

NATIONAL CENTRE IN  
HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY AND  
CLINICAL RESEARCH

**ANNUAL REPORT 2003**

# Contents

What is NCHECR?	1
Foreword	2
Obituary	3
Research activities	4
Surveillance Program	5
Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program	10
HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program	15
Viral Hepatitis Program	18
Primary HIV Research Program	20
Biostatistics and Databases Program	22
Laboratory Support Program	24
Research outside Program areas	26
International activities	27
Teaching and training highlights	29
Service highlights	30
Staff	31
Researchers affiliated to NCHECR during 2003	34
Training or postgraduate degree placements at NCHECR	35
Collaborating organisations	36
Advisory committees	41
External boards, committees and advisory groups	52
Education and training	55
Funding for 2003	59
Disclosure of financial and other relationships with industry	61
Presentations at conferences and meetings	62
Publications	73

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National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research  
Level 2, 376 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010, Australia

Telephone: +61 (2) 9385 0900

Web: [www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchechr](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchechr)

Fax: +61 (2) 9385 0920

Email: [recept@nchechr.unsw.edu.au](mailto:recept@nchechr.unsw.edu.au)



# What is NCHECR?

The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) was established in 1986 by the Australian Government to fulfil a number of key roles in Australia's fight against HIV/AIDS.

Located on the campus of St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, the Centre is directly affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales, and receives its core funding through the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.



***Program Management Committee***

**Back Row: Greg Dore, Matthew Law, John Kaldor, David Cooper, Don Smith**

**Front Row: Sean Emery, Tony Kelleher, Annie Tung, Bronwen Turner, Andrew Grulich**

NCHECR's primary functions relate to the coordination of national surveillance programs and clinical trials. While its original focus was exclusively on HIV/AIDS, NCHECR's work has expanded to encompass hepatitis B and C, and sexually transmissible infections. NCHECR also conducts research into the transmission, prevention and natural history of these infections. NCHECR's research program has increasingly taken on a regional focus, with major collaborative programs in Thailand and Cambodia. Other functions of NCHECR include the training of health professionals, and input into the development and implementation of health policy and programs.

NCHECR carries out its functions by working with an extensive range of collaborators, including State and Territory Health Departments, public and private clinical units, national and international organisations, and the corporate sector. It also works closely with the other national HIV research centres.

Dissemination of NCHECR's research output is undertaken through publication in scientific journals and a range of surveillance reports.

The Director is supported in the overall management of the Centre by the Executive Committee. As well as the Director, Executive members are the Deputy Director, the Manager of Finance and Administration and the Head of the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program.

The Centre conducts its research through seven scientific Programs:

- Surveillance
- Therapeutic and Vaccine Research
- HIV Epidemiology and Prevention
- Viral Hepatitis
- Primary HIV Infection Research
- Biostatistics and Databases
- Laboratory Support

The Program Heads, along with the Director, the Deputy Director, the Manager of Finance and Administration and the Business Manager, form the Program Management Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the scientific activities of the Centre.



## Foreword

The NCHECR is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, through the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales, to coordinate national surveillance and carry out clinical and epidemiological research related to HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections.

During the course of 2003, NCHECR completed several major projects. The ROSEY study, a double-blind placebo controlled trial entirely developed and run by NCHECR, was a major achievement, even though the result was disappointing in that the proposed therapy did not prove to be effective. In public health, NCHECR played a central role in the evaluation of Australia's first supervised injecting centre, located in King's Cross, with a final report being presented to the NSW Government in the middle of the year.

Major ongoing clinical investigations included ESPRIT and SILCAAT, the large clinical end-point studies of interleukin-2 as an immunomodulatory treatment for HIV, which continued their progress in a number of countries, with NCHECR playing a central coordination role in Australia and overseas. Work began in earnest on the program of research into the pathogenesis and treatment of primary HIV infection, being conducted under a grant from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital.

Enrolment continued in one of the largest cohort studies of gay men in the world, reaching over 1,400 by the end of 2002. This cohort is funded by the NIH, through the Australia-Thailand Vaccine Consortium, which launched the first trial of an Australian-developed agent as a prophylactic vaccine against HIV infection. The trial aimed to investigate the safety and immunogenicity of the agent.

A new and exciting project that began during 2003 involved the recruitment of people newly infected with hepatitis C through injecting drug use. The aims of the study, also funded by the NIH, are to gain a deeper understanding of hepatitis C pathogenesis, and options for early treatment.

Collaborative research ventures in the Asia Pacific Region continued to flourish. Through funding from the American Foundation for AIDS Research, NCHECR was designated as the point of coordination for an observational data base that included a number of countries from the Region. The HIV-NAT program in Bangkok has become, more than ever, the leading site for HIV clinical research in the Region, and NCHECR's role in Cambodia evolved, with more staff being stationed with the Ministry of Health, on secondment from NCHECR.



**John Kaldor, David Cooper**

NCHECR could not conduct any of its research activities without the support and collaboration of a wide range of organisations and individuals in Australia and internationally. We express our ongoing gratitude for these highly productive relationships. We would also like to acknowledge the crucial contribution made by the participants in the clinical and epidemiological projects that are undertaken by NCHECR.

**David Cooper, Director**

**John Kaldor, Deputy Director**



# Obituary

## Margaret MacDonald

**15 June 1956 – 29 September 2003**

Margaret MacDonald, who died suddenly, was a unique and wonderful individual and an outstanding contributor to our knowledge about injecting drug use and its harms.

Margaret joined the research team at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research in 1992, making a transition from her already successful career as a specialist nurse in paediatric intensive care.



**Margaret MacDonald**

She quickly became involved in several key projects in disease surveillance. The annual national survey of needle and syringe programs that she developed became the cornerstone of much of her research, including the work for her doctorate. The survey was initially

developed at a small number of sites. By the time of the 2003 survey, which was scheduled to begin the day Margaret died, nearly 50 sites were involved across the country in the collection of blood specimens and behavioural questionnaires from more than 2,500 participants. This innovative surveillance mechanism has guided Australia's response to the risk of blood-borne viral transmission through injecting drug use.

In 2002, Margaret completed a comprehensive international analysis that showed a strong association between the implementation of needle and syringe programs and lower levels of HIV and hepatitis C infection. She had key responsibilities in the evaluation, published just two months ago, of Australia's first supervised injecting room. Over the past year she was appointed as a World Health Organisation consultant to assist the Malaysian government in conducting behavioural and viral surveillance in difficult-to-reach populations.

She is survived by her partner of nine years, Kate Dolan.



## Research activities

The following sections describe NCHECR achievements and activities within Programs during 2003. Each project report lists any sources of funding beyond the NCHECR core grant that were used to fund the activity, as well as NCHECR personnel and external collaborators involved with the project. Three senior NCHECR personnel are not named in the project reports because they have a wide range of supervisory roles, as follows:

The Director, David Cooper directly supervises the Heads of the Programs in Therapeutic and Vaccine Research and Laboratory Support. He takes specific responsibility as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator in the following projects: ESPRIT, SILCAAT, INITIO, the Vaccine Design and Development Project, AIEDRP, SMART and STACCATO. He is also an active Co-Director of HIV-NAT, the clinical research collaboration in Bangkok, Thailand, and a member of the Steering Committee of the Cambodian Treatment Access Program.

The Deputy Director, John Kaldor, supports the Director, and directly supervises the Surveillance Program, and the Heads of the Programs in HIV Epidemiology and Prevention, Viral Hepatitis, Primary HIV Infection Research and Biostatistics and Databases. He takes specific responsibility as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator in the following projects: AIEDRP, the HIV prevention trial in Cambodia, the Cambodian research program to support the optimal use of antiretroviral therapy, the project on natural history and treatment for newly acquired hepatitis C, as well as NCHECR's contribution to the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project Phase II in Indonesia and to the evaluation of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in Sydney.

Sean Emery is Head of the Program in Therapeutic and Vaccine Research. In this capacity he has a particular supervisory role for all projects that fall within the Program, and takes specific responsibility as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator in the following projects: ESPRIT, SILCAAT, the Vaccine Design and Development Project, SMART, PHIDISA and Pacific, and provides project related support to HIV-NAT.



### ***Executive Committee***

**Sean Emery, John Kaldor, Bronwen Turner, David Cooper**

# Surveillance Program

During 2002, the NCHECR Surveillance Program and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) developed an agreement for the Surveillance Program to become an AIHW collaborating unit. Under the agreement, data obtained from States and Territories through national surveillance procedures gain legal standing through the AIHW Act.



**John Kaldor**

The NCHECR Surveillance Program has continued to monitor the pattern of transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C, and specific sexually transmissible infections in Australia in 2002, in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, State and

Territory health authorities and collaborating networks. Detailed analyses and interpretation of recent trends in new diagnoses of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections, and estimates of HIV and hepatitis C prevalence and incidence in higher and lower risk population subgroups, were published in *HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 2003*. The *Annual Surveillance Report 2003* was the seventh successive issue of the *Annual Surveillance Report* and was formally released by Associate Professor Cindy Shannon at the 14th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine in Cairns in October 2003. The Australian HIV public access dataset was released for the first time in 2003, and complements the Australian AIDS public access dataset which has been available since 2001.

The *Annual Surveillance Report 2003* indicated that the number of AIDS cases remained relatively stable at around 200 cases each year in 1999 – 2002.

Following a steady decline in the annual number of new diagnoses of HIV infection from 1993 to 1998, the number of new diagnoses increased to 808 by 2002. The number of diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection also increased from 151 in 1998 to 241 in 2002, the highest number of reported diagnoses since commencement of surveillance for newly acquired HIV infection in 1991. HIV transmission occurred primarily through sexual contact between men. There was no evidence of an increase in HIV transmission through injecting drug use or heterosexual contact.

An estimated 13,120 people were living with HIV/AIDS in Australia at the end of 2002 and around 50% were receiving antiretroviral treatment for HIV infection. Survival following AIDS had increased from 17.4 months in 1993 to 38.4 months in 1999. A report on the substantial improvement in survival following AIDS dementia complex in the era of highly active antiretroviral treatment was published in the journal *AIDS* in 2003.

An analysis of the pattern of late HIV presentation among people diagnosed with AIDS in Australia was published in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health* in 2003.

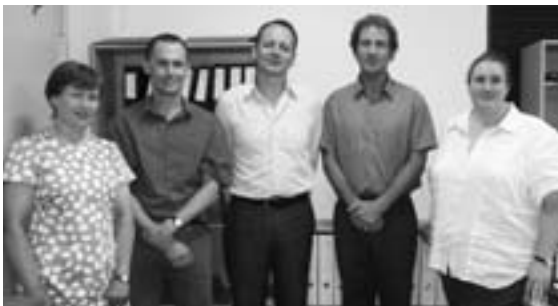
A report on the evolving methods for monitoring the pattern of HIV transmission in Australia, illustrated by comparing surveillance methods in use in 1982, 1992 and 2002, was published in September–November 2003 issue of *HIV Australia*. A paper describing HIV/AIDS surveillance systems in Australia was published in a supplement to the *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* in 2003.

Diagnoses of hepatitis C infection reported through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System declined from 20,465 in 2000 to 15,953 in 2002. Hepatitis C transmission occurred predominantly among people with a recent history of injecting drug use. Results available through the Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs showed that hepatitis C prevalence among men and women who had been injecting drugs for less than three years increased from 17% in 1998 to 38% in 2002. Hepatitis C prevalence also increased among people aged less than 20 years, from 22% in 1998 to 38% in 2002.

An estimated 168,000 people were living with hepatitis C infection in Australia in 2002, including 133,000 people with chronic hepatitis C infection and stage 0/1 liver disease, 29,000 with stage 2/3 liver disease and 6,900 living with hepatitis C related cirrhosis. In 2002, an estimated 1,640 people were treated with ribavirin and interferon combination treatment for hepatitis C infection. The Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Register reported hepatitis B and hepatitis C was the primary cause of liver disease in 9.9% and 27.2% of liver transplants in 2002, respectively.

Chlamydia was the most frequently reported notifiable communicable infection in Australia in 2002. The number of new diagnoses increased from 14,000 in 1999 to over 24,000 in 2002. The population rate of diagnosis of gonorrhoea also increased slightly, but the rate of diagnosis of syphilis declined.

The *Australian HIV Surveillance Report* continued to be published in 2003, providing quarterly updates on the number of new diagnoses of HIV/AIDS and HIV prevalence and incidence among people seen through a network of metropolitan sexual health clinics. Brief reports on topics of special interest in HIV/AIDS epidemiology were also published in the *Australian HIV Surveillance Report*. An assessment of underreporting of AIDS, evaluated by matching AIDS cases notified to the National AIDS Registry as having died to deaths registered with the National Death Index, was published in the January 2003 issue. The assessment indicated almost complete notification of AIDS and death following AIDS for AIDS cases diagnosed in 1988 – 1997. The clinical implications of late HIV presentation were discussed in the context of a case report in the April 2003 issue of the *Australian HIV Surveillance Report*. In the July 2003 issue, a continuing trend of increasing CD4+ cell count at AIDS diagnosis was reported among people with AIDS whose HIV diagnosis was at least three months prior to AIDS. The October 2003 issue included a report on the National Donovanosis Eradication (Elimination) Project 2001–2004.



**Ann McDonald, Andrew Grulich, Greg Dore, John Kaldor, Melanie Middleton**

In October 2003, the NCHECR Surveillance Program hosted the seventh annual workshop of national HIV/AIDS surveillance programs from Europe, North America and Australia. Representatives of Canada, the United States, Europe as a whole, Australia, France, Italy and the United Kingdom attended the meeting. Methodological issues in HIV/AIDS surveillance such as use of incidence assays for monitoring HIV transmission, development of statistical methods for modelling HIV transmission, methods for monitoring HIV subtype, and methods for monitoring HIV infection in special populations such as Indigenous people and immigrants, were discussed during the two day meeting.

## National surveillance coordination and information dissemination

### Support for national surveillance committees

The National HIV Surveillance Committee, the National Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Committee and the Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee each co-ordinate ongoing national surveillance activities within their terms of reference including the development of new initiatives in case surveillance, new analyses of surveillance data, development of standardised surveillance procedures, and communication with and feedback of surveillance outputs to organisations directly involved in surveillance activities.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Claire Vajdic

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

### *HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report*

Detailed analyses and interpretations of national surveillance data on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections are published in *HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report*

**Status:** The *Annual Surveillance Report 2003* was published for the seventh successive year.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Handan Wand

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

### *Australian HIV Surveillance Report*

The *Australian HIV Surveillance Report* provides quarterly updates on the number of new diagnoses of HIV infection and AIDS and estimates of HIV incidence and prevalence through a network of sexual health clinics. Articles on topics of special interest in HIV epidemiology are also published in the *Australian HIV Surveillance Report*.

**Status:** The *Australian HIV Surveillance Report*, in its current format, has been published each quarter from July 1990.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Handan Wand

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections



## Surveillance for HIV/AIDS

### Monitoring cases of AIDS

The past pattern of HIV transmission, the pattern of illness associated with advanced HIV immunodeficiency and the impact of antiretroviral treatment on the pattern of illness is monitored through national AIDS surveillance.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Handan Wand

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

### Monitoring cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection

The pattern of HIV transmission is monitored through national surveillance for newly diagnosed HIV infection, potentially providing information on more recent patterns of HIV transmission than does AIDS surveillance.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald, Handan Wand

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

### Monitoring diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection

Diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection are monitored to provide an indication of the current pattern of HIV transmission in Australia.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

### Monitoring perinatal exposure to HIV

The extent and outcome of perinatal exposure to HIV in Australia, including risk factors for perinatal HIV transmission, is monitored to indicate the rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission, the impact of interventions for reducing the risk of perinatal HIV transmission and HIV prevalence among childbearing women.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

### Monitoring long-term outcome of newly acquired HIV infection

The long-term outcome of HIV infection is monitored among cases with a known date of HIV acquisition that have progressed to AIDS.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald, Handan Wand

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities, Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit, networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

### Monitoring HIV transmission through specialised tests for incident HIV infection

Specialised tests for diagnosing incident HIV infection are evaluated by comparison with the results of national surveillance for newly acquired HIV infection.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

**Collaborators:** NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV; State and Territory health authorities; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

### Monitoring HIV subtypes among new HIV diagnoses

HIV subtype is ascertained among cases of newly acquired HIV infection and cases whose exposure to HIV was attributed to sources other than male homosexual contact.

**Status:** Funding was been obtained for employment of a national study co-ordinator, and for laboratory tests.

**Personnel:** Mary Poynten, Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

**Funding:** National Centre for HIV Virology Research

## Monitoring survival following HIV/AIDS diagnosis in Australia

The date and cause of death among people with diagnosed HIV infection and AIDS is obtained through linkage to deaths registered with the National Death Index, and the pattern of survival following HIV/AIDS diagnosis analysed and modelled.

**Status:** Ethics Committee clearance has been obtained through UNSW and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald, Matthew Law, Fatemeh Nakhaee (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; State and Territory health authorities

## Assessment of self-report of HIV exposure history

Documentation of self-report of exposure to HIV is obtained through structured sexual history taking among cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection whose exposure was attributed to sources other than male homosexual contact

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit

## Surveillance for viral hepatitis

### Monitoring cases of newly diagnosed hepatitis C

Notifications of newly acquired and newly diagnosed cases of hepatitis C to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) are tabulated. Additional information on newly acquired hepatitis C notifications, including risk factors for acquisition, is obtained from State and Territory health authorities.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Greg Dore, Melanie Middleton

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

### Monitoring of long-term outcomes of chronic hepatitis B and C

Data is obtained from the Australian and New Zealand Liver Transplant Register on number and underlying cause (hepatitis B and C, other) for liver transplants performed.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Register

## Surveillance for sexually transmissible infections

A national framework for sexually transmissible infection (STI) control is developed through the Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee.

**Status:** A report detailing the Committee's recommendations for reporting of National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS) STI notifications was developed and presented to the Communicable Diseases Network. The Committee also finalised a report reviewing the jurisdictional procedures for STI surveillance, further refined the STI case definitions and continued its review of the prevalence of chlamydia in Australia.

**Personnel:** Claire Vajdic, Melanie Middleton

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, networks involved in surveillance for sexually transmissible infections

## Surveillance in selected populations

### Needle and syringe program surveys

Annual surveys are conducted over a one-week period at around 50 needle and syringe program (NSP) sites across Australia. Approximately 2,500 clients attending NSP sites complete a behavioural survey and have finger-prick blood samples taken for HIV and hepatitis C testing. This survey is the major tool for monitoring HIV and hepatitis C prevalence among injecting drug users in Australia.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Margaret MacDonald, Jialun Zhou, Megan Buddle, Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health

### Monitoring hepatitis C incidence among injecting drug users

Incidence of hepatitis C is monitored among injecting drug users attending the Kirketon Road Centre. All injecting drug users who are hepatitis C antibody seronegative and have had repeat testing are included in the analysis.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Kirketon Road Centre

### **Monitoring HIV prevalence and incidence through sexual health clinics**

HIV prevalence and incidence is monitored among people seen at sexual health clinics who are voluntarily tested for HIV antibody as part of their clinical care.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

**Collaborators:** Collaborative group on sentinel surveillance in sexual health clinics

### **Monitoring HIV antibody prevalence among prison entrants in Australia**

State and Territory Departments of Corrections provide summaries of the number of men and women received into prison each quarter, the number who were voluntarily tested for HIV antibody and the number with diagnosed HIV infection.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

**Collaborators:** State and Territory Departments of Corrections

### **Monitoring hepatitis C antibody prevalence through sexual health clinics**

Hepatitis C prevalence is monitored among people seen through a network of sexual health clinics who are voluntarily tested for hepatitis C.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald, Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Collaborative group on sentinel surveillance in sexual health clinics

### **Monitoring HIV and viral hepatitis among blood donors**

Newly emerging patterns of transmission of HIV and viral hepatitis are monitored among blood donors, a subgroup of the population at low risk of infection who are compulsorily tested for blood borne viruses.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Melanie Middleton, Ann McDonald, Greg Dore

**Collaborator:** Australian Red Cross Blood Service



**Jennifer Kemp, Courtney Bendall**

### **Behavioural surveillance for HIV risk factors among homosexual men**

Repeated community-based cross sectional surveys of the risk behaviour of homosexual men.

