

News from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine

Newsletter #15; April 2004

Edited by Sophie di Corpo

May edition deadline 28 April all items to s.dicorpo@unsw.edu.au

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1. Update from Head of School
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Following the debate around the Hall matter, the University has drawn attention to the importance of developing appropriate systems to ensure scientific integrity and probity. The Faculty is extending this and will soon provide guidance on appropriate measures to be undertaken within Schools. I have circulated current guidance provided by UNSW which covers such issues as ethics review and authorship. I will be looking to identify one or more people who would be willing to work with me on enhancing our systems to support, promote and ensure research integrity within the School and our associated Centres.

On the research front we are continuing to develop the common theme "Reinventing health – policy, practice and systems" and have written a one-pager

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

which identifies areas of interest and activity. We are working with a number of our partners – area health services and centres – to take this forward and develop the best means of representing the wealth of activity taking place, and building upon this. Let me know if you are keen to participate in furthering this initiative and working together with our associated Centres to take this forward.

The Research Degree Students Retreat on June 25th will be a good opportunity to hear about the breadth of work being undertaken by our students and staff – please make a point of attending – it was a great day last year and should be even better this time around.

Jan Maclean (thank you Jan) has agreed to coordinate School activity to implement the report on Gender equity within the School that was prepared for us by the Equity and Diversity Unit at UNSW. It highlighted a range of concerns within the School and proposed a number of initiatives to redress them – some of which have already been taken on board. Please let Jan know of your interest and participate in the activities we will be developing to take this report forward, fine tune its recommendations, and implement as much of it as possible.

Well done by the Professional Education Group – we have received a grant from Adrian Lee's division to enhance and develop our review processes for postgraduate courses. This will further build upon the excellent quality improvements which have already been undertaken by the Postgraduate Coursework Team over the last year.

Lastly, sincere condolences from all of us to Tessa Ho who lost her mother last week.

To Diane Mongomerie and Bilyana Rankova who will be departing from the School and Centre for Culture and Health respectively – we wish you well and thank you both for valuable contributions to the School and Centre.

For those of you taking some time off over the school holidays and festivals coming up – enjoy the time with family and friends – so important to us all.

Anthony (hos-sphcm@unsw.edu.au)

2. From the Frontline

Weddings, parties, anything: thanks to Ellie Castro for taking this spot for April as Ellie has recently become engaged – we await a viewing of the ring but do offer immediate congratulations.

Any link between Ellie's and Sally's news (next item) is unintentional, honest.

Sally Nathan has received a \$10,000 grant from the UNSW Vice Chancellor's Office to set up a career advancement fund to assist her to re-establish her research work after returning from having a baby. This is a relatively new initiative and has been available to women who returned to work from maternity leave at the UNSW from 1 June 2003. Sally's reaction to the news: "it will help a great deal as I feel my research has come to a grinding halt and I have to get started all over again - I hope to use some of the funds to employ a casual research assistant to do some of the more time consuming and mundane aspects of research such as obtaining literature and I will also buy a laptop so I can fit work with my new 'Mum on the Move' lifestyle. Some may say its easy money - all you have to do is have a baby!"

In your signature please: reminder that you need to use the UNSW Provider CRICOS Code 00098G on any publication, including electronic publications which are accessible by international students. This includes websites, posters, correspondence (including email messages so make sure you include it in your signature) and advertising material.

The World Health Organization in Geneva is launching a 'River of Life' photo competition – see:
<http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/ce-webpagecv?OpenView&Grid=4&Date=2004-03-28>

Using WebCT or other educational technology? We have a number of SPHCM resources
<http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/forstaff.resources.edtecsupport>
and you can also attend a range of free and hands-on workshops at EDTeC:
http://www.edtec.unsw.edu.au/frames_inter.cfm?area=5&page=E_webct.cfm

Accommodation available: large furnished room to let in a private home owned by graduate student in SPHCM. Quiet street, walking distance to Maroubra Junction and buses on Anzac Parade, own bathroom, share kitchen & laundry, \$130pw neg, prefer non-smoker. Ring Linda on 9349 2223 or 0417 491 773.

Social calendar: I have packed away my bat and ball as family picnic day cancelled due to lack of response. Details of trivia night to come – for any ideas or offers of assistance email Michelle:
michelle.davies@unsw.edu.au

3. Recent achievements

Clare O'Connor managed to regain room 315 as a meeting room – improvements to level 2 are also underway – many thanks Clare!

In February this year, Brian Draper's, book 'Dealing with Dementia - A Guide to Alzheimer's Disease and other Dementias' was released by Allen & Unwin. It is a book for the general public and on sale at all discerning book stores.

Dr Jackson Pulver we presume - Lisa Jackson Pulver has been awarded a PhD and will graduate this month. Congrats Lisa from us all.

As part of the 2004 Fulbright awards, the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research will have another researcher join their team for 12 months from July this year. Jonathan Volk, a postgraduate student from the University of California, will work with A/Prof Andrew Grulich.

Meanwhile at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre: Prof Richard P Mattick was invited to join the Australian National Council on Drugs. Prof Wayne Hall was recognized as one of the world's most cited authors by the Institute for Scientific Information and the Illicit Drug Reporting System has been selected as one of three short-listed finalists for the Excellence in Research category of the National Drug and Alcohol Awards.

See: <http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/News-WPlisting>

There is also a lot happening out in Macarthur/Campbelltown/Camden including the development of a sports injury prevention project with Prof Finch and NSW sporting injury branch of workcover, third and fourth year teaching as well as their groundswell of publications. Stephen Wilson has undertaken to keep us posted.

The School's Professional Education Group (Peter Harris, Leah Bloomfield, Jan McLean, Sophie di Corpo, Chris Hughes and Sue Toohey) secured a Learning and Teaching Postgraduate Coursework Award for the development of a 'Guide for postgraduate course review and enhanced teaching recognition'.

4. People

The School is pleased to be hosting three Visiting Fellows:

Mrs Selina Haggai - Ministry of Health, Vanuatu.

Dr Wu Jiuling - National Centre for Women's & Children's Health, Beijing .

Dr Fereydoun Pourdanesh - Head of Yasuj University of Medical Sciences, Iran

<http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/sphcm.nsf/website/Prog&Courses.specialprograms.internationalactivities>

Do come and introduce yourself to our visiting academics and involve them in the activities/seminars etc of the School - it's a great opportunity to get to know about how health services operate in other countries, and to meet some really interesting people - room 230, Samuels Building, or contact Jenny or Deborah on 9385 2510 - International Health Programs

Andrea Mant has been re-appointed Conjoint A/Prof, Dr Susan Furber, has also been re-appointed as Conjoint Senior Lecturer.

Dr Adam Winstock, has been newly appointed as Conjoint Senior Lecturer (Dr Winstock is associated also with NDARC).

5. Conference reports

Dr John Fardy, a Conjoint Senior Lecturer in the School, recently co-hosted an International congress in Melbourne. As Co-president of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG), John acted as co-host, with Prof J.J. Reid of New Zealand, to 450 primary health care workers who came together for the Second World Congress of IPCRG which was held from 19th to 22nd February.

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

6. Upcoming events

Workshop on Epidemiological Methods and Clinical Trials for Preventative Health Macquarie University - July 7-9, 2004

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

Asia Pacific WebCT Conference – 25 – 28 September 2004, Manly

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

Health Outcomes 2004: Perspectives on population health, 15-16 September 2004, Canberra

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