH&S issues – I hope?.

### **Mark and Liz Harris in the UK**

Our time in the UK at the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre at Manchester University has now concluded. There is now, hopefully, a strong basis for collaboration between the Centres for Primary Care and Equity Research at UNSW and the NPCRDC. Chief ongoing areas for collaboration between our Centre and theirs which we will be developing further include:

- some joint work on access to quality to care in general practice which includes a discussion paper, some qualitative studies on access and use of comparative data from patient surveys
- continued liaison on the issues of practice organisation and quality of care for chronic disease

We also have some areas for joint work which we will be pursuing with:-

- Deb Baker who now works at Salford University on access to preventive care  
- Dick Heller who is also based at Manchester on Population Impact measurement  
- PRIMIS which is a information system and quality improvement program in general practice based at Nottingham University relating variability of quality of care there and with our Divisions Data Quality Improvement Program which has just completed data collection.

We also had some contact with John Oldham who heads the national Primary Care Collaborative there. This is based on the approach of Berwick and others in the USA and is about bringing about system wide innovations and improvements. They have been notably successful in reducing waiting times and improving quality of care for cardiovascular disease in general practice there. NICS and the RACGP in Australia are currently exploring the establishment of a similar program here in Australia (as announced in the Budget).

Liz is back at work. Mark's Sabbatical continues (albeit with some interruptions) and he will be visiting New Zealand in June.

### **SPHCM Walking group**

Feeling a bit sluggish? a few of us have got together and formed a walking group. Tour leaves from the foyer of the Samuel's building on

Tuesday's - 12am

Thursday's - 12.45pm

Where do we walk? - This depends on how our day has been and more importantly what the wind chill factor is. We just have to remember that we have to go back to Uni ?.which is what we do of course, Anthony. Which brings me to the major news of the year - yes the LIFT has been fixed! It is great to see all those people still using the stairs (sheer stupidity or are they just following the person in front of them?) – Martha Lourey Bird is very impressed - it was all part of her plan..

### **3. Achievements**

Congratulations to Dennis McDermott who recently graduated with his Masters of Arts in writing at UTS. In his own words Dennis described himself as looking like a 'prize Hereford in the Tamworth show'. No - I don't think Dennis has put on a lot of weight recently, more so he looked quite the trophy with his ATSI and Academic silks. Mmm perhaps Dennis should edit the next newsletter..

#### **Australian Medical Council**

Following the AMC assessment team visit for accreditation of the New Medical Program. Tessa Ho has been invited to join the AMC accreditation team. Tessa will be representing UNSW in assessing medical schools interstate with a minimum of three each year from now on. In Tessa's own words "This will be a really interesting and valuable opportunity to gain insight into other medical curricula, and a wonderful privilege."

#### **Medical Journal of Australia**

Tessa Ho's refereed paper on Cost of Incontinence has been selected by the Editor of the Medical Journal of Australia to promote the June edition of the MJA through a media release to major metropolitan press, TV, radio and health writers.

#### **Australian Red Cross**

Tessa has been appointed Medical Representative on the Australian Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Committee.

Lisa Maher has received press coverage for a major project with others working on HIV in Thailand. Check out the website (<http://ipsnews.net/>).

Congratulations to Joella Storey who had won First Place in the 2003 IPA Awards for Research in Psychogeriatrics competition for her paper "The Rowland Universal Dementia Assessment Scale (RUDAS): A Multicultural Cognitive Assessment Scale." Joella's paper will be published in "International Psychogeriatrics" and is currently completing her PHD in this area.

### **4. Conferences & Workshops**

'The Ethics and Philosophy of Health Financing'

15-17 November 2003

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians

For more information, or to register your interest, please see the attached Registration and Call for Papers document. Alternatively, you can visit the conference website from Saturday 24 May 2003 at:

<http://www.healthservicesconference.com.au>

'Bridging the Gap: Research and Values to Policy and Practice

16-19 November 2003

Third Health Services and Policy Research Conference

The Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand

Registration and call for papers

<http://www.healthservicesconference.com.au/>

Sophie di Corpio and Leah Bloomfield are presenting at the ANZAME (The Association for Health Professional Education) conference on the

4-7 July in Melbourne

<http://www.anzame.unsw.edu.au/conf.htm>

The Australian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) is holding their 15th Annual Conference Global Crisis: Local Action in Cairns.