**Status:** In 2003, surveys were conducted in Sydney (1,854 completed questionnaires in February; 687 completed questionnaires in August), Melbourne (2,064 completed questionnaires in February), Queensland (1,510 completed questionnaires in June), Adelaide (834 completed questionnaires in October) and Canberra (255 completed questionnaires in November).

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage; Andrew Grulich

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS

**Funding:** NSW Health Department; Department of Human Services, Melbourne; Queensland Health; South Australian Department of Human Services, ACT Department of Health, Housing and Community Care

# Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program



**Sean Emery**

During 2003, recruitment into the ESPRIT study of interleukin-2 was completed at a little over 4,000 patients worldwide, making this the largest single randomised trial of an experimental intervention in HIV disease. NCHECR supports the conduct

of this trial through regional governance and national coordination. Extended follow up of the ROSEY and MITOX studies were completed with results being presented at national and international meetings shortly thereafter. The ROSEY study showed that rosiglitazone does not offer a therapeutic option for most patients with lipotrophy, but more optimistically, the MITOX extension study indicated that modest gains in peripheral fat were sustained for over one year in patients who switched away from thymidine analogue nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors in their antiretroviral regimens. Work continued on the development of a study of subcutaneous polylactic acid injections to the face to correct facial lipotrophy.

The NCHECR network completed recruitment into the ML16992 protocol studying a new fusion inhibitor T-20, with 59 subjects recruited in a little less than three months. Staff in the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program (TVRP) also commenced phase II of the implementation plan for the SMART study of treatment initiation strategies, by opening a further 14 sites to recruitment in Australia/New Zealand, and supporting the conduct of the study in Argentina. Recruitment into SMART went well through to the end of the year with all objectives being met.

After a period of acute funding uncertainty toward the end of 2002, new structures were implemented to continue the SILCAAT study of interleukin-2 after Chiron's withdrawal. Once again NCHECR personnel played a significant role in leadership and operational support, and all study sites in Australia and Argentina distinguished themselves by their willingness to embrace the new funding

structures and continue the protocol in dramatically different circumstances to those which existed when the study began.

TVRP personnel were invited to support an exciting new international collaboration in South Africa (called PHIDISA) sponsored through the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), the US Department of Defense and the South African National Defence Force. The program builds on existing bilateral Defence Force initiatives aimed at prevention of HIV transmission. The principal objectives of PHIDISA are to conduct rigorous randomised studies of treatment for HIV disease, to develop research and health care infrastructure and to guide the ongoing development health care policy in the region.

Several years of intense activity in both therapeutic and prophylactic vaccine research bore fruit during 2003. Completion of the therapeutic vaccine trial generated preliminary data indicating that vaccination with a recombinant fowlpox co-expressing HIV genes and human interferon-gamma led to reduced rates of virus replication in patients who subsequently ceased their antiretroviral therapy. Although further work is required to better understand the biological mechanisms of this outcome, these results are unique in the research area and warrant further clinical evaluation. TVRP personnel guided recruitment into the phase I study of a prophylactic vaccine under the NIH HIV Vaccine Design and Development Team Contract. A large multidisciplinary group involving community, social researchers and laboratory investigators designed this small study recruiting through St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. NCHECR was also required to liaise closely with the statutory bodies in Australia that have responsibility for oversight of human research involving recombinant technologies.

Throughout the year TVRP personnel supported the clinical trials network through combined working group meetings, workshops and ongoing project related coordination. Internally TVRP Standard Operating Procedures were subject to an independent audit across five projects, with results of this process contributing to the further strengthening of NCHECR's compliance and Good Clinical Research Practice requirements.

## Antiretroviral therapy

### Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2003

#### INITIO

A randomised trial to evaluate different therapeutic strategies of combination therapy for HIV infection.

**Status:** Recruitment closed April 2002 (Follow-up to be completed March 2004)

**Sites:** 28 (25 Australia, 2 New Zealand, 1 Brazil)

**Enrolled/target:** 171(140 Australia and New Zealand, 31 Brazil)/100

**Personnel:** Dianne Carey, Susan Phipps

**Funding:** Medical Research Council, UK

### Studies recruiting during 2003

#### SMART

A large, simple, trial comparing two strategies for management of antiretroviral therapy: this study is examining the impact of long-term HIV control by randomising patients to receive antiretrovirals to either maintain an undetectable viral load or maintain an acceptable CD4 count.

**Status:** Open May 2002

**Sites:** 22 Australia (21 open), 3 New Zealand (0 open), 1 Japan (0 open), 13 Argentina (0 open)

**Enrolled/target:** 79/200 Australia, 1,486/6,000 internationally

**Personnel:** Fraser Drummond, Sue Phipps, Claudette Satchell

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

#### ML16992

An open-label study to determine the efficacy and safety of enfuvirtide (T20, Fuzeon) in patients changing therapy to an NRTI-sparing regimen.

**Status:** Recruitment closed February 2003

**Sites:** 19

**Enrolled/target:** 59/60

**Personnel:** Gillian Hales

**Funding:** Roche Products Pty Ltd

#### STACCATO

The Swiss-Thai-Australia Treatment Interruption Study. This study compares continuous therapy with intermittent therapy either based on CD4 cell count or on a fixed week on/week off regimen.

**Status:** Open October 2002

**Sites:** 6 (2 Australia, 1 Thailand, 1 Switzerland, 1 Canada, 1 Argentina)

**Enrolled/target:** 8/30 Australia, 397/600 internationally

**Personnel:** Fraser Drummond, Claudette Satchell



**Back row:** Rebekah Puls, Sarah Pett, Kate Clezy, Dianne Carey  
**Front row:** Gillian Hales, Fraser Drummond, Paddy Mallon

#### PHIDISA I

A prospective epidemiological cohort study of HIV and risk-related co-infections in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** 6 military medical sites in Republic of South Africa

**Enrolled/target:** 700/unlimited

**Personnel:** Allison Martin

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; US Department of Defense; South African National Defence Force

#### PHIDISA II

A randomised, open-label 2x2 factorial study to compare the safety and efficacy of different combination antiretroviral therapy regimens in treatment naïve patients with advanced HIV disease and/or CD4+ cell counts < 200 cells/ $\mu$ L.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** 6 military medical sites in Republic of South Africa

**Enrolled/target:** 30/2,800

**Personnel:** Allison Martin

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; US Department of Defense; South African National Defence Force

## Studies in preparation 2003

### Pacific

A comparison of once-daily antiretroviral therapy (ART) in HIV infected treatment-naïve subjects.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** To be decided

**Target:** To be finalised

**Personnel:** Allison Martin

### PHIDISA III

A randomised, controlled study to compare immediate versus deferred treatment with antiretrovirals alone or in combination with nutritional supplementation in patients with HIV infection and CD4+ cell counts  $\geq 250$  and  $<350$  cells/ $\mu\text{L}$  and no category III or IV symptoms of disease (WHO criteria).

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** 6 military medical sites in Republic of South Africa

**Target:** 4,800

**Personnel:** Allison Martin

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; US Department of Defense; South African National Defence Force

## Lipodystrophy studies

### Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2003

#### MITOX extension

A long-term comparative study of immediate versus deferred replacement of thymidine analogue with guanosine analogue in patients with lipodystrophy.

**Status:** Recruitment closed February 2003

**Sites:** 16

**Enrolled/target:** 82/105

**Personnel:** Allison Martin

**Funding:** GlaxoSmithKline

#### ROSEY

A randomised, double blind, placebo-controlled, multi-centre study of rosiglitazone for the treatment of HIV lipodystrophy with a 48-week open label extension phase.

**Status:** Recruitment closed June 2002

**Sites:** 17

**Enrolled/target:** 108/100

**Personnel:** Dianne Carey, Allison Martin

**Funding:** GlaxoSmithKline; Bristol-Myers Squibb

### SAMA 001

*Seronegatives, Antiretrovirals and Metabolic Abnormalities*

A randomised study of the effect of treatment with zidovudine (AZT) and lamivudine (3TC) versus stavudine (d4T) and lamivudine (3TC) in HIV-negative healthy subjects on the development of abnormalities of lipid and glucose metabolism.

**Status:** Recruitment closed May 2003

**Sites:** 1

**Enrolled/target:** 20/20

**Personnel:** Paddy Mallon

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## Studies recruiting during 2003

### SAMA 002

*Seronegatives, Antiretrovirals and Metabolic Abnormalities*

A randomised study of the effect of treatment with protease inhibitors versus non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors in HIV-negative healthy subjects on the development of abnormalities of lipid and glucose metabolism.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** 1

**Target:** 50

**Personnel:** Paddy Mallon

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

### HAMA 001

*HIV Infection and Metabolic Abnormalities*

A prospective study of the effect of treatment with antiretroviral medications in HIV-infected individuals on the development of lipodystrophy, cardiovascular risk and bone metabolism.

**Status:** Recruitment opened March 2003

**Sites:** 1

**Enrolled/target:** 16/80

**Personnel:** Paddy Mallon

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## Study in preparation during 2003

### Surgical correction of facial lipodystrophy

A randomised, open-label study to assess the safety, efficacy and durability of immediate versus deferred subcutaneous injections of polylactic acid in individuals with antiretroviral-associated facial lipodystrophy.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** To be decided

**Target:** To be finalised

**Personnel:** Dianne Carey

## Immune-based therapies and vaccines

### Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2003

#### SILCAAT

A phase III, multicentre, randomised study of the biological and clinical efficacy of subcutaneous recombinant, human interleukin-2 in HIV-infected patients with low CD4+ counts receiving active antiretroviral therapy.

**Status:** Recruitment closed October 2002

**Sites:** 17 (12 Australia, 5 Argentina)

**Enrolled/target:** 293 (126 Australia, 167 Argentina)/125 Australia

**Personnel:** Sarah Pett, Brooke Cordwell, Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

#### ESPRIT

A randomised, open-label, phase III, international study of subcutaneous recombinant interleukin-2 in patients with HIV infection and CD4 lymphocyte count greater than or equal to 300 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>.

**Status:** Recruitment closed May 2003

**Sites:** 48 (23 Australia, 3 Japan, 1 Singapore, 5 Thailand, 13 Argentina, 3 Israel)

**Enrolled/target:** 1,233/106% of enrolment target (205/247 Australia, 64/65 Israel, 365/300 Thailand, 20/20 Singapore, 554/494 Argentina, 25/35 Japan)

**Personnel:** Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers, Brooke Cordwell

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

#### ITV extension

A double-blind placebo-controlled extension study to assess the antiretrovirological properties of a therapeutic HIV vaccine candidate based on recombinant fowlpox virus (rFPV) (ITV extension study).

**Status:** Recruitment closed April 2003

**Sites:** 5

**Enrolled/target:** 25/35

**Personnel:** Rebekah Puls, Tony Kelleher

**Funding:** Virax Immunotherapeutics

### Studies recruiting during 2003

#### HVDDT vaccine

A randomised, placebo-controlled, double blind, phase I/IIa clinical trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a candidate clade B prophylactic DNA prime-rFPV boost HIV vaccination strategy.

**Status:** Open May 2003

**Sites:** 1

**Enrolled/target:** 23/24

**Personnel:** Rebekah Puls, Tony Kelleher

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

### Studies in preparation during 2003

#### HVDDT vaccine (AE#1)

An open label, dose escalation study to assess safety and preliminary immunogenicity of a candidate clade A/E prophylactic DNA prime-rFPV boost HIV vaccination strategy.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** 1

**Target:** 10

**Personnel:** Rebekah Puls

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

#### HVDDT vaccine (AE#2)

A randomised, partially blinded study to investigate the safety and immunogenicity of a candidate clade A/E prophylactic DNA prime-rFPV boost vaccination strategy employing different doses of each vaccine.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** 1

**Target:** 160

**Personnel:** Rebekah Puls

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

#### Recombinant fowlpox #1

A randomised, double blind placebo controlled trial to assess the safety and efficacy of two doses of recombinant fowlpox vaccine expressing HIV genes and human interferon-gamma in the treatment of HIV infected patients with asymptomatic disease and CD4+ cell counts >500 copies/ $\mu$ L.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** To be decided

**Target:** 180

**Personnel:** Rebekah Puls

**Funding:** Undetermined

## Recombinant fowlpox #2

A randomised double blind placebo controlled trial to assess the safety and efficacy of two dosing schedules of recombinant fowlpox vaccine expressing HIV genes and human interferon-gamma in the treatment of HIV infected patients with asymptomatic disease and CD4+ cell counts >500 copies/ $\mu$ L.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** To be decided

**Target:** 120

**Personnel:** Rebekah Puls

**Funding:** Undetermined

## HIV-NAT Studies

### Studies closed to recruitment or completed 2003

#### HIV-NAT 009

An open-label, single-arm, non-randomised study to evaluate the efficacy, safety and tolerability of indinavir 800mg BID plus ritonavir 100mg BID, in combination with efavirenz 600mg OD, in HIV-1 infected patients who are pre-treated with and have failed combination nucleoside reverse transcriptase therapy.

**Status:** Recruitment closed October 2002

**Sites:** HIV-NAT

**Enrolled/target:** 60/60

**Personnel:** Mark Boyd

**Funding:** Merck Sharpe and Dohme



Susan Phipps, David Courtney-Rodgers, Cate Carey, Brooke Caldwell, Allison Martin, Claudette Satchell

#### HIV-NAT 010

A randomised, open-label, comparative study to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and cost of immediate versus deferred therapy with AZT/3TC/NVP in HIV-infected Thai children with moderate immunodeficiency.

**Status:** Open January 2002

**Sites:** 3

**Enrolled/target:** 19/40

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** HIV-NAT; Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

## ESPRIT

Phase III comparative study of subcutaneous recombinant IL-2 plus antiretrovirals versus antiretroviral alone. It is a multi-national trial with total volunteers of 4,000

**Status:** Recruitment closed November 2002

**Sites:** 5

**Enrolled/target:** 300/300

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; Ministry of Public Health, Thailand; Merck Sharpe and Dohme; Bristol-Myers Squibb (Thailand); The Government Pharmaceutical Organization (Thailand)

#### SPD 754.201

Multinational phase II, randomised, double blind, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the antiretroviral activity, pharmacokinetics, genotyping and viral rebound after cessation of four different doses of a new nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor. SPD 754.201.

**Status:** Open November 2002

**Sites:** HIV-NAT

**Enrolled/target:** 0/20

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** Shire Pharmaceutical Development Inc

#### AI-455-099

Evaluation of the safety and antiviral efficacy of stavudine extended release formulation as compared to stavudine immediate release formulation, each as part of a potent antiretroviral combination therapy.

**Status:** Open October 2000

**Sites:** 54 internationally

**Enrolled/target:** 15/35

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** Bristol-Myers Squibb

## Studies recruiting during 2003

### STACCATO

The Swiss-Thai-Australia Treatment Interruption Study. This study compares continuous therapy with intermittent therapy either based on CD4 cell count or on a fixed week on/week off regimen.

**Status:** Open January 2002

**Sites:** 7

**Enrolled/target:** 100/300

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** F Hoffman-La Roche Ltd



# HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Work in the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program has been focussed in two main areas: HIV transmission and its prevention, and the natural history of HIV-related disease, with a major focus on HIV-related cancer.



**Andrew Grulich**

The primary results of the Australian Survey of Health and Relationships, the most comprehensive survey of the sexual behaviour of Australians were published in 2003. This survey of the sexual behaviour and sexual health of over 19,000 Australians is one of the largest such studies on

the world with particular relevance to HIV prevention. The study provided key information on sexual risk behaviour in homosexual men, and bisexual men and women. It also demonstrated poor levels of knowledge about sexually transmissible infections in the general population. The primary analyses were published as a special edition of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*.

During 2003, the vaccine preparedness cohort study, known as HIM, continued to grow. By the end of the year, there were 1,333 participants and 798 had attended for at least one follow up interview. In 2003 screening for chlamydia and gonorrhoea was added to the existing sexually transmissible agents that were assessed at baseline (hepatitis A and B, syphilis and HIV). This study will allow for a comprehensive analysis of the interaction between HIV and sexually transmissible infections in this population. Plans were developed during 2003 to add herpes simplex testing to the cohort.

The rapid increase in diagnoses of infectious syphilis in homosexual men in Sydney led to the development by the NCHECR of a study of risk factors for this resurgent sexually transmissible infection.

Another large-scale epidemiological study, the observational study of non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis, had enrolled 1370 participants by the end of 2003. Data presented from this study at the *2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment* in Paris during 2003 showed that there had been no infections related to treatment failure in this population.

In the field of HIV natural history, our study of diagnostic methods for anal intra-epithelial neoplasia was completed. This randomised controlled trial enrolled 151 homosexual men who all underwent sampling of anal cells by both a blind sampling method and with a proctoscope-guided technique. The study demonstrated a clear benefit of the blind technique with respect to specimen adequacy.

## HIV transmission and prevention research

### Australian Survey of Health and Relationships

A national random survey of the sexual behaviour of Australians aged 16-59 years.

**Status:** Over 19,000 individuals were selected by random digit telephone dialling, and underwent a detailed interview regarding sexual behaviour.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich

**Collaborators:** Australian Centre for Sex, Health and Society; Central Sydney Area Health Service; National Centre in HIV Social Research

**Funding:** Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; Victorian Health Promotion Foundation; NSW, Queensland and Western Australian Health Departments; Central Sydney Area Health Service

### HIV vaccine preparedness cohort study (Health in Men (HIM) Study)

A vaccine preparedness cohort study of HIV-negative homosexual men.

**Status:** By the end of 2003, 1,333 men had been enrolled. In addition to testing for HIV, hepatitis A and B and syphilis, testing for gonorrhoea and chlamydia in the urine, throat and anus was added to the study in 2003.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; NSW Health Department; Becton Dickinson and Company



**Back Row:** Wayne Bleakley, Daniel Madeddu, Patrick McGrath, Harry Smith, Garrett Prestage, Jack Bradley, Brian Acraman  
**Front Row:** Hagen Tuschke, Paul Kelly, Hedimo Santana

### **Interaction between sexually transmissible infections and HIV infection in the HIM study**

A cohort study to examine the interaction between sexually transmissible infections and HIV incidence among initially HIV-negative homosexual men.

**Status:** 1,333 men enrolled by the end of 2003, of whom more than 95% consented to sexual health screening. 1,020 had been tested for gonorrhoea and chlamydia.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research; Basil Donovan, Cathy Pell, Sydney Sexual Health Centre

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; NSW Health Department; Becton-Dickinson

### **Transmission of hepatitis C in the Health in Men (HIM) Study**

A cross sectional study of prevalence and risk factors for hepatitis C infection in homosexual men.

**Status:** Men enrolled in the HIM study in 2001 and 2002 were offered hepatitis C testing, and 824 consented.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin, Greg Dore

**Collaborator:** National Centre in HIV Social Research

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; NSW Health Department



**Claire Vajdic, Andrew Grulich, Jeff Jin**

### **Non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis**

An observational study of the use of post-exposure prophylaxis in Australia.

**Status:** 1,370 participants had been enrolled by the end of 2003.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Mary Poynten, Don Smith

**Collaborators:** NCHECR network

**Funding:** Glaxo-SmithKline; NSW Health Department

### **Risk factors for HIV seroconversion**

A study of risk factors for HIV infection among people with newly acquired HIV infection.

