

PCRU

**PRIMARY CARE RESEARCH
UNIT**

Professor Jane Gunn



PRIMARY CARE RESEARCH UNIT DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL PRACTICE

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Australia (Victoria)



Over 20 million resident population in Australia

Almost 5 million resident population in Victoria

Where we live..



History of Primary Care Research at Melbourne



PROGRAM AREAS



•Mental Health



•Chronic Disease



•Young People's Health

PEOPLE



First contact medical care in the community



Australian health care: A strife of interests

- Organisation
 - Two levels of Government
 - National: General Practice (inc Divisions of GP), some other primary care, some public health
 - State: Hospitals, some primary care (community health) some public health
- Financing:
 - A\$66.5 billion, 9.3% of GDP (2001-2)
 - General Practice as fee-for service, small business model
 - Chronic illness and teamwork initiatives
 - Some capitation and incentive payments, Divisions program
- Workforce
 - 24,301 (2001) non specialist medical practitioners (GP:Pop ratio 1:920).
 - No increase in the last 10 years
 - » Fall in city, rise in remote
 - 60% full time, 35% female, 25% >55yrs
- Outcomes
 - Mortality cf internationally, inc indigenous

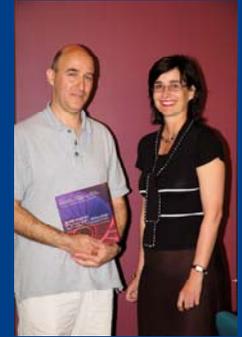
Australian health care: Challenges in primary care

- The usual issues...
 - Chronic disease, ageing population, movement of care into the community
- Challenges arise from the fragmented organisation of care
- Equity
 - Rural, Outer metro, SES, Indigenous
 - Difficulty managing workforce and funding distribution
- Quality
 - Practitioner vocational recognition voluntary
 - Practice accreditation voluntary
 - Inability to enforce or mandate quality frameworks
- Efficiency
 - Fee-For-Service
 - Levers to encourage teamwork, integration. Quality care
- Research support and culture
 - Little infrastructure or financial support

About Us

- Clinical department within the School of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
- Home to Primary Care Research Unit (PCRU)
- 49 (29.8) FTE Academic Staff (DGP)
- 19.9 FTE Academic Staff (PCRU)
- 3 Postdoctoral Research Fellows
- 18 RHD students
- 20 current research projects
- Research Income 2007- 2.3 million (as at 30/06/07)

International Visitors



Dr Peter Rose- University of Oxford (Nov 2003-Mar 2004)

Prof Todd Edwards- University of San Diego (Sept-Nov 2004)

Dr Scott Murray- University of Edinburgh (Dec 2003)

Prof Andrew Murphy- National University of Ireland (April 2004)

Prof Christopher Dowrick- University of Liverpool (Feb 2005, Jan-Feb 2006, Nov-Dec 2007)

Prof Dan Chisholm- Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse WHO, Geneva (April 2005)

Dr Sandra Eldridge- Barts and The London Medical School, University of London (Jan-Feb 2006)

Prof Francis Griffiths- Warwick University (Jan-Feb 2006)

Prof Gene Feder- Barts and The London Medical School, University of London (Nov 2006)

Prof Stephen Sutton- University of Cambridge (Feb 2007)

Dr Susan Carr- Sandyford Initiative, Glasgow (Jan-Mar 2007)

Prof Nicky Britten- Peninsula Medical School, Universities of Exeter and Plymouth (June 2007)

Prof Felicity Goodyear-Smith- University of Auckland (August 2007)

Chronic Disease

- Current Projects

- PEACH: Patient Engagement and Coaching for Health: an intensive treatment intervention for patients with Type 2 Diabetes
- PEACH PIE: Process and implementation evaluation
- Culturally appropriate diabetes care in mainstream general practice for urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Stepping up: Barriers to Insulin initiation
- Cardiovascular risk factors amongst Indo-Australians with Type 2 Diabetes
- Diabetes prevention program for Turkish and Arabic speaking communities

Team: Prof Doris Young, John Furler, Irene Blackberry (SRF), Christine Mathieson (Practice Nurse Fellow), Phyllis Lau (pharmacy)

Recent publication: Young, D., J. Furler, et al. (2007). "Patient Engagement and Coaching for Health: The PEACH study - A cluster randomised controlled trial using the telephone to coach people with type 2 diabetes to engage with their GPs to improve diabetes care: A study protocol." BMC Family Practice 8(20)



Mental Health

• Current Projects

- DIAMOND: Diagnosis, management and outcomes of depression in primary care
- RE-ORDER - Re-organising care for depression and related disorders in the Australian primary health care setting
- SIM: Reducing suicide risk in men
- WEAVE: A randomised controlled trial RCT of screening, guidelines, education, counselling and systems intervention to manage abuse and violence through General Practice

Team

- Prof Jane Gunn and Ass Prof Kelsey Hegarty, Dr Renata Kokanovic (SRF), Dr Grant Blashki (SRF)
- 8 Res Fellows, 5 RAs, 4 PhD, 1 MD and 2 Masters students
- Recent publication
 - Gunn J, Diggins J, Hegarty K, Blashki G. A systematic review of complex system interventions designed to increase recovery from depression in primary care MS: 2336439239826823. BMC Health Services Research 2006, 6:88
 - Hutton C, Gunn J. Do longer consultations improve the management of psychological problems in general practice? A systematic literature review. BMC Health Services Research 2007. 7:71



Young People's Health

- Current Projects
 - Check Your Risk – tool for GPs to screen all sexually active YP for Chlamydia and other STIs
 - PARTY: Health risk screening and counseling of adolescents in primary care
 - Preventative mental health care for adolescents, using the practice nurse: a pilot study
 - PANACHE - Practice Nurse Adolescent Clinics for Health Evaluation: a pilot study
- Team
 - Ass Prof Lena Sanci and Kelsey Hegarty, 2 RFs, 2 RAs, 2 masters, 1 PhD, 0.2 Admin
 - Recent publication: Tylee A., Haller DM., Graham T., Churchill R., Sanci LA. Youth-friendly primary care services: how are we doing and what more needs to be done? The Lancet published online March 27, 2007



VicReN Practice Based Research Network



- Established 2007
- 5 foundation practices
- Reference group and practice committee

- Research skills toolkit for practice nurses
- Database of primary care practitioners



Research Training

- Advanced Medical Science
- Academic General Practice Registrars
- Research Development Program
- Masters (Medicine, PHC)
- PhD



For Further Information



Visit our website:

<http://www.gp.unimelb.edu.au>



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences Department of General Practice



Faculty of MDHS : Library : Intranet

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Primary Care Research Unit



The establishment of the Primary Care Research Unit (PCRU) in 2006 is the culmination of many years of research capacity building. The PCRU draws together the research teams within the Department who represent a wide variety of clinical and research backgrounds. PCRU provides a vibrant research culture and infrastructure to support research of relevance to general practice and primary care. Our major research programs are funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute, the *beyondblue* Victorian Centre of Excellence and other competitive research grants.

Our vision is to be a national and international centre of excellence in primary care research known for our multi-method, rigorous research programs, our strong national and international collaborative research, and research higher degree training.

Our research is firmly based in general practice and primary care and focuses on the provision of primary, comprehensive, and continuing care. The social model of health, the doctor-patient relationship, and the primary care team are all embedded firmly within our work.

Our current research programs cover clinical research, primary care systems research, and translational research (getting research into practice) in three major program areas:

- [Chronic Disease](#)
- [Primary Care Mental Health](#)



Professor Jane Gunn