Venue: Cairns Convention Centre

Date: 22 - 25 October 2003

For further information refer to website: [www.ashm.org.au](http://www.ashm.org.au)

The NSW Primary Health Care Research Capacity Building Program  
2nd Annual NSW Research & Evaluation Conference 'Putting Down Roots'

Building a Research Culture in Primary Health Care

Friday 19 and Saturday 20 September 2003

Menzies Hotel Sydney

Further Information

Pharma Events: PO Box 265, Annandale NSW 2038

Tel: 02 92800577; Fax: 02 92800533

Email: [conferences@pharmaevents.com.au](mailto:conferences@pharmaevents.com.au)

Website: <http://www.nswphc.unsw.edu.au>

Registration brochure in May

Closing date for abstracts end of June

Australasian Epidemiology Association 12th Annual Scientific Meeting

"Nature, Nurture and Epidemiology"

22 - 23 September, 2003

University of Western Australia

Perth

<http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/forstaff.conferences>

### **Postgraduate Research Student Retreat 2003**

#### **Call for abstracts**

The SPHCM is organising a retreat for postgraduate research students to be held at Little Bay on 4 Sept 2003. The retreat will provide an opportunity for research degree students to present their work, receive critical feedback from peers, faculty and experts in the field and to discuss policy and practice issues aimed at enhancing the research degree experience in the School and associated Centres.

Student presentations (10mins & 5 min discussion) will be selected on the basis of abstracts and grouped in the following categories:

- 1) Overview of the literature and study design;
- 2) Presentations structured around methods and process; and
- 3) Presentations reporting results. Prizes will be awarded for the two best presentations in each category. All supervisors and co-supervisors are also invited.

Abstracts are to be submitted by 4th July. For further information please contact Lisa Maher

[l.maher@unsw.edu.au](mailto:l.maher@unsw.edu.au)

#### **5. Postcards from the Edge** - Bruce Long's journey down south and across a bit

In March this year, after two and a half years of indecision and dithering, my wife (Judy) and I decided it was time for a holiday so we took three weeks off work. Did a number of things first, including visiting an ex-neighbour who had moved to Wingham some 9 years ago and undertook a variety of jobs around the house - a major achievement was cleaning out the garage and reclaiming the space for parking our cars. Then the Great Ocean Road in southern Victoria beckoned. A few years ago, we had driven the Great Ocean Road but did it in a day - drove from north of Melbourne to Mt Gambier in South Australia in one hit, so you can imagine that the sight seeing was very rushed. This time we would take a bit more time and do the trip in reverse by driving through Victoria to the western end of the coast road.

Left home early on 16 March. Fairly uninteresting day as it took most of the day to drive the 850 kms to Bendigo. Beautiful town, lovely old buildings and very tidy. Travelled to Portland on the coast the next day and stayed overnight. From there the spectacular scenery really began. It is a beautiful drive along the

coast road and we enjoyed meandering around quaint fishing villages such as Port Fairy, Peterborough and Port Campbell. Stopped at each of the following famous views:

\* Bay of Islands - a number of rock stacks similar to the Twelve Apostles (see below) but smaller in size. Nevertheless, a beautiful view.

\* London Bridge - this was a natural rock bridge with two spans from the cliff face to a rock stack in the ocean. In 1990, one of the spans collapsed into the sea, leaving a couple of tourists stranded on the stack and who had to be rescued by helicopter.

\* Loch Ard Gorge - a narrow gorge which was named after the ill-fated clipper, Loch Ard, which was shipwrecked on the rocks in 1878. Only two people out of 54 survived.

\* The Twelve Apostles - spectacular huge freestanding rock stacks rising out of the ocean created over the years by strong waves eroding the limestone cliffs.

After viewing the Twelve Apostles from the cliff top, we drove a couple of kilometres down the road and saw an advertisement for helicopter flights around London Bridge and the Twelve Apostles. The cost was \$90 per head for about 20 minutes - seemed like good value. Judy said I should take the flight but I insisted that she come with me. Judy is absolutely terrified of flying no matter what type or size of aircraft. It took me 10 minutes to talk her into it. Anyway, the flight was worth every cent of the cost; the view from 1500 feet was absolutely spectacular and we will never forget it.

Stayed in Apollo Bay overnight and we shared one of the local crayfish for dinner fresh and delicious. Next day we drove to Queenscliff, took the ferry across Port Phillip Bay to Portsea and drove up the Mornington Peninsula to Melbourne. Stayed in Melbourne for two nights. Of course, Judy said that no stay in Melbourne is complete without doing over the clothing shops in Bridge Road, Richmond. These shops stretch for about a kilometer on each side of Bridge Road and for around three hours I was dragged through most of them (didn't buy many items though). Took a tram to St Kilda Beach and strolled down Ackland Street - impressive shops and deli's.

On Friday, drove up the Princes Highway to Milawa and sampled the delights of Brown Brothers' wines. Began to blow the budget there with purchases of their top of the line fortifieds. Visited Beechworth, a fantastic historical town full of 19th and early 20th century buildings. Drove on to Rutherglen and visited Morris' Mia Mia vineyard and Stanton & Killeen's vineyard. Completely blew out the budget with further purchases. Stayed in Albury overnight and returned home the next day.

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