**Status:** By the end of 2003, 83 men had been enrolled.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

**Collaborators:** PHAEDRA investigators (see *Primary HIV Infection Research Program*); National Centre in HIV Social Research

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

### **Risk factors for syphilis in homosexual men**

A cross sectional study of risk factors for syphilis among men diagnosed with infectious syphilis in inner Sydney medical practices.

**Status:** 57 men were recruited in 2003, and recruitment ceased in December.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research; Taylor Square Private Clinic; Sydney Sexual Health Centre; Marrickville Sexual Health Centre; Holdsworth House General Practice; 407 Doctors

### **HIV natural history research**

#### **Time trends in AIDS lymphoma**

A cohort study of AIDS-related lymphoma in Sydney.

**Status:** 300 cases of AIDS-related lymphoma occurring in Sydney hospitals between 1984 and 2002 were included. The median CD4 count at lymphoma diagnosis increased markedly from around 30 to 180, corresponding with the widespread introduction of effective antiretroviral therapy. Lymphoma became a more frequently occurring first AIDS-defining illness. In a multivariate model, survival from lymphoma improved by 50% in the era of highly active antiretroviral therapy.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Monica Robotin

**Collaborators:** St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Prince of Wales Hospital; Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

#### **Diagnosis of anal intra-epithelial neoplasia (AIN) in homosexual men**

A randomised controlled trial of proctoscope guided versus blind anal swabs for the diagnosis of AIN.

**Status:** 151 patients were enrolled, and the study ceased recruitment in 2003.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Claire Vajdic, Jonathan Anderson

**Collaborators:** Albion Street Centre; Carlton Clinic, Victorian Cytology Service

#### **Anal intraepithelial neoplasia (AIN) and anal cancer**

A cohort study of AIN and anal cancer in HIV negative and HIV positive homosexual men.

**Status:** A collaborative group has been established to examine the incidence, prevalence, and risk factors for anal intraepithelial neoplasia (AIN), anal human papilloma virus (HPV) infection and anal cancer in HIV-positive and HIV-negative Australian homosexual men. A funding submission was submitted.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Claire Vajdic, Jonathan Anderson, Tony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Victorian Cytology Service; Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Centre; Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research, University of Queensland; Royal Perth Hospital; The University of Sydney

### **Australian long-term nonprogressor (LTNP) cohort**

A cohort study, established in 1994, of people with slowly progressive HIV disease.

**Status:** 72 individuals remained under active follow-up to the end of 2003. The majority of LTNP participants have now been infected with HIV for at least 15 years.

**Personnel:** Melanie Middleton, Tony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Long-term nonprogressor study group, including clinical sites in Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane; Centre for Immunology, St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; HIV Immunovirology Laboratory, Garvan Institute of Medical Research



**Iona Millwood, Mary Poynten**

### **Positive Health Study**

A cohort study of the health and health-related behaviours of HIV positive people.

**Status:** A total of 505 people living with HIV/AIDS had been enrolled by the end of 2003, and 147 were interviewed in 2003, including 73 who were interviewed for the first time.

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage, Andrew Grulich

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS

**Funding:** NSW Health Department

# Viral Hepatitis Program

The Viral Hepatitis Program broadened the scope of its activities during 2003, particularly into the area of therapeutic research. The Viral Hepatitis Working Group, jointly auspiced by NCHECR and the Australian Liver Association, provided the foundation for the development of several projects, including a proposal to examine the safety and efficacy of induction dosing pegylated interferon (in combination with ribavirin) in people with hepatitis C genotype 1. Enrolment into the first clinical trial undertaken by the Program, the HEPCOG study, commenced in 2003. This trial is an open label study of the impact of pegylated interferon and ribavirin on neurocognitive function among people with hepatitis C infection and HIV/hepatitis C coinfection.



**Greg Dore**

The major highlight for the Viral Hepatitis Program during 2003 was the awarding of a US National Institutes for Health (NIH) five year grant to examine the natural history of acute hepatitis C infection, and the safety, efficacy and feasibility of pegylated interferon

monotherapy for treatment of acute hepatitis C infection among injecting drug users. This is the first NIH grant the Centre has received for hepatitis C research, and brings together a large team of Australian investigators in the areas of epidemiology, public health, drug and alcohol research, clinical research and primary and tertiary clinical care.

Presentation of eleven papers (six as oral presentations) at the *13th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease* was evidence of the expanding program and quality of research activities within the Viral Hepatitis Program. Further international recognition of the Program's work came through PhD student, Joanne Micallef's oral presentation on hepatitis C re-infection at the *American Association for the Study of Liver Disease Annual Meeting* in Boston.

The Program suffered a great loss with the death of Margaret MacDonald in September 2003 (see *Obituary* on page 3). Margaret was responsible for programs in the areas of research into prevention of drug related harm among people who inject drugs.

## Hepatitis B and C linkage study

This study involves the cross matching of hepatitis B and C notifications to the NSW Health Department over the period 1992–2002 with the NSW Cancer Register and the National Death Index. The information will enable determination of the hepatitis B and C attributable fractions for liver cancer cases, and the liver cancer incidence, liver disease-related and overall mortality rates among people with chronic hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

**Status:** Preliminary work was undertaken, including finalisation of the study protocol

**Personnel:** Janaki Amin, Greg Dore, Matthew Law

**Collaborators:** NSW Department of Health; NSW Cancer Council; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Hepatitis C incidence in prisons (HITS)

Hepatitis C incidence and risk factors for seroconversion are determined among a cohort of seronegative prison inmates in New South Wales prisons. Incident hepatitis C cases undergo more intensive clinical and virological assessment to examine the early natural history of hepatitis C.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Collaborators:** Department of Pathology, UNSW; Royal Prince Alfred Hospital; Prince of Wales Hospital

**Funding:** NHMRC

## Systematic review of viral clearance in newly acquired hepatitis C

A systematic review of studies of acute and newly acquired hepatitis C natural history to provide an estimate of the proportion and predictors of viral clearance.

**Status:** Analyses were completed.

**Personnel:** Joanne Micallef, Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** None

## Hepatitis C viral clearance among a cohort of injecting drug users

A study of viral clearance among a retrospective cohort of injecting drug users with newly acquired hepatitis C at Kirketon Road Centre over the period 1992–2002.

**Status:** Analyses were completed.

**Personnel:** Joanne Micallef, Janaki Amin, Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Marianne Jauncey, Centre for Epidemiology and Research, NSW Health Department; Kirketon Road Centre; Prince of Wales Hospital

**Funding:** Bayer Diagnostics

### **Models for estimating disease progression in chronic hepatitis C infection**

Natural history models for estimating hepatitis C-related liver disease progression to underpin cost effectiveness evaluations of therapeutic interventions.

**Status:** Collaboration was formed with the Harvard University School of Public Health to undertake international hepatitis C modeling and projects. Ongoing work was also undertaken through the World Health Organisation Global Burden of Hepatitis C Disease Project.

**Personnel:** Greg Dore, Janaki Amin, Matthew Law

**Collaborators:** School of Public Health, Harvard University, USA; World Health Organisation, Switzerland



**Anna Doab, Rosie Thein, Gail Matthews**

### **Tenofovir in HIV/hepatitis B coinfection**

A randomized controlled trial to compare the safety and efficacy of tenofovir versus lamivudine versus tenofovir plus lamivudine as anti hepatitis B active agents within the HAART regimen. The trial will also compare early hepatitis B viral responses in people with HIV/hepatitis B coinfection, and hepatitis B mono infection.

**Status:** In development

**Personnel:** Gail Matthews, Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Royal Melbourne Hospital; The Alfred Hospital; Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory; International AIDS Therapy Evaluation Centre; HIV-NAT

**Funding:** Gilead Sciences

### **Therapy for newly acquired hepatitis C**

A study examining the natural history, safety and efficacy of interferon therapy for acute and newly acquired hepatitis C among injecting drug users.

**Status:** In development

**Personnel:** Greg Dore, Gail Matthews

**Collaborators:** Australian Liver Association/NCHECR Viral Hepatitis Working Group

**Funding:** National Institutes of Health, USA; Roche Products Pty Ltd

### **Hepatitis C and quality of life: Neuro-psychological involvement (HEPCOG)**

An open label trial of combination pegylated interferon and ribavirin to examine the impact of hepatitis C, treatment and viral clearance in neurocognitive impairment in people with HIV/hepatitis C coinfection, and hepatitis C mono infection.

**Status:** 13 people with HIV/hepatitis C coinfection, and 7 people with hepatitis C mono-infection were recruited into the study as at the end of 2003.

**Personnel:** Rosie Thein, Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Bruce Brew, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Paul Maruff, La Trobe University; David Koorey, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

**Funding:** Roche Products Pty Ltd

### **Quality of life in hepatitis C**

A systematic review of quality of life studies in hepatitis C. Translation of SF-36 scores into utility indices is performed to enable estimates of quality of life impairment at different stages of liver disease and treatment outcome.

**Status:** Initial literature review completed. Analyses ongoing.

**Personnel:** Rosie Thein; Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Murray Krahn, Department of Medicine and Health Policy, University of Toronto, Canada

### **Evaluation of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC)**

NCHECR had substantial involvement in the evaluation of the trial MSIC established in Kings Cross by the NSW government in 2001. NCHECR was specifically responsible for surveys of health and risk behaviour in people who inject drugs from the Kings Cross area, analyses of data on blood-borne virus infection, telephone surveys of community attitudes to the MSIC, and analyses of counts of needle syringes discarded in public places in Kings Cross.

**Status:** Data collection and analysis was completed and the final report was submitted to the NSW government.

**Personnel:** Margaret MacDonald, Jialun Zhou, Rosie Thein

**Collaborators:** AIDS/Infectious Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department; Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research; Kirrketon Road Centre; National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre; Medically Supervised Injecting Centre; School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

# Primary HIV Infection Research Program

2003 saw a continuation of activity into NCHECR's special interest area of primary HIV infection. Central to the activities in this area was the implementation of the US National Institutes of Health-funded Acute Infection Early Disease Research Program (AIEDRP) in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital, a five-year program of research into treatment and pathogenesis of primary HIV infection.



**Don Smith**

The PULSE study of treatment interruption continued follow up of 68 patients during 2003. Additional immunological sub-studies of factors associated with control of viremia were undertaken.

## The Australian Primary HIV Infection Database

An ongoing prospective cohort of patients with Primary HIV infection.

**Status:** During 2003 updated information was obtained in this cohort of over 400 people with newly acquired HIV infection with electronic downloading of laboratory data.

**Personnel:** Tim Ramacciotti, Jan Guerin, Pat Grey, Kathy Petoumenos, Don Smith

**Collaborators:** Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House General Practice; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Nick Medland, The Centre Clinic; Philip Cunningham, John Zaunders, Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

## Concerted Action on Seroconversion to AIDS and Death in Europe Study

The Concerted Action on Seroconversion to AIDS and Death in Europe (CASCADE) collaboration is a collaborative cohort study on the vital status, laboratory markers, antiretroviral treatment changes, and disease progression to discern whether survival or rate of progression to AIDS is altered by earlier treatment.

**Status:** 279 Australian subjects contribute to this cohort.

**Personnel:** Tim Ramacciotti, Jan Guerin (to September 2003)

**Collaborator:** Concerted Action on Seroconversion to AIDS and Death in Europe, UK

**Funding:** Medical Research Council (UK)

## Acute Infection Early Disease Research Program

A five-year program for research into the treatment and pathogenesis of primary HIV infection.

**Status:** One cohort has opened for recruitment, one randomised trial is in design and pathogenesis work is underway.

**Personnel:** Pat Grey, Jan Guerin, Tim Ramacciotti, Matthew Law, Don Smith, Tony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Partners AIDS Research Centre (Massachusetts General Hospital), Harvard University, USA; National Institutes of Health, USA; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House General Practice; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Nick Medland, The Centre Clinic; Philip Cunningham, John Zaunders, Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## Primary HIV and early disease research – Australian cohort (PHAEDRA)

A systematic mechanism to recruit and follow up a cohort of people in Sydney and Melbourne with acute and early HIV-1 infection.

**Status:** During 2003 127 additional individuals were enrolled.

**Personnel:** Jan Guerin, Don Smith, Tony Kelleher, Tim Ramacciotti, Mee-Ling Munier

**Collaborators:** Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House General Practice; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Nicholas Medland, The Centre Clinic; Norman Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; Phillip Cunningham, John Zaunders, Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Kate McGhie, HIV Immunology Laboratory, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney; Partners AIDS Research Center (Massachusetts General Hospital) Harvard University, USA

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health



**Susan Lewis, Patricia Grey, Ansari Shaik, Tim Ramacciotti**

## **Treatment interruption trial in primary HIV infection (PULSE)**

A treatment interruption trial in primary HIV infection to determine whether control of the HIV virus can be achieved by the patient's own immune system using intermittent therapy initiated in primary infection.

**Status:** During 2003, the majority of patients completed the interruption cycles of the study.

**Personnel:** Don Smith, Pat Grey, Mee-Ling Munier

**Collaborators:** Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House Private Practice; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Norman Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; Dr John Chuah, Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic; Kate McGhie, HIV Immunology Laboratory, Garvan Institute of Medical Research; John Zaunders, Phillip Cunningham, Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** Bristol Myers Squibb

# Biostatistics and Databases Program

The Biostatistics and Databases Program combines both technical support and research functions. The primary functions of the Program are to ensure that across the wide range of NCHECR activities studies are designed appropriately from a statistical perspective, data are housed in properly specified robust databases, and statistical analyses are conducted to high scientific standards. Virtually all NCHECR research activity relies on these technical support functions. As well as supporting the Centre's other Programs' research, the Biostatistics and Databases Program has its own research activities, primarily in clinical cohort studies, mathematical modelling, and statistical methodology.

The Program develops databases, based on Oracle software, for all NCHECR clinical trials, and also for a number of other studies. Of particular note during 2003 was the development of databases for the prophylactic vaccine trial and the T-20 trial (see *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program*). The Program also continued to support study Data and Safety Monitoring Boards, both for the rosiglitazone and the prophylactic vaccine studies.



**Matthew Law**

information on antiretroviral use among patients with HIV infection in Australia. Data from AHOD also contributed to the Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs (DAD) Study, a large, international collaborative observational study designed to evaluate the medium-term risk of cardiovascular disease in patients with HIV receiving antiretroviral drugs. The Program used mathematical prediction equations to estimate the numbers of myocardial infarctions that would be expected in the DAD study during follow-up.

During 2003 the Program continued to undertake clinical cohort studies. The Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD), now into its fifth year of operation with over 2,000 patients recruited from 26 sites, continued to provide regular

A new HIV observational study, the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database, was initiated in several countries in the Asia-Pacific region during 2003. Data from some 1,200 patients at 11 sites throughout the region were aggregated at the initial data transfer in the last quarter of 2003.

## The Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD)

Observational cohort study of patients with HIV. Demographic, clinical and treatment data are aggregated twice each year via electronic data transfer.

**Status:** The study has recruited some 2,300 patients from 28 sites throughout Australia, with ongoing follow-up.

**Personnel:** Kathy Petoumenos, Matthew Law

**Collaborators:** Network of clinical sites (GPs, hospitals and sexual health clinics) throughout Australia

**Funding:** Clinical Trials and Treatments Committee

## The Data Collection on the Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs Study (DAD)

Large, international, collaborative study aimed at assessing the medium to long-term effects of antiviral treatment of people with HIV in terms of possible increased risk of cardiovascular events.

**Status:** The study has recruited over 22,000 patients from 11 cohorts, Australia's contribution being 676 patients from the Australian HIV Observational Database, with follow-up continuing until 2005.

**Personnel:** Kathy Petoumenos, Matthew Law

**Collaborators:** Network of clinical sites (GPs, hospitals and sexual health clinics) throughout Australia); Copenhagen HIV Program

**Funding:** European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMEA)

## Data from the highly specialised drugs program

Summary data of patients receiving antiretroviral treatments funded through the Highly Specialised Drugs Program are received from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and published in annual and biannual surveillance reports.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2003, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Kathy Petoumenos

**Collaborator:** Highly Specialised Drugs Program, Special Access and Coordination Section, Pharmaceutical Access and Quality Branch, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing



### **TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database**

Observational cohort study of patients with HIV at eleven sites throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Demographic, clinical and treatment data are aggregated twice each year via electronic data transfer.

**Status:** At the initial data transfer in September 2003, baseline and retrospective data from some 1,200 patients were aggregated. Follow-up is to continue for at least 3 years.

**Personnel:** Jialun Zhou, Matthew Law

**Collaborators:** Network of clinical sites at eleven countries through the Asia-Pacific region

**Funding:** American Foundation for AIDS research (amfAR)



**Back row:** Handan Wand, Jialun Zhou, Kathy Petoumenos, Noorul Absar

**Front row:** Janaki Amin, Matthew Law

### **Biostatistics and database support**

Writing clinical trial databases, and providing biostatistical input to the design and analysis of all NCHECR projects.

**Status:** During 2003, members of the Program actively contributed to the ROSEY, MITOX, PIILR, Lipodystrophy Case Definition, INITIO, and HVDDT vaccine studies.

**Personnel:** Matthew Law, Noorul Absar, Janaki Amin, Kathy Petoumenos, Terry Sharkey, Handan Wand, Jialun Zhou

**Collaborators:** Other Programs at NCHECR

**Funding:** Project-specific grants

### **Causes of death among ex-prisoners in NSW**

Mortality rates among ex-prisoners in NSW between 1998 and 2002 are assessed by linkage between the Offender Management System at the Department of Corrective Services, and the National Death Index at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

**Status:** Data linkage was performed during 2003, with initial analyses of sensitivity and specificity of the linkage process, and analyses of mortality rates post-release, ongoing.

**Personnel:** Azar Kariminia, Tony Butler, Matthew Law

**Collaborator:** Corrections Health Service

**Funding:** NHMRC

# Laboratory Support Program

The work of the Laboratory Support Program during 2003 can be divided into two major categories. First of all, much of the laboratory's activity is directed towards providing support of a routine or semi-routine nature to clinical trials and epidemiological studies, through processing of specimens and conduct of specialised assays. Secondly, the laboratory's senior scientists are responsible for their own research programs on pathogenesis.



**Tony Kelleher**

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the successful commencement of the prophylactic vaccine trial funded through the HIV Vaccine Design and Development Team Contract from the US National Institutes of Health. The Laboratory Support Program is responsible for

assessing the markers of T-cell immunogenicity. The initiation of the trial allowed the laboratory to undertake assays which took over twelve months to develop and validate, with substantial outside scrutiny.

As the Laboratory Support Program receives minimal direct funding from NCHECR's core grant, success in attracting additional external funding is essential for its functioning. The highlight of 2003 was the award of an NHMRC program grant in collaboration with research groups under Peter Doherty and Stephen Kent at the University of Melbourne, and Ian Ramshaw at the Australian National University. This collaboration represents an unparalleled opportunity to advance investigator driven research within the laboratory.

During 2003, the laboratory took delivery of a Zeiss ELIspot reader acquired through a UNSW equipment grant, and also made successful application to the Ramaciotti Foundation for a grant towards a Packard beta/gamma counter.

## Service and support

### Specimen receipt and processing for clinical trials and natural history studies

The laboratory provides a service to other NCHECR Programs encompassing the separation of blood components; cryopreservation of serum, plasma and PBMC; and archiving and onshipping of samples.

**Status:** Routine use of controlled rate freezer instituted

**Personnel:** Tony Kelleher, Grace Cunningham, Ciara McGinley

**Collaborators:** Kate McGhie, Maria Piperias, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** Project-specific grants

### Immuno-phenotyping of T-cell subsets

Many NCHECR clinical trial and natural history study protocols involve immunological substudies. The laboratory supports these substudies as a semi-routine service.

**Status:** Use of 6 colour multiparameter flow introduced

**Personnel:** Tony Kelleher, Mee-Ling Munier, Susanna Ip, David van Bockel

**Collaborator:** John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** Project-specific grants

### Assays of T-cell function, proliferation, cytotoxicity and identification of antigen-specific T-cells

A range of assays for assessing CD4+ and CD8+ T-cell function are worked up in the laboratory. These include measures of T-cell proliferation, activation, cytokine secretion and identification of antigen-specific T-cells. Again, such assays are included in the protocols of clinical trials and natural history studies carried out by NCHECR.

**Status:** Validation was completed for the intra cellular cytokine and ELIspot assays required for the Phase I clinical trial undertaken by the HVDDT consortium. Assays for the trial began. A multiparameter flow cytometry-based assay to detect primed T-cells was also developed.

**Personnel:** Tony Kelleher, Mee-Ling Munier, Susanna Ip, David van Bockel

**Collaborators:** John Zaunders, Claudette Satchell, ChoeChoe Brereton, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Palanee Ammaronond (PhD Student)

**Funding:** Project-specific grants

### HIV drug resistance and hepatitis C genotyping

This project involves the development of expertise in the application of a number of methods of detecting antiretroviral drug resistance through genotypic testing of HIV isolates, and the establishment of techniques for genotyping hepatitis C infection.

**Status:** 292 HIV-1 resistance genotypes were performed. The optimal hepatitis C genotyping technique was identified, and in-house use validated.

**Personnel:** Tony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Philip Cunningham, Kazuo Suzuki, Leakhena Leas, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** NSW Health Department

## Transmission of resistance in primary infection

This study defines prevalence of resistance mutations in the Sydney population at primary infection, giving insight into the effect of widespread antiretroviral therapy on the prevalence of transmitted resistance virus in the Australian population.

**Status:** More than 50 genotypes were performed on acute seroconverters

**Personnel:** Tony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Palanee Ammaranond (PhD Student); Philip Cunningham, Kazuo Suzuki, Leakhena Leas, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; NSW Health Department

## Dried blood spot serology

Dried blood spot serology is used to generate surveillance data regarding the incidence and prevalence of HIV and hepatitis C in injecting drug users.

**Status:** 2,427 blood spots were screened

**Personnel:** Tony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Philip Cunningham, Brian Seckold, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** NSW Health Department

## Pathogenesis research

### Evolution of immune responses in primary infection and long-term nonprogressors

This study furthers study mechanisms of viral escape from cytotoxic T-lymphocyte responses, and particularly the events leading up to escape from the HLA-B27 mediated T-cell response at the level of T-cell receptor usage. It employs samples and data gathered during the follow-up of the Long-Term Non-Progressor Cohort (see *HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program*), and samples collected from the PHAEDRA Cohort (see *Primary HIV Infection Research Program*).

**Status:** Novel escape mutations for HLA-B27 and A24 were defined

**Personnel:** Tony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Palanee Ammaranond (PhD Student); Akicichi Iwamoto, Tokyo University, Japan

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; Japanese Society Health Foundation

### iRNA inducing viral latency

This project is established to determine the optimal design of dsRNAs for the induction of transcriptional gene silencing (TGS) of viral genes in HIV-1 infected cells; and to define the pathways by which dsRNAs targeting the promoter regions of HIV-1 induce TGS.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Personnel:** Tony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Kazuo Suzuki, Cathie Suter, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; David Martin, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Sydney

## CD4+ cytotoxic T-cells

This project involves investigations of the role of cytotoxic CD4+ T-cells in the outcome of disease in the Long-term nonprogressor and PHAEDRA Cohorts (see *HIV Epidemiology and Prevention and Primary HIV Infection Research Programs*).

**Status:** HIV-specific CD4+ cytotoxic T-cells were definitively identified

**Personnel:** Tony Kelleher, Mee-Ling Munier, Susanna Ip

**Collaborators:** John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Wayne Dyer, Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Sydney; Nitin Saksena, Westmead Millennium Institute and Centre for Virus Research, Sydney

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health



**Back:** Kylie Butson, Tony Kelleher, Mee-Ling Munier, Susanna Ip  
**Front:** Palanee Ammaranond, Ciara McGinley, David van Bockel

## IL-7 receptor modulation

The impact of IL-7 and the expression of its receptor on T-cell subsets, T-cell homeostasis and CD4 T-cell recovery post HAART, is being explored using both in vitro and ex vivo techniques.

**Status:** Novel insights into the regulation of IL7 receptor on T-cells were made

**Personnel:** Tony Kelleher, Sarah Sasson

**Collaborators:** John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Guilia Zanetti (Bachelor of Science student, Padua University, Italy)

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

# Research outside Program areas

## Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease

### Analyses of the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Registry

Biostatistical and epidemiological advice and support is provided for the analysis and interpretation of Registry data.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Personnel:** Handan Wand

**Collaborator:** The Australia National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Registry

### Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

Biostatistical and epidemiological advice and support regarding assessments of risk of transmission of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies through products derived from blood donations or foetal-calf serum is provided.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Personnel:** Matthew Law

**Collaborators:** Australian Red Cross Blood Service; Therapeutic Goods Administration; Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

## Immune deficiency and cancer

### NSW lymphoma case-control study

A case control study of risk factors for non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

**Status:** In 2003 over 700 cases and controls were enrolled, data entry and cleaning was completed, and data analysis had begun.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Claire Vajdic

**Collaborators:** The University of Sydney; Viral Epidemiology Laboratory; United States National Cancer Institute; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; University of Western Australia; Monash University

**Funding:** NHMRC

### Cancer in kidney dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients

A project to link the Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Kidney transplant and dialysis register (ANZDATA) with the national cancer register to allow the identification of cancers that occur at increased rates, and the identifications of risk factors for development of cancer.

**Status:** Ethics approval was obtained from all States and Territories during 2003.

**Personnel:** Andrew Grulich, Claire Vajdic, Matthew Law

**Collaborators:** Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA); University of Otago; Westmead Hospital

**Funding:** NSW Cancer Council

# International activities

## Thailand

The Netherlands, Australia, Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT) was established in 1996. This partnership between NCHECR, the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre and the International Antiviral Therapy Evaluation Centre in Amsterdam is now in its seventh year, and continues to conduct research and training, and provide access to treatment for people living with HIV in Thailand.



**Chris Duncombe**

HIV-NAT continued to conduct studies relevant to the use of antiretroviral therapy in a resource-limited setting, in addition participating in international multi-centre studies. The two largest international trials are the ESPRIT study of interleukin-2 with 365 participants

enrolled at five sites, and the STACCATO study of structured therapy interruption with 300 participants at a further six sites in Bangkok and regional Thailand. HIV-NAT's clinical trials network has expanded to twenty-two sites in Thailand. HIV-NAT is the coordinating centre for the network, providing study management, clinical and laboratory training, drug distribution, site monitoring and data management.

NCHECR is a member of the Australia-Thailand Vaccine Consortium, established in March 2003, with funding from the National Institutes of Health, USA to develop a DNA prime, recombinant fowlpox boost preventive HIV vaccine. Two vaccines have been produced: a B clade vaccine for trialing in Australia, and an A/E clade vaccine which will be tested in Thailand. Phase I studies in healthy human volunteers have commenced in Sydney, with the Thai trial set to commence in 2004.

HIV-NAT also interacted closely with other projects of the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre. During 2003, the AIDS Research Centre established voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) centres in three Thai provinces in Thailand. These centres are based on the Bangkok anonymous clinic model. They act as entry points for care, providing VCT, affordable CD4 count testing, provision of opportunistic infection prophylaxis for those with a CD4 count less than 200 and referral to clinics prescribing antiretroviral therapy.

Another Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre program, the MTCT-Plus initiative, co-funded by Columbia University and Thai Red Cross Society, had enrolled 245 mothers by the end of 2003. These women, and their families, will receive antiretroviral therapy for life.

An important objective at HIV-NAT is training of students and health care workers. During 2003, six students from Australia and The Netherlands spent three to six months studying and working at HIV-NAT.



**Mark Boyd**

## Cambodia



**Julian Elliott**

During 2003, NCHECR expanded the scope of its partnership with the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs (NCHADS) at the Cambodian Ministry of Health through the newly re-established Research Unit within NCHADS. This Unit is

now directly responsible for the implementation of a number of research and treatment projects supported by NCHECR:

The Cambodia Treatment Access Program (CTAP), funded by F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, supported the expansion of HIV care, including antiretroviral therapy through two mechanisms:

### *Technical support to the AIDS Care Unit at NCHADS*

Julian Elliott continued to assist with policy development, program management, development of clinical and operational guidelines, monitoring and evaluation systems, logistics management including antiretroviral drug procurement and development of grant proposals. 2003 saw a rapid increase in the work of the Unit as the national Continuum of Care program expanded and prepared for scaled-up access to antiretroviral therapy. To assist with these programs, Sous Prem Prey joined the Unit as Deputy Chief with support from CTAP.

### *Support for HIV care at two sites*

Planning for the NCHADS HIV clinic in Phnom Penh and a provisional site in Pursat took place during 2003. The purpose of these sites is to provide an ongoing HIV care program comprising initial screening, prevention and management of opportunistic infections and access to antiretroviral therapy. During 2003 Sarah Huffam and Jenne Roberts joined NCHADS to assist with the development of these services. Initial project development was completed and clinical services are planned to commence in mid-2004.

Preparation continued for a study of daily oral tenofovir to prevent HIV-1 infection among sex workers in Cambodia, including formative research to inform trial procedures. This study is to be carried out as collaboration between NCHECR, NCHADS and the University of California San Francisco. Preparation of the National Laboratory at the National Institute of Public Health to provide laboratory support for this trial was begun, facilitated by the arrival of Robert Oelrichs who is assisting the Biomedical Research Unit to implement laboratory services that conform with good laboratory practice.

In 2003, NCHECR was awarded a contract by AusAID to implement a Cambodian research program to support the optimal use of antiretroviral therapy. This program will use a two-phase design comprising an initial cohort period followed by a randomised intervention to investigate methods to optimise the use of antiretroviral therapy in Cambodia such as adherence, monitoring and regimen choice. The program will be implemented at the clinical sites supported by the CTAP project, to commence in mid-2004.

Throughout 2003 NCHADS continued to be involved in the development of plans to implement a collaborative HIV intervention research program with NCHECR and the Thai Red Cross. Funding proposals were developed for prevention and therapeutic studies and submitted to the United States National Institutes of Health under the CIPRA program.

## **Indonesia**

During 2003 NCHECR continued to contribute to the consortium that is implementing the Indonesian HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project Phase II, with support from AusAID. Nurlan Silitonga, working on behalf of NCHECR, assisted the project in several areas, with a primary focus on biomedical aspects of HIV control and prevention. John Kaldor continued his role as Chair of the Technical Advisory Team for the project, which again had to defer its planned meeting Jakarta due to security considerations.



## Teaching and training highlights

NCHECR is involved in a wide range of teaching and training activities (see page 55) During 2003, six Masters candidates whose research had been supervised by NCHECR staff were awarded their degrees. NCHECR staff also supervised another 41 postgraduate students, including 20 doctoral candidates.

Academic staff at NCHECR continued to be responsible for three courses offered as part of the Master of Public Health degree at the University of New South Wales. Some 120 students passed through the core epidemiology course taught by NCHECR staff in 2003, and a further 40 undertook the specialised electives in epidemiology and HIV/AIDS. Over the years, students who have encountered the work of NCHECR through these courses have gone on to join the research staff at the Centre, and some now act as tutors for current students.

Forty NCHECR study coordinators from around Australia and New Zealand attended the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program coordinators' training day in Cairns. Coordinators were provided with an update on the current research areas of NCHECR.

Training provided by NCHECR included field supervision of students placed from long term programs run by other institutions. NCHECR also contributed lectures to a variety of other postgraduate courses during the year.



## Service highlights

During 2003 NCHECR staff continued to participate in a range of advisory bodies, working groups and committees relevant to HIV, hepatitis C and related areas (see page 52). These activities operate at a range of levels from local to international and ensure that NCHECR's researchers stay closely in touch with the real life applications of their work.

Of particular note were David Cooper's roles as International Co-Chair of the Scientific Program Committee of the XV International AIDS Conference, as a member of the amfAR Treat Asia Steering Committee, and as a representative for the ESPRIT group on the networks recompetition advisory group to the Division of AIDS of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, United States National Institutes of Health; John Kaldor's continuing membership of the NHMRC Project Grants Committee, the ANCAHRD Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Committee, and as the Asian regional representative of the International AIDS Society Governing Council; Andrew Grulich's ongoing role as President of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine and membership of the ANCAHRD HIV Committee, and Greg Dore's role as Convenor of the 4th Australasian Conference on Hepatitis C. Andrew Grulich was also appointed as Chair of the NSW Health Department Health Promotion Committee in 2003, and Tony Kelleher served on the Johnson and Johnson, and St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Institutional Bio-Safety Committees.

NCHECR worked with the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine to put together a successful bid to host the 4th International AIDS Society Conference on Pathogenesis and Treatment of HIV Infection to be held in Sydney in 2007.



**Minister for Health and Ageing, Tony Abbott; Andrew Grulich; National World AIDS Day organiser, John Carson**





# Staff

This list includes both full time and part time staff. Contributions listed in this report relate only to individuals whose primary employment is with NCHECR.

## Director's office

### Director and Professor of Medicine

David A Cooper AO, BSc(Med), MB BS, DSc, MD, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP

### Executive Assistant

Janette Button

## Deputy Director's office

### Deputy Director and Professor of Epidemiology

John M Kaldor PhD

### Epidemiology Group Coordinator\*

Jennifer Kemp

### Administrative Assistants\*

Courtney Bendall DipBus (from February)

Adrienne Broe BA (to July)

Carol Harris (from July)

Susan Lewis MA

Mark Thompson BBus

## Surveillance Program

The Surveillance Program is headed by the Deputy Director and is made up of staff from the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention, Viral Hepatitis, Primary HIV Infection Research and Biostatistics and Databases Programs.

## Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

### Head and Associate Professor

Sean Emery BSc(Hons), PhD

### Associate Professor

Jennifer Hoy MB BS, GradDipEpiBio, FRACP

### Lecturers

Dianne Carey BPharm, MPH

Kate Clezy MB BS, FRACP

Fraser Drummond MB ChB, MRCA, DA (UK)

Gillian Hales RN, BSc(Hons), PhD, GradCert(Higher Ed)

Paddy Mallon BSc(Hons), MB, BCh, BAO

Sarah Pett BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), DTM&H, MRCP(UK), FRACP

Rebekah Puls BSc(Hons), PhD

## Clinical Project Coordinators

Cate Carey RN, BA, MAppSc (Research)

Brooke Cordwell BSc(Biomed) (from September)

David Courtney-Rodgers (from February)

Jaimie Cox BSc(Hons), PhD, MAPS

Allison Martin BSc, MSc(Med)

Susan Phipps RN, RM, GradCert(Ortho)

Claudette Satchell BSc(Hons) (from November)

## Data Managers

David Courtney-Rodgers (to February)

Kymme Courtney-Vega

Wendy Lee

Robyn Munro

## Administrative Assistants

Brooke Cordwell BSc(Biomed) (to September)

Leeanne Thompson

## HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

### Head and Associate Professor

Andrew Grulich MB BS, MSc, PhD, DRACOG, FAFPHM

### Lecturers

Jonathan Anderson MB ChB, MSc(MedSci), Dip Ven, DRCOG, MRCCGP, FRACGP (to October)

Jan Guerin BSc(Hons) PhD (to September)

Iona Millwood BA(Hons), PhD (from April)

Mary Poynten MB BS, Dip Child Health, MPH(Hons) (from February)

### Post Doctoral Research Fellow

Claire Vajdic BOptom, PhD

### Senior Research Associate

Garrett Prestage BA(Hons), PhD

### Senior Research Officer

Ann McDonald BSc, MPH

Daniel Madeddu (from April)

### Research Assistants

Jeff Jin BMed, MPH (to April)

Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH

Wei Zheng BS, MPH (to June)

\* Staff working in the office of the Deputy Director and the Surveillance, HIV Epidemiology and Prevention, Viral Hepatitis, Primary HIV Infection Research and Biostatistics and Databases Programs

### **Clinical Project Coordinator**

Harry Smith MA

### **Project Officers**

Brian Acraman

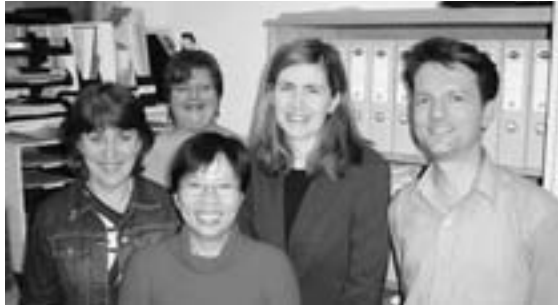
Wayne Bleakley GradCert(Management), AHRI

John Bradley (from December)

Paul Kelly

Patrick McGrath BA, DipEd (from December)

Hedimo Santana BA(Hons)



**Back row: Yvette Toole, Penelope Lister, Ian Brodie  
Front row: Janette Button, Annie Tung**

### **Viral Hepatitis Program**

#### **Head and Senior Lecturer**

Greg Dore MB BS, BSc, PhD, FRACP, MPH

#### **Senior Lecturer**

Margaret MacDonald RN, BSocSci, GradDipEpi, PhD  
(from August to September)\*

#### **Lecturers**

Anthony Freeman MB ChB, BMedSc (to January)

Gail Matthews MBChB, MRCP(UK)

#### **Research Fellow**

Margaret MacDonald RN, BSocSci, GradDipEpi, PhD  
(to August)

#### **Research Assistants**

Megan Buddle RN (to July)

Anna Doab RN, MPH (from November)

Rosie Thein MB BS, MPH

Jialun Zhou BMed, MPH (to August)

### **Primary HIV Infection Research Program**

#### **Head and Senior Lecturer**

Don Smith MB ChB, MD

#### **Clinical Project Coordinator**

Patricia Grey RN, BA, DipEd, GradDipAppSci,  
DipCounselling

#### **Senior Data Manager**

Tim Ramacciotti BA(Hons), MD (from December)

### **Data Administrator**

Amanda Dunn BSc(Hons) (to June)

Ansari Shaik BA, MBA (from December)

### **Biostatistics and Databases Program**

#### **Head and Senior Lecturer**

Matthew Law MA, MSc, PhD

#### **Lecturer**

Handan Wand MA, MSc, PhD

#### **Senior Research Assistants**

Janaki Amin BSc(Hons), MPH(Hons)

Kathy Petoumenos BSc, MA, MPH(Hons)

#### **Research Assistant**

Jialun Zhou MB, MPH (from September)

#### **Computer Systems Officers**

Noorul Absar BTech, GradDipInfSc

Terry Sharkey BSc (to August)

### **Laboratory Support Program**

#### **Head and Senior Lecturer**

Tony Kelleher BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP,  
FRCPA

#### **Research Assistants**

Susanna Ip BSc (from September)

Ciara McGinley CertAppBio (from September)

Mee-Ling Munier BSc, GradDipEpi, MSc

Sarah Sasson BA, BSc(Hons) (to December)

David van Bockel BBiotech (Hons)

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Kylie Butson (from September)

### **US National Institutes of Health, HIV Vaccine Design and Development Contract**

#### **Chief Operations Officer**

Mark Sullivan BSc (from March)

### **Internationally-based staff**

#### **Senior Lecturers**

Chris Duncombe MB BS (HIV-NAT, Thailand)

Sarah Huffam MB BS, FRACP, FACSHIP, MPH  
(NCHADS, Cambodia) (from August)

#### **Lecturers**

Mark Boyd BA, MB BS, FRACP, DTM&H (HIV-NAT,  
Thailand)

Julian Elliott MB BS, FRACP (NCHADS, Cambodia)

#### **Project Manager**

Jennifer Roberts M International Management  
(NCHADS, Cambodia) (from August)

## **Finance and Administration**

### **Manager**

Bronwen Turner BA

### **Business Manager**

Annie Tung MPA

### **Librarian**

Coralie Kronenberg BA, DipMLib, AALIA

### **Human Resources Consultant**

Penelope Lister BA, GradDipJap, MAHRI (from February)

### **Computer Systems Officers**

Lisa Howard DipIT

Charles Tran BCompSc

### **Administrative Assistants**

Ian Brodie BEc, GradDipEd, AssDipHlthSc

Jo Groves BA (to January)

Yvette Toole

Philippa Wong BEc, MCom (to October)

### **Receptionists**

Lara Cassar

John Redmond



# Researchers affiliated to NCHECR during 2003

## **Honorary Visiting Fellows**

Bruce Brew MB BS, MD, FRACP  
Professor of Medicine  
St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Nick Crofts MB BS, MPH, FAFPHM  
Deputy Director  
Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research  
and Public Health, Melbourne

Cathy Pell MB BS, MM  
Research Coordinator  
Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney

Alex Wodak MB BS, MRACP, FRACP, MRCP, FAFPHM  
Senior Staff Specialist and Director  
Alcohol and Drug Service  
St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

## **Honorary Visiting Lecturers**

Mark Bloch MB BS, MMed  
General Practitioner  
Holdsworth House General Practice, Sydney

Robert Finlayson MB BS, Dip Ven, FACSHP  
Sexual Health Physician  
Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney

Robert Macfarlane MB BS, FRACGP  
General Practitioner  
407 Doctors, Sydney

Nicholas Medland MB BS, BA (Hons), Dip Ven  
General Practitioner  
Centre Clinic, Melbourne

Norman Roth MB BS, Dip Ven  
General Practitioner  
Prahran Market Clinic, Melbourne

Cassy Workman MB BS  
Director  
AIDS Research Initiative, Sydney

## **Short term consultant**

Nurlan Silitonga MD  
Indonesia HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project



# Training or postgraduate degree placements at NCHECR

## **Bachelor of Science (Honours) student**

Guilia Zanetti (Padua University, Italy) (from March to December)

## **Doctor of Philosophy students**

Palanee Ammaranond B Medtech, M Biotech

Jeff Jin BMed, MPH (from April)

Joanne Micallef BMedSc(Hons)

Fatemeh Nakhaee BSc, MSc (from July)

Preeyaporn Srasuebkal BSc, MSc (from October)

## **Master of Applied Epidemiology Fellow**

Chris Lawrence (from March)

Monica Robotin MB BS, FRACS (to March)

## **Master of Public Health student**

Adeeba Kamarulzaman MB BS, FRACP (to June)

## **NSW Health Department Trainee Biostatisticians**

Claire Ringland BSc, GradDipClinEpi (from April to August)

Katy Emmet (from September to November)

## **Visiting Fellow**

Patrick Unemori BA Pysch, MA Psych (University of California, San Francisco, Fullbright Scholarship)

## **Visiting Research Associate**

Tianxin Chu MMed (Beijing Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Beijing) (from December)



**Tianxin Chu, Chris Lawrence, Joanne Micallef, Fatemeh Nakhaee**



# Collaborating organisations

## National

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney  
Australia and New Zealand Transplant Registry (ANZDATA), Sydney  
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Canberra  
Australian Defence Force, Canberra  
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney  
Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra  
Australian Hepatitis Council, Canberra  
Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, Canberra  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra  
Australian Liver Association, Sydney  
Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, Canberra  
Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit, and its contributors, Sydney  
Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Sydney  
Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne  
Communicable Diseases Network Australia, Canberra  
Intergovernmental Committee on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, Canberra  
National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney  
National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases, Sydney  
National Centre in HIV Social Research, Sydney  
National Centre in HIV Virology Research, Melbourne  
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Sydney  
National Serology Reference Laboratory, Australia, Melbourne  
Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Sydney

## Australian Capital Territory

ACT Corrective Services, Canberra  
AIDS Action Committee of the ACT, Canberra  
Assisting Drug Dependents Inc, Canberra  
Australian National University, Canberra  
Brindabella Imaging, Canberra Imaging Group (CIG), Canberra  
Canberra Sexual Health Clinic, Canberra  
Communicable Disease Control Program, ACT  
Department of Health and Community Care, Canberra  
Directions ACT Programs, Canberra  
Drug Referral Information Centre, Canberra  
Interchange General Practice, Canberra

John Curtin School of Medical Research, Canberra  
The Canberra Hospital, Canberra

## New South Wales

407 Doctors, Sydney  
AIDS Council of NSW (ACON), Sydney  
Albion Street Centre, Sydney  
Albury Base Hospital, Albury, NSW  
Albury Community Health Centre, Albury, NSW  
Area Public Health Units, NSW Health Department, Sydney  
Auburn Community Health Centre, Sydney  
Bigge Park Medical Centre, Sydney  
Blacktown Community Health Centre, Sydney  
Bligh Street Clinic, Tamworth, NSW  
Blue Mountains Sexual Health Clinic, Katoomba, NSW  
Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, Sydney  
Cabramatta Drug Intervention Services, Sydney  
Cabramatta Street Youth Program (ICON), Sydney  
Canterbury Resource and Education Program for Injecting Drug Users (REP IDU), Sydney  
Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney  
Concord Hospital, Sydney  
Corrections Health Service, Sydney  
Darlinghurst X-Ray, Sydney  
Department of Infectious Diseases, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
Drug Intervention Service Cabramatta (DISC), Sydney  
First Step Program, Port Kembla, NSW  
Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney  
General Medical Practice, Burwood, Sydney  
Gosford Sexual Health Clinic, Gosford, NSW  
Greater Murray Area Health Needle and Syringe Program, Albury, NSW  
Ground Zero Medical Centre, Sydney  
HIV/AIDS Prevention Unit, Sydney  
Holdsworth House General Practice, Sydney  
Illawarra Sexual Health, Port Kembla, NSW  
Immunology and Microbiology Department, The University of Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW  
Indo-Chinese Outreach Network, Sydney  
John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW  
K2 Health Service, Sydney  
Kirketon Road Centre, Sydney  
Kogarah Needle and Syringe Program, Sydney  
Liverpool Hospital, Sydney  
Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Sydney  
Macquarie Sexual Health Centre, Sydney

Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, Sydney  
 Mount Druitt West Area Adolescent Team, Sydney  
 Multicultural HIV/AIDS Service, Sydney  
 Nepean Hospital, Penrith, NSW  
 Nepean Sexual Health and HIV Clinic, Penrith, NSW  
 Northern Rivers Health Service, Lismore, NSW  
 NSW Health Department, Sydney  
 People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Sydney  
 Port Kembla Hospital, Port Kembla, NSW  
 Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney  
 Resource and Education Program for Injecting Drug Users, Sydney  
 Responsive User Services in Health (RUSH), Sydney  
 Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney  
 Royal Newcastle Hospital, Newcastle, NSW  
 Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney  
 Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney  
 School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
 Sexual Health and Infectious Diseases Service (SHAIDS), Lismore, NSW  
 South West Sydney Area Health Service, Sydney  
 St George AIDS Prevention Unit, Sydney  
 St George Hospital, Sydney  
 St George Needle and Syringe Program, Sydney  
 St Leonards Medical Centre, Sydney  
 St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney  
 St Vincent's Medical Imaging, Sydney  
 Sydney Children's Hospital, Sydney  
 Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney  
 SydPath, Sydney  
 Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney  
 The Cancer Council NSW, Sydney  
 The Medical and Vein Centre, Coffs Harbour, NSW  
 Wentworth HIV and Sexual Health Service, Penrith, NSW  
 Western Area Adolescent Team, Mount Druitt, NSW  
 Western Sydney AIDS Prevention and Outreach Service, Sydney  
 Western Sydney HIV/Hepatitis C Prevention Service, Sydney  
 Westmead Hospital, Sydney  
 Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Sydney

## Northern Territory

AIDS Council of Central Australia, Alice Springs, NT  
 Alice Springs Life Choices Inc, Alice Springs, NT  
 Department of Correctional Services, Darwin  
 Northern Territory AIDS Council, Darwin  
 Royal Darwin Hospital, Darwin

## Queensland

AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health, Brisbane  
 Biala Alcohol and Drug Services, Brisbane  
 Biala Needle and Syringe Program, Brisbane  
 Blackall Terrace Specialist Centre, Nambour, Qld  
 Bodyline Needle and Syringe Program, Brisbane  
 Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, Brisbane  
 Brunswick Street Medical Centre, Brisbane  
 Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns, Qld  
 Cairns Youthlink, Cairns, Qld  
 Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane  
 Drug Users Network Education and Support (DUNES) Needle and Syringe Program, Miami, Qld  
 Gladstone Road Medical Centre, Brisbane  
 Gold Coast Hospital, Southport, Qld  
 Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, Miami, Qld  
 GRM International Pty Ltd, Brisbane  
 Logan Youth Health Service, Brisbane  
 Mackay Sexual Health Services, Mackay, Qld  
 Nambour General Hospital, Nambour, Qld  
 Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane  
 Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane  
 Queensland AIDS Council (QAC), Brisbane  
 Queensland Corrective Services Commission, Brisbane  
 Queensland Health, Brisbane  
 Queensland Intravenous AIDS Association (QUIVAA), Brisbane  
 Queensland Medical Laboratory (QML), Brisbane  
 Queensland Needle and Syringe Program, Queensland Health, Brisbane  
 Queensland Positive People, Brisbane  
 Royal Brisbane Hospital, Brisbane  
 Sexual Health Service, Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns, Qld  
 Southcoast Radiology, Pindara Hospital, Benowa, Qld  
 Special Health Services, Cairns, Qld  
 Sunshine Coast Intravenous AIDS Association (SCIVAA), Maroochydore, Qld  
 Toowoomba Needle and Syringe Program, Toowoomba, Qld  
 Toowoomba Sexual Health Services, Toowoomba, Qld  
 West Moreton Sexual Health Service, Brisbane  
 Youth and Family Service (Logan City) Inc, Brisbane

## South Australia

AIDS Council of South Australia, Adelaide  
 Clinic 275, Adelaide  
 Clovelly Park Needle and Syringe Program, Adelaide  
 Drug and Alcohol Services Council, Adelaide  
 Flinders Clinical Trials Pharmacy, Adelaide  
 Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide  
 Hindmarsh Centre, Adelaide

Infectious Diseases Laboratories, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide  
 Lyell McEwin Needle and Syringe Program, Adelaide  
 Noarlunga Community Health Service, Noarlunga, SA  
 Northern Metropolitan Community Health Service (CHS) and Shopfront, Salisbury, SA  
 O'Brien Street Practice, Adelaide  
 Parks Community Health Centre, Adelaide  
 Perrett Medical Imaging, Adelaide  
 Port Adelaide Community Health Service, Port Adelaide, SA  
 Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide  
 South Australian Voice for Intravenous Education (SAVIVE), AIDS Council South Australia, Adelaide  
 The Care and Prevention Program, Adelaide  
 University, Adelaide  
 Warinilla Clinic, Norwood, SA

## **Tasmania**

Devonport Community Health Service Centre, Devonport, Tas  
 Glenorchy Nufit, Glenorchy, Tas  
 Nufit Alcohol and Other Drug Services, Glenorchy, Tas  
 Launceston Sexual Health, Launceston, Tas  
 Michael Welch General Practice, Hobart  
 Prison Health Services Tasmania, Hobart  
 Public and Environmental Health, Department of Community and Health Services, Hobart  
 Sexual Health Branch, Launceston, Tas  
 Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (TasCAHRD), Hobart  
 The Link Youth Health Service, Hobart  
 User's Health Support League, Hobart

## **Victoria**

Austin Repatriation Medical Centre, Melbourne  
 Ballarat Community Health Service, Ballarat, Vic  
 Cogstate Ltd, Melbourne  
 CSIRO Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, Vic  
 Geelong Community Health Service, Geelong, Vic  
 Health Information Exchange, Melbourne  
 Immunology and Microbiology Department, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne  
 Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne  
 Melbourne Inner City AIDS Prevention Centre (MINE), Melbourne  
 Melbourne Inner Needle Exchange, Melbourne  
 Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Melbourne  
 Middle Park Clinic, Melbourne  
 Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne  
 Northcote Clinic, Melbourne  
 People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Melbourne  
 Positive Living Centre, Melbourne  
 Prahran Market Clinic, Melbourne

Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne  
 South East Alcohol and Drug Services, Outreach and Prevention Program, Melbourne  
 Southern Hepatitis/HIV/AIDS Resource and Prevention Service (SHARPS), Melbourne  
 St Kilda Needle and Syringe Program, Melbourne  
 The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne  
 The Carlton Clinic, Melbourne  
 The Centre Clinic, Melbourne  
 Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre (GMHC), Melbourne  
 Victorian Cytology Service, Melbourne  
 Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Melbourne  
 Western Region AIDS/Hepatitis Prevention Program (WRAP), Melbourne

## **Western Australia**

Bunbury Western Australia User's Association (WASUA), Bunbury, WA  
 Centre for Clinical Immunology & Biomedical Statistics, Perth  
 Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Department of Health, Perth  
 Fremantle Hospital, Perth  
 Maylands Western Australia User's Association (WASUA), Perth  
 Ministry of Justice, Strategic and Specialist Services Division, Perth  
 Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Perth  
 Royal Perth Hospital, Perth  
 Western Australian AIDS Council, Perth  
 Western Australian Substance Users Association, Perth and Bunbury, WA  
 Western Region AIDS and Hepatitis Prevention, Perth

## **International**

Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
 Agence Nationale pour la Recherche de SIDA (ANRS), Paris, France  
 AIDS Clinical Centre, International Medical Centre of Japan, Tokyo, Japan  
 AIDS Malignancy Consortium, Alabama, USA  
 American Foundation for AIDS Research, New York, USA  
 Asia Regional office, Family Health International (FHI), Bangkok, Thailand  
 Auckland Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand  
 Auckland Sexual Health Clinic, Auckland, New Zealand  
 Beijing Ditan Hospital, Beijing, China  
 Buddhachinnaraj Hospital, Phitsanulok, Thailand  
 Bumrasnaradura Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand  
 Canadian Trials Network (CTN), Vancouver, Canada



Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California, San Francisco, USA

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, USA

Centre Regional D'Essais Clinique VIH, Montreal, Canada

Centro de Asistencia e Investigacion Clinica de Inmunocomprometidos (CAICI), Rosario, Argentina

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, UK

Chiang Rai Regional Hospital, Chiang Rai, Thailand

Chiba University, Chiba, Japan

Chonburi Regional Hospital, Chonburi, Thailand

Christchurch Hospital, Christchurch, New Zealand

Chulalongkorn Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

Columbia University, New York, USA

Community Research Initiative of New England, Boston, USA

Denver Infectious Disease Consultants, Denver, USA

Department of HIV/GUM Research, Brighton, UK

Division of Statistics, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

European Centre for the Epidemiological Monitoring of AIDS, Saint Maurice, France

Family Health Institute, Family Health International (FHI), North Carolina, USA

Fundacion Centro de Estudios Infecciosos (FUNCEI) – Clinica La Sagrada Familia, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Gemeinschafts Praxis, Dusseldorf, Germany

Geneva Hospital, Geneva, Switzerland

Harlem Hospital Centre, New York, USA

Harvard University, Massachusetts, USA

HIV Netherlands, Australia, Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT), Bangkok, Thailand

HIV Project, Ruby Hall Clinic, Pune, India

Hospital Cantonal Universitaire, Geneva, Switzerland

Hospital Central, Mendoza, Argentina

Hospital Clinic Provincial de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Hospital de Enfermedades Infecciosas FJ Muniz, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hospital General de Agudos JM Ramos Mejia, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hospital General de Agudos Juan A Fernandez, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hospital Gui de Chauliac, Montpellier, France

Hospital Haut-Leveque, Bordeaux, France

Hospital Interzonal de Agudos San Juan de Dios, La Plata, Argentina

Hospital Interzonal General de Agudos Oscar Alende, Mar del Plata, Argentina

Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Hospital Necker, Paris, France

Hospital Pitie-Salpetriere, Paris, France

Hospital Rawson, Bajada Pucara, Argentina

Hospital Rothschild, Paris, France

Hospital Universitario Clementino, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Hvidovre Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark

Infectologia Hospital, Alejandro Posadas, Haedo, Argentina

International AIDS Society, Stockholm, Sweden

International AIDS Therapy Evaluation Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Istituto Superiore di Sanita, Rome, Italy

Kaplan Medical Centre, Rehovot, Israel

Kings College Hospital, London, UK

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA

Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit, London, UK

Ministry of Health, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok, Thailand

Montreal General Hospital, Montreal, Canada

National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, USA

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD (NCHADS), Phnom Penh, Cambodia

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, Bethesda, USA

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, USA

Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, USA

Osaka National Hospital, Osaka, Japan

Population Council, Bangkok, Thailand

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hong Kong, China

Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

Rambam Medical Centre, Haifa, Israel

Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Manila, Philippines

Royal Free Hospital, London, UK

Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, UK

San Francisco General Hospital, San Francisco, USA

Sanpatong Hospital, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

Srinagarind Hospital, Khon Kaen, Thailand

St Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, Canada

Swiss HIV Cohort Study, Geneva, Switzerland

Taipei Veterans General Hospital and AIDS Prevention and Research Centre, National Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan

Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore

Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Centre, Tel Aviv, Israel

Terry Bein Community Programs for Clinical Research in AIDS (CPCRA), Washington, USA

Thai Red Cross Society, Chulalongkorn University Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

The Chaim Sheba Medical Centre, Ramat Gan, Israel

The Government Pharmaceutical Organisation, Bangkok, Thailand

UNAIDS, Geneva, Switzerland  
University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA  
University of Munich, Munich, Germany  
University of Oxford, Oxford, UK  
University of Tokyo Institute of Medical Science,  
Tokyo, Japan  
University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada  
Vajira Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand  
Waikato Hospital, Hamilton, New Zealand  
Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis,  
USA  
Wellington Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand  
Wetherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford, UK  
World Health Organisation South East Asia Regional  
Office, Delhi, India  
World Health Organisation Western Pacific Regional  
Office, Manila, Philippines  
Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan  
YRG Centre for AIDS Research and Education,  
Chennai, India

### **Pharmaceutical and biomedical industry**

Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd, Sydney  
Agouron Pharmaceuticals Inc, California, USA  
Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd, Sydney  
Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd, Sydney  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals, Melbourne  
Chiron Therapeutics, Emeryville, USA  
CSL Ltd, Melbourne  
F Hoffman-La Roche Ltd, Basel, Switzerland  
Gilead Sciences, Melbourne  
GlaxoSmithKline Australia, Melbourne  
IDT Australia Ltd, Melbourne  
Merck Research Laboratories, West Point, USA  
Merck Sharpe and Dohme, Sydney  
Probe Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, Sydney  
Roche Diagnostics Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney  
Roche Products Pty Ltd, Sydney  
TIBOTEC, Mechelen, Belgium  
Virax Immunotherapeutics, Melbourne



# Advisory committees

## Surveillance Committees

### Annual Surveillance Report Advisory Committee

**Jeremy McAnulty MB BS, MPH (Chair)**

Director, Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney

**Greg Dore BSc, MB BS, FRACP, MPH, PhD**

NCHECR

**Andrew Grulich MB BS, MSc, PhD, DRACOG, FAFPHM**

NCHECR

**Paul Jelfs PhD**

Head, Population Health Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra

**John Kaldor PhD**

NCHECR

**Steve Liebke**

Publications and Resource Development Officer, Australian Hepatitis Council, Canberra

**Ann McDonald BSc, MPH**

NCHECR

**Kirsty Machon BAComm(Hons), MA, Grad Dip Arts**

HIV Health Policy Officer, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

**Tadhg McMahon**

Manager, Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service, Sydney

**Anne Mijch MB BS(Hons), FRACP, OAM**

Head, Victorian HIV Service, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**Dermot Ryan**

Manager, AFAO and NAPWA Education Team and AFAO Indigenous Projects, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

**Jan Savage MB BS, Dip Ven, MPH**

Head, Northern Territory AIDS/STD Program, Department of Health, Darwin

**Cindy Shannon BA, GradDipEd(Tert), MBA**

Associate Professor and Director, Indigenous Health, Population Health Unit, University of Queensland, Brisbane

**Jenean Spencer PhD, MAE**

Director, Surveillance and Epidemiology Section, Communicable Diseases Branch, Population Health Division, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

**Graham Tallis MB BS, MPH, FAFPHM**

Manager, Communicable Diseases Section, Department of Human Services, Melbourne

**Paul Van de Ven PhD**

Associate, National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney

**Russell Waddell MB BS, BSc, FACSHP**

Clinic Manager, STD Services, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide

**Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH (Secretary)**

NCHECR

## National HIV Surveillance Committee\*

**Jan Savage MB BS, Dip Ven, MPH (Chair)**

Head, Northern Territory AIDS/STD Program, Department of Health, Darwin

**Mark Bartlett BSc, DipEd, RGN, MPH, GradDipAppEpi**

Senior Surveillance Officer, Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney

**Louise Carter RN, GradDipHealthPromPubHealth (to July)**

Director, Communicable Disease Surveillance and Management, ACT Department of Health, Housing and Community Care, Canberra

**David Coleman BSc(Hons), DipAppSc(EnvHlth)**

Scientific Officer, Communicable Diseases Surveillance, Department of Health and Human Services, Hobart

**Tess Davey RN, GradDip(HealthCoun)**

Manager, Surveillance Unit, STD Services, South Australian Health Commission, Adelaide

**Carolien Giele RN, RM, BSc(Hons)**

Senior Project Officer, Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Department of Health, Perth

**Rebecca Guy BAppSc(MedLabSc), MAE**

Research Officer, Epidemiology and Social Research Office, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne

\* Subcommittee of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia through the Intergovernmental Committee on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases

**John M Kaldor PhD**  
NCHECR

**Riemke Kampen (from July)**  
Manager, Disease Surveillance and Immunisation,  
Communicable Disease Control Section, ACT  
Department of Health, Housing and Community  
Care, Canberra

**Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH**  
NCHECR

**Hugo Ree MB, FRCP, FACSHP**  
Senior Medical Officer and Consultant Physician,  
AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health, Brisbane

**Ann McDonald BSc, MPH (Secretary)**  
NCHECR

### **National Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Committee\***

**Graham Tallis MB BS, MPH, FAFPHM (Chair)**  
Manager, Communicable Diseases Section,  
Department of Human Services, Melbourne

**Luke Atkin**  
Surveillance Manager, Blood-Borne Viruses/Sexually  
Transmissible Infections Program, Communicable  
Diseases Section, Department of Human Services,  
Melbourne

**Mark Bartlett BSc, DipEd, RGN, MPH,  
GradDipAppEpi (from June)**  
Surveillance Manager, Centre for Health Protection,  
NSW Health Department, Sydney

**Louise Carter RN, GradDipHealthPromPubHealth  
(to March)**  
Director, Communicable Disease Surveillance and  
Management, ACT Department of Health, Housing  
and Community Care, Canberra

**David Coleman BSc(Hons), DipAppSc(EnvHlth)**  
Scientific Officer, Communicable Diseases  
Surveillance, Department of Health and Human  
Services, Hobart

**Joy Copland, MSc, GradDipPubHealth**  
Senior Project Officer, STD Services, Royal Adelaide  
Hospital, Adelaide

**Greg Dore BSc, MB BS, FRACP, MPH, PhD**  
NCHECR

**Dominic Dwyer BSc(Med), MB BS, MD, FRACP,  
FRCPA**  
Medical Virologist, Centre for Infectious Diseases and  
Microbiology Laboratory Services, The Institute of  
Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Westmead  
Hospital, Sydney

**Carolien Giele RN, RM, BSc(Hons)**  
Senior Project Officer, Communicable Disease  
Control Directorate, Department of Health, Perth

**Jeffrey Hanna MB BS, MPH (to June)**  
Public Health Physician, Tropical Public Health Unit,  
Queensland Health, Cairns, Qld

**Margaret Hellard MB BS, FRACP, PhD, FAFPHM**  
Head, Epidemiology and Social Research Unit,  
Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and  
Public Health, Melbourne

**John Kaldor PhD**  
NCHECR

**Riemke Kampen (from March)**  
Manager, Disease Surveillance and Immunisation,  
Communicable Disease Control Section, ACT  
Department of Health, Housing and Community  
Care, Canberra

**Annie Madden**  
Executive Officer, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug  
Users League, Canberra

**Emma Miller BNg, MPH**  
Epidemiologist, South Australian Department of  
Human Services, Adelaide

**Robyn Pugh BAppSci(MedTech), PGDipPubHlth,  
MAE, PhD (to September)**  
Senior Epidemiologist, Communicable Diseases Unit,  
Queensland Health, Brisbane

**Jan Savage MB BS, Dip Ven, MPH (to December)**  
Head, Northern Territory AIDS/STD Program,  
Department of Health, Darwin

**Jenean Spencer PhD, MAE**  
Director, Surveillance and Epidemiology Section,  
Communicable Diseases Branch, Population Health  
Division, Australian Government Department of  
Health and Ageing, Canberra

**Jack Wallace**  
Executive Officer, Australian Hepatitis Council,  
Canberra

**Margaret Young, FAFPHM (from October)**  
Acting Manager, Communicable Diseases Unit,  
Queensland Health, Brisbane

\* Subcommittee of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia through the Intergovernmental Committee on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases

**Monica Robotin MB BS, FRACS (to February)**  
**(Secretary)**  
NCHECR

**Melanie Middleton BmedSc, MPH (from March)**  
**(Secretary)**  
NCHECR

## **Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee\***

**Russell Waddell MB BS, BSc, FACSHP (Chair)**  
Clinic Manager, STD Services, Royal Adelaide  
Hospital, Adelaide

**Jenny Atthowe MSc(Research)**  
Senior Research Officer, Sexual Health and Blood-  
Borne Virus Program, Communicable Disease Control  
Directorate, Department of Health, Perth

**Mark Bartlett BSc, DipEd, RGN, MPH,  
GradDipAppEpi (from June)**  
Surveillance Manager, Centre for Health Protection,  
NSW Health Department, Sydney

**Louise Carter RN, GradDipHealthPromPubHealth (to  
March)**  
Director, Communicable Disease Surveillance and  
Management, ACT Department of Health, Housing  
and Community Care, Canberra

**Tess Davey RN, GradDip(HealthCoun)  
GradDipClinEpi**  
Manager, Surveillance Section, STD Services, Royal  
Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide

**Patricia Fagan MB BS, FAFPHM, DCH, DRCOG, MPH**  
Senior Medical Advisor, Office for Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Health, Australian Government  
Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

**Christopher Fairley MB BS, FRACP, FACSHP,  
FAFPHM, PhD**  
Professor and Director, Melbourne Sexual Health  
Centre, Melbourne

**Bruce Forrest RN**  
Clinical Nurse Consultant, Aboriginal Sexual Health,  
Greater Murray Area Health Service, Albury, NSW

**John M Kaldor PhD**  
NCHECR

**Riemke Kampen (from March)**  
Manager, Disease Surveillance and Immunisation,  
Communicable Disease Control Section, ACT  
Department of Health, Housing and Community  
Care, Canberra

**Gary Lum AM, BMedSc, MASM, MB BS, FRCPA,  
FACTM, MRACMA**  
Director of Pathology, Royal Darwin Hospital, Darwin;  
Supervising Pathologist, Department of Health, Darwin

**Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH**  
NCHECR

**Melissa Morgan MB BS, DipRACOG, MPH**  
Medical Adviser, Blood-Borne Viruses/Sexually  
Transmissible Infections Program, Communicable  
Diseases Section, Department of Human Services,  
Melbourne

**Maree O'Sullivan MB BS**  
Director, Sexual Health Service, Department of  
Health and Human Services, Hobart

**David Plummer MB BS, PhD, FRCPA, FACSHP,  
MASM, AM (to October)**  
Associate Professor in Public Health and Community  
Health, University of New England, Armidale, NSW

**Robyn Pugh BAppSci(Med Tech), PGDipPubHlth,  
MAE, PhD (to September)**  
Senior Epidemiologist, Communicable Diseases Unit,  
Queensland Health, Brisbane

**Jan Savage MB BS, DipVen, MPH (to December)**  
Head, Northern Territory AIDS/STD Program,  
Department of Health, Darwin

**Jenean Spencer PhD, MAE**  
Director, Surveillance and Epidemiology Section,  
Communicable Diseases Branch, Population Health  
Division, Australian Government Department of  
Health and Ageing, Canberra

**Margaret Young FAFPHM (from October)**  
Acting Manager, Communicable Diseases Unit,  
Queensland Health, Brisbane

**Claire Vajdic BOptom(Hons), PhD (Secretary)**  
NCHECR

## **HIV Subtyping Committee**

**Dominic Dwyer BSc(Med), MB BS, MD, FRACP,  
FRCPA (Chair)**  
Staff Specialist, Medical Virology, Centre for  
Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Laboratory  
Services, Westmead Hospital, Sydney

**Chris Birch BSc, MSc, PhD**  
Senior Medical Scientist, Victorian Infectious Diseases  
Reference Laboratory, Melbourne

**Mike Catton BSc (Hons), MBChB, FRCPA**  
Director, Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference  
Laboratory, Melbourne

\* Subcommittee of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia through the Intergovernmental Committee on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases

**Martyn French MB ChB, FRACP, MD, FRCPPath, FRCP**  
Clinical Immunologist and Head, Department of  
Clinical Immunology and Biochemical Genetics,  
Royal Perth Hospital, Perth

**Geoff Higgins MBBS, FRACP, FRCPA, PhD**  
Deputy Head (Virology), Infectious Diseases  
Laboratories, Institute of Medical and Veterinary  
Science, Adelaide

**John Kaldor PhD**  
NCHECR

**Tony Kelleher BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), PhD,  
FRACP, FRCPA**  
NCHECR

**Ann McDonald BSc, MPH**  
NCHECR

**Simon Mallal BMedSci(Hons), MB BS, FRACP, FRCPA**  
Professor and Executive Director, Centre for Clinical  
Immunology and Biomedical Statistics, Royal Perth  
Hospital, Perth

**Robert Oelrichs MBBS, BMedSci, MD, PhD**  
Senior Research Fellow, AIDS Molecular Biology  
Unit, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical  
Research and Public Health, Melbourne

**Mary Poynten MBBS, Dip Child Health, MPH(Hons)**  
NCHECR

**Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH (Secretary)**  
NCHECR

## **The Australian HIV Observational Database Steering Committee**

**Anne Mijch MB BS (Hons), FRACP, OAM (Chair)**  
Head, Victorian HIV Service, Infectious Diseases  
Unit, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**Jonathan Anderson MB ChB, MRCP, DRCOG,  
DipVen, MSc(Med Sci)**  
General Practitioner, The Carlton Clinic, Melbourne

**David Baker MB ChB, DCH, DipMed(Sexual Health)**  
General Practitioner, 407 Doctors, Sydney

**John Chuah BSc(Med)Hons, MB BS, FACSHP**  
Director, Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, Miami, Qld

**John Daye OAM**  
Treatments Spokesperson, National Association of  
People Living with HIV/AIDS, Melbourne

**Simon Mallal BMedSci(Hons), MB BS, FRACP, FRCPA**  
Professor and Executive Director, Centre for Clinical  
Immunology and Biomedical Statistics, Royal Perth  
Hospital, Perth

**Brian Mulhall MA, MPH, FRCP, FACSHP, DTM&H**  
Clinical Senior Lecturer, School of Public Health, The  
University of Sydney, Sydney

**Patrick Rawstorne BA (Hons)**  
Research Fellow, National Centre in HIV Social  
Research, UNSW, Sydney

**Norman Roth MB BS, DipAvMed, DipVen, FACSHP**  
General Practitioner, Prahran Market Clinic,  
Melbourne

**Kathy Petoumenos BSc, MA, MPH (Hons) (Convenor)**  
NCHECR

## **HIV Vaccine Design and Development Team**

### **Program Management Committee**

**Peter McDonald AM, MB BS, FRCPA, MRACP,  
FRACP, FASM (Chair)**  
Professor of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases,  
Flinders University, Adelaide;  
Chair, ANCAHRD Clinical Trials and Research  
Committee

**David A Cooper AO, DSc, MD, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP**  
NCHECR

**Ron MacDonald, BSc, PhD, FAIP**  
Deputy-Vice-Chancellor (Research), University of  
Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW

**Elsbeth McLachlan DSc, FAA**  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), UNSW, Sydney

**Jack Malecki BSc(Hons), PhD, MAICD**  
Commercial Manager, CSIRO Livestock Industries,  
Geelong, Vic

**Chris Parish, BAgSci, PhD**  
Professorial Fellow and Head, Division of Immunology  
and Genetics, John Curtin School of Medical Research,  
Australian National University, Canberra

**Praphan Phanuphak MD, PhD**  
Professor of Medicine and Microbiology, Department  
of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok,  
Thailand;  
Director, The Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre,  
Bangkok, Thailand;  
Co-Director, The HIV Netherlands, Australia,  
Thailand, Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT),  
Bangkok, Thailand

**Roy Robins-Browne MB BS, PhD, DTM&H, FRCPath,  
FRCPA, FASM**  
Professor and Head, Department of Microbiology and  
Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

**Bill Whittaker**

National President, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

**Deborah Sullivan (Secretary)**

Operations Manager, ANCAHRD Clinical Trials and Research Committee

***Ex officio*****Mark Sullivan**

NCHECR

**Intellectual Property Committee****Jack Malecki BSc(Hons), PhD, MAICD (Chair)**

Commercial Manager, CSIRO Livestock Industries, Geelong, Vic

**Richard Fiora BA, LLB**

Partner, Banki Haddock Fiora, Sydney

**Stephen Kent MB BS, FRACP, MD**

Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

**Elspeth McLachlan DSc, FAA**

Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), UNSW, Sydney

**Theo Magoulas BAppSc, LLB, Grad Dip Legal Studies, LLM**

Contracts Adviser, Research Office, UNSW, Sydney

**Mark Sullivan**

NCHECR

**Deborah Sullivan (Convenor)**

Operations Manager, ANCAHRD Clinical Trials and Research Committee

**Program Executive Committee****David A Cooper AO, DSc, MD, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP (Program Director and Chair)**

NCHECR

**Don Baxter BA, Dip Lib**

Executive Director, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

**David Beames BSc(Hons)**

Chief Executive Officer, Virax Holdings Limited, Melbourne

**Mark Bebbington**

Policy and International Manager, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

**David Boyle BSc, MSc, PhD**

Senior Principal Scientist, CSIRO Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, Vic

**Sean Emery BSc(Hons), PhD**

NCHECR

**Tony Kelleher BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA**

NCHECR

**Stephen Kent MB BS, FRACP, MD**

Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

**Susan Kippax BA(Hons), PhD**

Professor and Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney

**Alistair Ramsay PhD**

Professor of Medicine, Tulane Gene Therapy Consortium, Louisiana State University, New Orleans, USA

**Ian Ramshaw MSc, PhD**

Professor of Cell Biology, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra

**Kiat Ruxrungtham MD**

Director, AIDS Research Centre, Chulalongkorn University Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

***Ex officio*****Gordon Ada AO, DSc, FAA**

Professor of Cell Biology, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra

**Antony Basten AO, FAA, FTSE, MB BS, DPhil, FACP, FRACP, FRCPA**

Executive Director, Centenary Institute, Royal Prince The Alfred Hospital, Sydney

**Annie Tung MPA**

NCHECR

**Roberta Withnall BSc (Convenor)**

Consultant to NCHECR

**Clinical Program Committee****Sean Emery BSc(Hons), PhD (Chair)**

NCHECR

**Mark Bebbington**

Policy and International Manager, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

**David Boyle BSc, MSc, PhD**

Senior Principal Scientist, CSIRO Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, Vic

**David A Cooper AO, DSc, MD, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP**

NCHECR

**Rosemary Ffrench BSc(Hons), PhD**

Conjoint Senior Lecturer and Senior Scientist, Westfield Research Laboratories, Sydney Children's Hospital, UNSW, Sydney

**Andrew Grulich MB BS, MSc, PhD, DRACOG, FAFPHM**  
NCHECR

**John Kaldor PhD**  
NCHECR

**Tony Kelleher BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA**  
NCHECR

**Stephen Kent MB BS, FRACP, MD**  
Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

**Liz Keoshkerian MSc**  
Senior Research Officer, Westfield Research Laboratories, Sydney Children's Hospital, UNSW, Sydney

**Susan Kippax BA(Hons), PhD**  
Professor and Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney

**Kirsty Machon BAComm, MA**  
HIV Health Policy Officer, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

**Paul McQueen BSc, GradDipBiotech, PhD, MASM**  
Community Representative, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

**Rebekah Puls BSc(Hons), PhD**  
NCHECR

**Andy Quan MA**  
International Policy Officer, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

**Kiat Ruxrungtham MD**  
Director, AIDS Research Centre, Chulalongkorn University Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

**Paul van de Ven PhD**  
Deputy Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney

### **Laboratory Subcommittee**

**Rosemary Ffrench BSc(Hons), PhD (Chair/Convenor)**  
Conjoint Senior Lecturer and Senior Scientist, Westfield Research Laboratories, Sydney Children's Hospital, UNSW, Sydney

**Sean Emery BSc(Hons), PhD**  
NCHECR

**Bill Jaramillo BSc(Hons)**  
Senior Research Officer, Westfield Research Laboratories, Sydney Children's Hospital, UNSW, Sydney

**Tony Kelleher BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA**  
NCHECR

**Stephen Kent MB BS, FRACP, MD**  
Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

**Liz Keoshkerian MSc**  
Senior Research Officer, Westfield Research Laboratories, Sydney Children's Hospital, UNSW, Sydney

**Rebekah Puls BSc(Hons), PhD**  
NCHECR

**Kiat Ruxrungtham MD**  
Director, AIDS Research Centre, Chulalongkorn University Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

**Claudette Satchell BSc(Hons)**  
Hospital Scientist, Immunovirology Research Laboratory, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

### **Thai Project Clinical Development Committee**

**Mark Bebbington**  
Policy and International Manager, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

**David A Cooper AO, DSc, MD, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP**  
NCHECR

**Tony Kelleher BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA**  
NCHECR

**Stephen Kent MB BS, FRACP, MD**  
Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

**Susan Kippax BA(Hons), PhD**  
Professor and Director, National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney

**Praphan Phanuphak MD, PhD**  
Professor of Medicine and Microbiology, Department of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand;  
Director, The Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre, Bangkok, Thailand;  
Co-Director, The HIV Netherlands, Australia, Thailand, Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT), Bangkok, Thailand

**Kiat Ruxrungtham MD**  
Director, AIDS Research Centre, Chulalongkorn University Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

**Mark Sullivan**  
NCHECR



## Vaccine Vector Working Group

### David Boyle BSc, MSc, PhD

Senior Principal Scientist, CSIRO Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, Vic

### David A Cooper AO, DSc, MD, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP NCHECR

### Rosemary Ffrench BSc(Hons), PhD

Conjoint Senior Lecturer and Senior Scientist, Westfield Research Laboratories, Sydney Children's Hospital, UNSW, Sydney

### Stephen Kent MB BS, FRACP, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

### Damian Purcell PhD

Lecturer, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

### Alistair Ramsay PhD

Professor of Medicine, Tulane Gene Therapy Consortium, Louisiana State University, New Orleans, USA

### Ian Ramshaw MSc, PhD

Professor of Cell Biology, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra

### Scott Thomson BSc, PhD

Research Fellow, Vaccine Immunology Group, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra

### Sumith Nawaratne PhD AAICD FAIPM (Convenor)

Project Manager, Consultant to NCHECR

## Ex officio

### Mark Sullivan

NCHECR

## Program Advisory Committee

### Gordon Ada AO, DSc, FAA

Professor of Cell Biology, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra

### Dennis Altman MA

Professor of Politics, La Trobe University, Melbourne

### Antony Basten AO, FAA, FTSE, MB BS, DPhil, FACP, FRACP, FRCPA

Executive Director, Centenary Institute, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney

### Anthony Cunningham MB BS, BMedSci(Hons), MD, FRACP, FRCPA, FASM

Director, Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research and Centre for Virus Research, Sydney

### Usa Duongsaa BA, MS, PhD

Lecturer, Faculty of Education, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand

### M Juliana McElrath MD, PhD

Professor and Director, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre, HIV-1 Vaccine Evaluation Unit, University of Washington, USA

## NCHECR Working Groups

### Chairs of Combined NCHECR Working Groups

### Jonathan Anderson MB ChB, MRCP, DRCOG, DipVen, MSc(Med Sci)

General Practitioner, The Carlton Clinic, Melbourne

### Jennifer Hoy MB BS, FRACP

Associate Professor and Head, Clinical Research Section, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

## The Antiretroviral Working Group

### Gary Rogers MB BS, MGPPsych, FACPsychMed (Chair)

Clinical Lecturer and Program Director, The Care and Prevention Program, Department of General Practice, University of Adelaide, Adelaide

### Janaki Amin BSc(Hons), MHP(Hons)

NCHECR

### Suzanne Crowe MB BS, FRACP, MD

Professor and Head, AIDS Pathogenesis and Clinical Research Program, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne

### John Cumming Grad Dip Public Sector Management

Executive Officer, People Living With HIV/AIDS (NSW), Sydney

### Nicholas Deacon BSc(Hons), PhD

Associate Professor, School of Applied Sciences, Monash University, Gippsland Campus, Churchill, Vic

### Dominic Dwyer BSc(Med), MB BS, FRACP, FRCPA

Staff Specialist, Medical Virology and Clinical Microbiology, Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Laboratory Services, Institute for Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Westmead Hospital, Sydney

### John Dyer MB BS, FRACP

Senior Consultant, Department of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide

### Martyn French MB ChB, FRACP, MD, FRCPATH, FRCP

Clinical Immunologist and Head, Department of Clinical Immunology and Biochemical Genetics, Royal Perth Hospital, Perth

**Tony Maynard FACBS**

Information Project Officer, AIDS Treatment Project  
Australia, Sydney;  
Enhanced Care Project Officer, AIDS Council of New  
South Wales, Sydney

**Graham Mills MB ChB, MTH, FRACP**

Infectious Disease Physician, Respiratory and  
Infectious Diseases, Waikato Hospital, Hamilton,  
New Zealand

**Richard Moore MB BS, Dip RACOG, FRACGP, DipVen**

General Practitioner, Carlton Clinic, Melbourne;  
Sessional HIV Specialist, Melbourne Sexual Health  
Centre, Melbourne;  
Clinical Assistant, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred  
Hospital, Melbourne

**Robert Oelrichs MD, PhD**

Senior Research Fellow, AIDS Molecular Biology  
Unit, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical  
Research and Public Health, Melbourne

**David Orth MBBS, DipObGyn, DipVen**

Director, Brunswick Street Medical Practice, Brisbane

**Anna Pierce MB BS, FRACP**

Clinical Research Fellow, Department of Infectious  
Diseases, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**John Quin MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA**

Director of Clinical Immunology, HIV Medicine and  
Sexual Health, Liverpool Hospital, Sydney

**Cassy Workman MB BS**

Director, AIDS Research Initiative, Sydney

**Fraser Drummond MB ChB, MRCA, DA(UK)  
(Convenor)**

NCHECR

**Primary HIV Infection Working Group****Robert Finlayson MB BS, DipVen, FACVen (Chair)**

General Practitioner, Taylor Square Private Clinic,  
Sydney

**Chris Birch BSc, MSc, PhD**

Senior Scientist, Victorian Infectious Diseases  
Reference Laboratory, Melbourne

**Sharyn Casey**

Editor, HIV Australia and HIV Educator, Positive  
Education, Australian Federation of AIDS  
Organisations, Sydney

**Philip Cunningham BAppSc(Med)**

Senior Scientist and Operations Manager, NSW State  
Reference Laboratory for HIV/AIDS, Centre for  
Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Stephen Delaney BSc, PhD, MASM**

Community Representative, National Association of  
People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

**Nicholas Doong MB BS, DipObs, MPH, FRACGP**

General Practitioner, Dr Doong's Surgery, Sydney

**Henrike Korner PhD (from November)**

Research Fellow, National Centre in HIV Social  
Research, UNSW, Sydney

**Dale McPhee PhD**

Research Coordinator, National Serology Reference  
Laboratory, St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research,  
Melbourne

**Nicholas Medland BA(Hons), MB BS, DipVen**

Clinical Director, The Centre Clinic, Victorian AIDS  
Council/Gay Men's Health Centre, Melbourne

**Cathy Pell MBBS, MM**

Specialist General Practitioner, Taylor Square Private  
Clinic, Sydney

**Kathy Petoumenos BSc, MA, MPH(Hons)**

NCHECR

**Norman Roth MB BS, DipAvMed, DipVen, FACSHIP**

General Practitioner, Prahran Market Clinic, Melbourne

**Don Smith MB ChB, MD**

NCHECR

**Patricia Grey BA, Post Grad Dip AppSc, CNS,  
Dip(Counselling) (Convenor)**

NCHECR

**Toxicology/Pharmacology Working Group****Andrew Carr MD, FRACP, FRCPA (Chair)**

Associate Professor and Staff Specialist, Department  
of Immunology and HIV Medicine, St Vincent's  
Hospital, Sydney

**Anthony Allworth MB BS, FRACP, FRCPA, FACTM,  
MASM**

Director, Infectious Diseases Unit, Royal Brisbane  
Hospital, Brisbane

**Mark Bloch MB BS**

General Practitioner, Holdsworth House General  
Practice, Sydney

**Alan Brotherton BA**

Manager, Information Services and Gay Men's Health,  
AIDS Council of New South Wales, Sydney

**Jennifer Hoy MB BS, FRACP**

Associate Professor and Head, Clinical Research  
Section, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital,  
Melbourne

**Debbie Marriott BSc(Med), FRACP, FRCPA**  
Senior Staff Specialist, Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**David Menadue BA, BAEd**  
Care and Support Spokesperson, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Melbourne

**Anne Mijch MB BS(Hons), FRACP, OAM**  
Head, Victorian HIV Service, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**Asha Persson BA(Hons), PhD**  
Research Officer, National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney

**Peter Piggott MB BS, FRACP**  
Head, HIV Medicine, Department of Thoracic Medicine and Respiratory Investigation, Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney

**Tim Read MB BS**  
Sexual Health Physician, Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic, Melbourne

**David Shaw MB BS, FRACP**  
Director, Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention Units, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide

**David Sowden MB BS, BS DIP, RACOG, FRACP, FRCPA**  
Infectious Diseases Physician, Nambour General Hospital, Nambour, Qld

**Handan Wand MA, MS, PhD**  
NCHECR

**Paddy Mallon MB, BCh, BAO, BSc(Hons) (Convenor)**  
NCHECR

### **Oncology Working Group**

**David Goldstein MB BS, MRCP(UK), FRACP (Chair)**  
Associate Professor and Senior Staff Specialist, Department of Medical Oncology, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney

**Jonathan Anderson MB ChB, FRACGP, DRCOG, DipVen, MSc(MedSci)**  
General Practitioner, The Carlton Clinic, Melbourne

**Trish Bullen RN, RITN**  
Manager, Sexual Health Program, Macquarie Area Health Service, Dubbo, NSW

**Mitchell Chipman MB BS, FRACP**  
Medical Oncologist, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**John Daye OAM**  
Treatments Spokesperson, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Melbourne

**Andrew Grulich MB BS, MSc, DRACOG, FAFPHM, PhD**  
NCHECR

**Richard Hillman BSc(Hons), MD, FRCP, FACSHP**  
Senior Lecturer and Senior Staff Specialist, STI Research Centre, Westmead Hospital, Sydney

**Sam Milliken MB BS, FRACP, FRCPA**  
Senior Lecturer and Senior Staff Specialist, Department of Haematology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Adrian Mindel MB BCh, MSc(CTM), MD, FRCP, FRACP, FACSHP**  
Professor of Sexual Health Medicine, The University of Sydney, Sydney;  
Director, Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Centre, Westmead Hospital, Sydney

**Handan Wand MA, MS, PhD**  
NCHECR

**Kate Clezy MB BS, FRACP (Convenor)**  
NCHECR

### **Immune-Based Therapies Working Group**

**Sharon Lewin MB BS(Hons), FRACP, PhD (Chair)**  
Professor and Director, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**Michael Boyle BMedSci, MB BS, MD, FRACP, FRCPA**  
Staff Specialist, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW

**John Chuah BSc(Med)Hons, MB BS, FACSHP**  
Director, Gold Coast Sexual Health, Miami, Qld

**Roger Garsia MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA**  
Director of Clinical AIDS Services and Staff Specialist in Immunology, Department of Clinical Immunology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney

**Tony Kelleher BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA**  
NCHECR

**Mark Kelly MB BS(Hons)**  
Director of Research, Albion Street Centre, Sydney

**Stephen Kent MB BS, FRACP, MD (Deputy Chair)**  
Associate Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

**Matthew Law MA, MSc, PhD**  
NCHECR

**Kirsty Machon BAComm, MA, GradDipArts**  
HIV Health Policy Officer, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

**Paul McQueen BSc, GradDipBiotech, PhD Biotech, MASM**  
Community Representative, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

**Simon Mallal BMedSci(Hons), MB BS, FRACP, FRCPA**  
Professor and Executive Director, Centre for Clinical Immunology and Biomedical Statistics,  
Royal Perth Hospital, Perth

**Graeme Stewart BSc(Med), MB BS, PhD, FRACP, FRCPA**

Associate Professor and Director of Clinical Immunology, Department of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Westmead Hospital, Sydney

**John Sullivan PhD, MPH**

Principal Scientist, Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Sydney

**John Zaunders BSc (Hons)**

Senior Scientist, Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Sarah Pett BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), DTM&H, MRCP (UK), FRACP (Convenor)**  
NCHECR

### **Neurology Working Group**

**Bruce Brew MB BS(Hons), MD, FRACP (Chair)**

Professor and Head, Department of Neurosciences and Neurology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Margaret Bain BSc(Psych), MCLinPsych, MCLinNeuropsych**

Neuropsychologist, HIV Neuropsychology Service, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Catherine Cherry MB BS, FRACP**

Infectious Diseases Physician, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**Steve Ellen MB BS, MMed(Psych), FRANZCP**

Head, Consultation – Liaison Psychiatry, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**Paul Gorry PhD**

Head, HIV Molecular Pathogenesis Laboratory, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne

**Barrie Harrison BSc(Hons), PhD**

Treatments and HIV Health Promotion Officer, AIDS Council of New South Wales, Lismore, NSW

**Brian Kelly BMed, PhD, FRANZCP, FRChPM**

Director, Mental Health Service, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Matthew Law MA, MSc, PhD**

NCHECR

**Patrick Li MB BS, FHKCP, FHKAM (Medicine), FRCP (London), FRCP (Edinburgh)**

Chief of Service, Department of Medicine, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hong Kong

**Catriona McLean BSc, MB BS, FRCPA, MD**

Consultant Pathologist, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**Patricia Price PhD**

Senior Lecturer, School of Surgery and Pathology, The University of Western Australia, Perth

**Nitin Saxena BSc, MSc, PhD**

Head, Retroviral Genetics Division, Centre for Virus Research, Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Sydney

**Jo Watson**

Executive Officer, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

**Steve Wesselingh MB BS, FRACP, PhD**

Director, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne

**Edwina Wright MB BS, FRACP**

Infectious Diseases Specialist, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**Jaimie Cox BSc(Hons), PhD, MAPS (Convenor) (to November)**

NCHECR

### **Viral Hepatitis Working Group**

**William Sievert MD, FRACP (Chair)**

Head of Hepatology, Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne

**Janaki Amin BSc(Hons), MHP(Hons)**

NCHECR

**David Baker MB ChB**

General Practitioner, 407 Doctors, Sydney

**Robert Batey MSc(Med)(Hons1), MB BS(Hons2), MD, FRACP, FRCP**

Clinical Chair, Division of Medicine, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW;  
Area Director, Drug and Alcohol Clinical Services, Hunter Area Health Service, Newcastle, NSW

**Chris Burrell BSc(Med), MB BS, PhD, FRCPATH, FRCPA**

Professor of Virology, University of Adelaide, Adelaide

**David A Cooper AO, DSc, MD, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP**  
NCHECR

**Darrell Crawford MD, FRACP**

Associate Professor of Medicine, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane

**Greg Dore BSc, MB BS, FRACP, MPH, PhD**

NCHECR

**Geoff Farrell MD, FRACP**

Robert W Storr Professor of Hepatic Medicine, Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Sydney

**Margaret Hellard MB BS, FRACP, PhD, FAFPHM**  
Head, Epidemiology and Social Research Program,  
Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and  
Public Health, Melbourne

**John M Kaldor PhD**  
NCHECR

**Susan Kippax BA(Hons), PhD**  
Professor and Director, National Centre in HIV Social  
Research, UNSW, Sydney

**Andrew Lloyd MB BS, MD, FRACP**  
Associate Professor and Consultant Infectious  
Diseases Physician, Department of Infectious  
Diseases, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney

**Stephen Locarnini MB BS, BSc(Hons), PhD, FRCPATH**  
Divisional Head, Research and Molecular  
Development, Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference  
Laboratory, Melbourne

**Geoff McCaughan MB BS, FRACP, PhD**  
Professor of Medicine and Director, AW Morrow GE  
and Liver Centre, The University of Sydney and Royal  
Prince The Alfred Hospital, Sydney;  
Head, Liver Immunobiology Group, Centenary  
Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology, Sydney

**Joe Sasadeusz MB BS, FRACP, PhD**  
Infectious Diseases Physician, Royal Melbourne  
Hospital and The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

**Ingrid van Beek MB BS, MBA, FAFPHM**  
Director, Kirketon Road Centre, Sydney

**Jack Wallace**  
Executive Officer, Australian Hepatitis Council,  
Canberra

**Gail Matthews MB ChB, MRCP (Convenor)**  
NCHECR

## **Research Coordinator Working Group**

**Claire McCormack BNg, GradDipAdvNurse,  
GradDipClinEpi (Chair)**  
Clinical Research Coordinator, The Alfred Hospital,  
Melbourne

**Kate Fisher BA, BNurs**  
NSW GP Enhanced Care Project Officer, AIDS  
Council of New South Wales, Sydney

**Helen Fraser RN, BN, MPH, HIVCert**  
Coordinator, HIV Clinical Trials Unit, St Vincent's  
Hospital, Sydney

**Jeff Hudson RN**  
Clinical Research Manager, Dr Doong's Surgery, Sydney

**Sheena McLeod RN (till September)**  
Clinical Trials Nurse, Immunology and Infectious  
Diseases, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Kathy Petoumenos BSc, MA, MPH(Hons)**  
NCHECR

**Jenny Skett RN**  
Study Nurse, Royal Perth Hospital, Perth

**Alan Walker BA, GradDipAppSci, MPH**  
Nurse Practice Coordinator, Nambour General  
Hospital, Nambour, Qld

**Helen Wood RN**  
Clinical Research Coordinator, The Centre Clinic,  
Melbourne

**Janelle Zillman RN**  
Clinical Nurse, Infectious Diseases, Day Therapy Unit,  
Royal Brisbane Hospital, Brisbane

**Cate Carey RN BA MAppSc (Convenor)**  
NCHECR

## **NCHECR Working Groups *ex officio***

**David A Cooper AO, DSc, MD, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP**  
NCHECR

**Sean Emery BSc(Hons), PhD**  
NCHECR

**John M Kaldor PhD**  
NCHECR

**Matthew Law MA, MSc, PhD**  
NCHECR

**Peter McDonald AM, MB BS, FRCPA, MRACP,  
FRACP, FASM (till November)**  
Professor of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases,  
Flinders University, Adelaide;  
Chair, ANCAHRD Clinical Trials and Research  
Committee



## External boards, committees and advisory groups

4th Australasian Conference on Hepatitis C  
Conference Committee  
(Greg Dore, Convener)

5th International Workshop on Adverse Drug  
Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV Organising  
Committee  
(David Cooper)

6th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine  
Organising Committee  
(David Cooper)

8th World STI/AIDS Congress International Scientific  
Committee  
(John Kaldor)

14th International Conference on the Reduction of  
Drug Related Harm, International Advisory Panel  
(Margaret MacDonald)

15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for  
HIV Medicine, Epidemiology Organising Committee  
(Margaret MacDonald)

Acute Infection and Early Disease Research Program,  
Data Base Working Group  
(John Kaldor)

Acute Infection and Early Disease Research Program,  
Pathogenesis Working Group  
(Tony Kelleher)

Acute Infection and Early Disease Research Program,  
PHAEDRA Steering Committee  
(Tony Kelleher)

Acute Infection and Early Disease Research Program,  
Structured Treatment Interruptions Trial Steering  
Committee  
(Tony Kelleher)

AIDS Council of New South Wales Board  
(Garrett Prestage)

AIDS Council of New South Wales Increase in  
Infections Working Group  
(Garrett Prestage)

*AIDS* Editorial Board  
(David Cooper, Andrew Grulich)

amfAR TREAT Asia Steering Committee  
(David Cooper, Greg Dore)

ANCAHRD HIV Committee  
(Andrew Grulich)

ANCHARD Clinical Trials and Treatments Advisory  
Committee  
(David Cooper, *Ex-officio*)

ANCHARD Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health  
Committee  
(John Kaldor)

*Australasian Society for HIV Medicine HIV Journal  
Club*, Editorial Board  
(Andrew Grulich)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine  
(Andrew Grulich, President)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, NSW  
Hepatitis C Prescriber Trial Clinical Subcommittee  
(Greg Dore)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Standing  
Committee on Hepatitis C  
(Greg Dore, Chair)

Australasian Society of HIV Medicine, Treatment  
Subcommittee  
(Fraser Drummond, Don Smith)

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, HIV  
Vaccine Policy Reference Group  
(Andrew Grulich)

Bann Gerda Orphanage for Children Living with HIV  
(Mark Boyd, Management Consultant)

Cambodian National Continuum of Care, Sub-  
working Group on Health Facility-Based Care  
(Julian Elliott)

Cambodian National Continuum of Care, Sub-  
working Group on Home and Community-Based Care  
(Julian Elliott)

Cambodian National Continuum of Care, Sub-  
working Group on Voluntary Confidential  
Counselling and Testing  
(Julian Elliott)

Cambodian National Continuum of Care, Technical  
Working Group  
(Julian Elliott)

Cambodian National Protection of Maternal to Child  
Transmission Committee  
(Julian Elliott)

Cambodian National Steering Committee on HIV  
Care Training for Clinicians  
(Julian Elliott)

Cambodian National Sub-working Group on HIV  
Care Guidelines  
(Julian Elliott)

Cambodian National Sub-working Group on HIV Care Monitoring and Reporting  
(Julian Elliott)

Cambodian National Technical Working Group on HIV Care Training for Clinicians  
(Julian Elliott, Sarah Huffam)

Cambodian National Tuberculosis/HIV Working Group  
(Julian Elliott)

Central Australian Disease Control Coordinating Committee, STD/HIV Subcommittee  
(John Kaldor)

Cochrane Collaborative Review Group on HIV infection and AIDS, Biomedical Interventions  
(John Kaldor, Reviews Editor)

Commonwealth Department of Veteran Affairs Expert Committee to Review Special Air Services Health Issues  
(John Kaldor)

*Communicable Diseases Intelligence* Editorial Board  
(John Kaldor)

Communicable Diseases Network Australia Steering Committee on Best Practice Management of Health Care Workers Infected with a Blood Borne Virus  
(John Kaldor)

Communicable Diseases Network Australia  
(John Kaldor)

ESPRIT Toxicity Committee  
(Sarah Pett)

The Thai Red Cross Society Advisory Board on Expansion of Voluntary Counselling and Testing in Thailand  
(Chris Duncombe)

Gastroenterological Society of Australia  
(John Kaldor)

Greater Western Sydney Gay and Other Homosexually Active Men's Education Team  
(Daniel Madeddu)

Greater Western Sydney HIV Infections Increase Roundtable  
(Daniel Madeddu)

Hepatitis C Council of NSW Medical Research Advisory Panel  
(Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

HIV CONNECT Immunology Group  
(Tony Kelleher, Australian Representative)

HIV Netherlands, Australia, Thailand (HIV-NAT)  
(David Cooper, Co-Director)

INITIO Immunology Sub Study Steering Committee  
(Tony Kelleher)

International AIDS Society  
(John Kaldor, Governing Council Member)

International AIDS Society, Governing Council Governance Subcommittee  
(John Kaldor)

*Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes* Editorial Board  
(David Cooper)

*Journal of Epidemiology and Biostatistics* Editorial Board  
(John Kaldor)

*Journal of HIV Medicine* Editorial Board  
(Andrew Grulich)

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Disease, Scientific Advisory Committee  
(John Kaldor)

National Centre in HIV Social Research, Scientific Advisory Committee  
(John Kaldor)

National Donovanosis Eradication Advisory Committee  
(John Kaldor)

National Incident Hepatitis C Case Register Advisory Committee  
(John Kaldor)

National Radiological Protection Board Epidemiology Study of Participants in Nuclear Weapons Tests Advisory Group  
(John Kaldor)

NHMRC Project Grants Committee  
(John Kaldor)

NHMRC Special Expert Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies  
(John Kaldor)

NSW Department of Corrective Services Ethics Committee  
(John Kaldor)

NSW Health Department, Committee on AIDS Strategy Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Subcommittee  
(Don Smith)

NSW Health Department, HIV Health Promotion Committee  
(Andrew Grulich, Chair)

NSW Health Department, Medically Supervised Injecting Centre Evaluation Committee  
(John Kaldor)

NSW Health Department, NSW Health Ethics Committee  
(Andrew Grulich)

NSW Health Department, Sexual Health Advisory Committee  
(John Kaldor)

NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hepatitis  
(Greg Dore)

NSW Users and AIDS Association Heroin Overdose Information and Education Initiative, Expert Advisory Group  
(Margaret MacDonald)

Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, National Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Strategy Health Check Evaluation Advisory Committee  
(John Kaldor)

Repatriation Medical Authority  
(John Kaldor)

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Training Program HIV/AIDS Special Skills Management Committee  
(Don Smith, Executive Member)

*Sexual Health* Editorial Board  
(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

*Sexually Transmitted Infections* Editorial Board  
(David Cooper)

SILCAAT Toxicity Committee  
(Sarah Pett)

SMART Anal Dysplasia Substudy Team  
(Fraser Drummond)

SMART Body Composition Substudy Team  
(Fraser Drummond)

SMART Executive Committee  
(Fraser Drummond)

SMART Neurology Substudy Team  
(Fraser Drummond)

SMART Protocol Team  
(Fraser Drummond)

South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service, HIV/Hepatitis C Sexual Health Minimum Data Set Implementation Committee  
(Paddy Mallon)

St Vincent's Hospital Campus Institutional Biosafety Committee  
(Tony Kelleher)

St Vincent's Hospital, Human Research Ethics Committee  
(Paddy Mallon)

STALWART Protocol Steering Committee  
(Allison Martin)

Steering Group for the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer Report on Communicable Disease  
(John Kaldor)

The Thai Red Cross Society and Columbia University Advisory Board on the treatment of HIV infected mothers and their families, Mother-to-Child Transmission-Plus Program  
(Chris Duncombe)

UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Post Graduate Research Degree Committee  
(Andrew Grulich)

World Health Organisation, Consultation on antiretroviral therapy  
(Mark Boyd, Chris Duncombe)

World Health Organisation, Consultation on behavioural surveillance in populations at high risk of HIV infection  
(Margaret MacDonald)

World Health Organisation, Regional Task Force on HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment  
(Greg Dore)





# Education and training

## Students supervised by NCHECR staff

Supervisor(s) in brackets

### **Bachelor of Medical Biotechnologies (Honours) candidate**

**Giulia Zanetti (University of Padova, Italy)**

Studies of IL-7 and IL-7 receptor systems in vitro and ex vivo

(Tony Kelleher)

### **Bachelor of Science (Medicine) candidate**

**Phillip Law**

Prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus/hepatitis B and/or C virus coinfection and the impact of antiretroviral therapy on hepatitis outcomes

(David Cooper)

### **Doctor of Medical Biology candidate**

**Julia Teerling (Vrije University, The Netherlands)**

The impact of medical care on people living with HIV/AIDS enrolled in clinical trials at HIV-NAT

(Chris Duncombe)

### **Doctor of Medicine candidate**

**Ficke Cox (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)**

Monitoring of clinical trials at HIV-NAT

(Chris Duncombe)

**Patrick Unemori (University of California San Francisco, USA)**

The metabolic effects of nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors on monocytes from HIV negative patients

(Paddy Mallon, Tony Kelleher)

**Pomme van Warmerdan (University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)**

Monitoring of clinical trials at HIV-NAT

(Chris Duncombe)

### **Doctor of Philosophy candidates**

**Janaki Amin**

Natural history of hepatitis C disease

(Greg Dore, Matthew Law)

**Palanee Ammaranond**

Evolution of HIV in response to therapeutic and immune mediated pressures

(David Cooper, Tony Kelleher)

**Jonathan Anderson**

Clinical aspects of anal intraepithelial neoplasia

(Andrew Grulich)

**Mark Boyd**

Clinical trials of antiretroviral therapy in Thailand

(David Cooper)

**Oliver Distler**

Molecular and cellular mechanisms for HIV protease inhibitor associated hyperlipidaemia

(David Cooper)

**Toshihiko Fukamachi (Chiba University, Japan)**

Modulation of HIV infection in vitro with iRNA constructs

(Tony Kelleher)

**Jeff Jin**

Epidemiology of sexually transmissible infections in gay men in Sydney

(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

**Azar Kariminia**

Mortality among full time prisoners in New South Wales

(Matthew Law)

**Paddy Mallon**

Molecular aspects of HIV-associated lipodystrophy

(David Cooper, Tony Kelleher)

**Joanne Micallef**

Natural history of newly acquired hepatitis C infection

(Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

**Ann Mijch (Monash University)**

Measuring and managing HIV virological failure

(John Kaldor)

**John Miller**

Lipodystrophy in patients with HIV disease

(John Kaldor)

**Kathy Petoumenos**

The Australian HIV Observational Database

(John Kaldor, Matthew Law)

**Rosie Thein**

Quality of life and hepatitis C

(Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

**John Zaunders**

Effects of primary HIV infection on subsets of CD4 and CD8 T lymphocytes

(David Cooper, Tony Kelleher)

**Master of Applied Epidemiology (Disease Control) awarded**

**Monica Robotin (Australian National University, Canberra)**

Communicable disease epidemiology and surveillance  
(Greg Dore, Andrew Grulich)

**Master of Applied Epidemiology (Indigenous Health) candidate**

**Chris Lawrence (Australian National University)**

Communicable disease epidemiology and surveillance  
(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

**Master of Arts in Clinical Drug Dependence Studies awarded**

**Mark Denoe (Macquarie University)**

Injecting behaviour of injecting drug users at needle and syringe programs and pharmacies in South Eastern Sydney  
(Margaret MacDonald)

**Master of Biomedical Science candidate**

**Sandra Klijn (Vrije University, Amsterdam, The Netherlands)**

The impact of medical care on people living with HIV/AIDS enrolled in clinical trials at HIV-NAT  
(Chris Duncombe)

**Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV) treatise candidate**

**Nurlan Silitonga (The University of Sydney)**

Trends in the prevalence of gonorrhoea and the condom use pattern among female sex workers first attending an STD clinic in the mining town, Timika, West Papua, Indonesia 1997-2002  
(John Kaldor)

**Master of Public Health by research awarded**

**Alison King (Griffith University)**

An investigation of the goals of patients and staff at Gorman House non-medical residential detoxification unit  
(Margaret MacDonald)

**Master of Public Health by research candidate**

**Juliet Babirye**

The role of infant feeding counselling in prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Uganda  
(Andrew Grulich)

**Michael Burke**

Factors influencing participation in prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV programs in Tanzania, East Africa  
(John Kaldor)

**Adeeba Kamarulzaman**

Natural history of HIV/AIDS in Malaysia  
(Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

**Fatemeh Nakhaee**

Modelling survival following AIDS  
(Matthew Law)

**Suzanne Polis**

Vertical transmission of hepatitis C virus to infants born to mothers who are infected with hepatitis C virus  
(John Kaldor)

**Master of Public Health major project awarded**

**Leng Boonwaat**

Factors associated with risk taking behaviours for hepatitis C transmission among NSW prison inmates  
(Margaret MacDonald)

**Jennie Musto**

Estimating the effect to which donor deferral protects the blood supply  
(John Kaldor)

**Tim Ramacciotti**

The role of antiretroviral treatment in primary HIV infection  
(John Kaldor)

**Master of Public Health major project candidate**

**Robert Baldwin**

A hepatitis C survey: Mid-north coast of New South Wales  
(Greg Dore)

**Anna Doab**

Hepatitis C treatment knowledge, attitudes and barriers among current injecting drug users  
(Greg Dore)

**Marianne Jauncey**

Retrospective cohort of newly acquired hepatitis C infection at Kirkeaton Road Centre  
(Greg Dore)

**Ehsan Mowla**

Critical appraisal of HIV surveillance system in Bangladesh with a focus on high risk groups: injecting drug users (IDU) and female sex workers (FSW).  
(Margaret MacDonald, Ann McDonald)

**Mohammed Habibur Rahman**

HIV and hepatitis C infection and related risk behaviour among injecting drug users at Barisal Southern Divisional City of Bangladesh  
(Margaret MacDonald)

**Cao Wen**

Improving needle and syringe program access in South East Sydney  
(Margaret MacDonald)

**Shellee Williams**

Incidence of hepatitis C in a cohort of HIV+ patients of an inner-city practice and rate of uptake of hepatitis A and B vaccination within the same cohort  
(John Kaldor)

**Year 5 elective term Bachelor of Medicine candidates****Jason Chan**

The incidence and predictors of nevirapine association hypersensitivity in a Thai HIV infected population  
(Chris Duncombe)

**Mark Dalgleish (University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK)**

Sexual behaviour of young gay men in the Health in Men Study  
(Andrew Grulich)

**Zewlan Moor**

The incidence and predictors of nevirapine association hypersensitivity in a Thai HIV infected population  
(Chris Duncombe)

**Course coordination**

6th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine, Bangkok, Thailand  
(Mark Boyd, Chris Duncombe)

Case studies in epidemiology, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney  
(Andrew Grulich)

Epidemiology for public health, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney  
(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

HIV/AIDS: Challenging and changing health care systems, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney  
(Greg Dore)

Regional physicians HIV medicine training course, Bangkok, Thailand  
(Chris Duncombe)

**Teaching**

Advanced HIV Nursing Course, Albion Street Centre, Sydney  
(Don Smith)

An epidemiological approach to the critical appraisal of clinical evidence, short courses to the pharmaceutical industry, Sydney/Melbourne  
(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

ASEAN Regional Conference on HIV/AIDS Care, International Medical Center of Japan, Tokyo, Japan  
(Chris Duncombe)

Case studies in epidemiology, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney  
(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor, Margaret MacDonald)

Clinical management of HIV infection including antiretrovirals, World Health Organization, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam  
(Chris Duncombe)

Course for Basic Physician Trainees-Part 1, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Sarah Pett)

Epidemiology for public health, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney  
(Janaki Amin, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

Global aspects of AIDS, Master of International Public Health, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(John Kaldor)

HIV Medicine Interactive Session (St Vincent's Hospital), Year 6 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(David Cooper)

HIV/AIDS: Challenging and changing health care systems, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney  
(Greg Dore, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor, Tony Kelleher)

Immunology of HIV Infection/HIV, Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Tony Kelleher)

International health, Year 4 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(Andrew Grulich)

Introductory Program to HIV and Viral Hepatitis, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney  
(Gail Matthews)

Metabolic Complications, from Laboratory to Patient: Course in HIV Clinical Management, Stanford University, San Francisco, USA  
(David Cooper)

Mother-to-child HIV transmission in resource-poor settings, Master of International Public Health, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Greg Dore)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Epidemiology and Evidence Based Practice in Infection Control, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney  
(John Kaldor, Margaret MacDonald)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Global and National Epidemiology of HIV/AIDS, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney  
(Andrew Grulich)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Hepatitis C, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney  
(Greg Dore)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Sexual Health and Venereology, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney  
(Janaki Amin, Greg Dore)

Professional Development Program for Teachers of Higher School Certificate Biology, UNSW, Sydney  
(Greg Dore)

Public Health Aspects of HIV/AIDS, Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Andrew Grulich)

Public Health Aspects of HIV/AIDS, Master of Public Health, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Greg Dore)

Research skills for public health, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney  
(Janaki Amin, Pat Grey, Ann McDonald, Allison Martin)

Sexual Health 1, Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Greg Dore)

Sexual Health Counselling Course, Sydney Hospital, Sydney  
(Andrew Grulich)

Sexual Health Training Day, Westmead Hospital, Sydney  
(Paddy Mallon)

Short Course in HIV for Treatment Officers and Community Workers, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney  
(Gail Matthews)

Short course in HIV/hepatitis C virus infection for prescribers, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney/Perth  
(Greg Dore)

Short Course in HIV Medicine, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney  
(Tony Kelleher, Don Smith)

Short Course in HIV Medicine and Day Program in Hepatitis C, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney  
(Paddy Mallon)

Short course in HIV Medicine for medical practitioners working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney  
(John Kaldor)

Undergraduate teaching, School of Sociology, UNSW, Sydney  
(Garrett Prestage)

UNICEF Regional Meeting on Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission, Bangkok, Thailand  
(Chris Duncombe)

Update on hepatitis C, Coppleson Committee for Continuing Medical Education, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Greg Dore)

Visualising the Science of Genomics: online advisor to an international science research project, UNSW, Sydney  
(John Kaldor)

## Tutoring

Epidemiology for public health, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney  
(Janaki Amin, Kathy Petoumenos)

Statistics for public health, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney  
(Kathy Petoumenos)

Clinical Medicine (St Vincent's Hospital), Year 2 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(Paddy Mallon)

Clinical Medicine (St Vincent's Hospital), Year 4 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(Tony Kelleher)

Clinical Medicine (St Vincent's Hospital), Year 3 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(Greg Dore)



# Funding for 2003

All amounts listed are in Australian dollars.

Names of organisations are as specified at the time the funding agreement commenced.

## Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing core grants

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing provided an allocation in 2003 to fund the activities and administration of NCHECR. It also provided funding for the Clinical Trials and Research Committee (CTARC). For administrative purposes, these funds are allocated into the following categories:

Core allocation	3,160,842
Clinical Trials and Research Advisory Committee	175,553

## Other Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing grants

Development of Hepatitis C Strategy	3,000
Hepatitis C surveillance and research activities	247,429
The health and treatment study	14,923

## Other grants and contracts from public sources

American Foundation for AIDS Research: TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database	274,434
Australian Research Council: Testing Methodological alternatives in a minority population	81,892
European Medicines Evaluation Agency: Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs Study	1,535
Family Health International: Tenofovir Phase 2 clinical trial	77,483
Japan Health Science Foundation: Clinical trial for developing immune therapy	85,361
Massachusetts General Hospital (US National Institutes of Health subcontract): AIEDRP/PHAEDRA Studies	796,318
<b>NHMRC</b>	
Causes of mortality following imprisonment in NSW	68,500
Neural transplantation of human bone marrow stromal cells	83,250
Public Health (Australia) Fellowship for Dr Claire Vajdic	36,569
*The kynurenine pathway chemokines	80,660
<b>NSW Health Department</b>	
Evaluation of NSW Health Chlamydia Education	31,818
Expert services in HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible diseases	100,000
Health in Men Study	129,791
Hepatitis C testing in the Health in Men cohort	31,400
Research and development infrastructure grant program	232,423
Social and Scientific Systems: SMART Study	333,717
South Eastern Area Health Service: Research collaboration with Kirketon Road Centre	20,000
The Cancer Council of NSW: Cancer in dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients	36,200
UK Medical Research Council: INITIO Study	583,926
*University of California: CSF consortium for the study of HIV brain disease	41,108

(continued next page)

## Other grants and contracts from public sources (continued)

University of Minnesota	
ESPRIT Study	968,813
SILCAAT Study	497,000
US National Institutes of Health	
HIV Vaccine Design and Development Team contract	3,333,539
Longitudinal cohort of newly acquired hepatitis C infection	322,068
Protease Inhibitor Related Arthrosclerosis in HIV	302,338

## Pharmaceutical industry funding

Abbott Australia Pty Ltd	10,000
Boehringer-Ingelheim Pty Ltd	99,175
Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals (Australia)	763,314
Chiron Corporation	154,065
CSL Research and Development	18,000
Cytran Inc	5,944
DuPont Pharmaceutical Company	18,719
Gilead Sciences Inc	43,066
Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd	1,818
Roche Pharmaceutical (Switzerland)	945,882
Roche Products Pty Ltd (Australia)	449,243
Schering-Plough Research Institute	2,209
Virax Immunotherapeutic Pty Ltd	198,250

\* Grants administered by NCHECR with Professor Bruce Brew as Principal Investigator



**Annie Tung, Bronwen Turner**



# Disclosure of financial and other relationships with industry

As noted under *Funding for 2003* (see page 59), NCHECR receives financial support for a number of its projects from pharmaceutical companies. In relation to the companies indicated, staff members listed below either served on advisory boards; received individual travel grants, consultancy payments or honoraria; or were the first degree relative of an employee during 2003.

No staff member owned shares, was a personal recipient of a tied or untied grant or had ownership in intellectual property related to any company that funded NCHECR's research program during 2003.

Abbreviated forms of the company names have been used for ease of recognition.

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**Mark Boyd**

Roche

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**David Cooper**

Abbott

Boehringer-Ingelheim

Bristol-Myers Squibb

Roche

Gilead

GlaxoSmithKline

Johnson & Johnson

Merck Sharpe and Dohme

Pfizer

Schering-Plough

---

---

**Greg Dore**

Gilead

Roche

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**Chris Duncombe**

Roche

Tibotec

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**Sean Emery**

Merck Sharp and Dohme

Roche

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**Tony Kelleher**

Johnson & Johnson

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**Matthew Law**

GlaxoSmithKline

Johnson & Johnson

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**Paddy Mallon**

Abbott

Bristol-Myers Squibb

Merck Sharpe and Dohme

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**Don Smith**

Abbott

Boehringer Ingelheim

Bristol-Myers Squibb

Gilead

GlaxoSmithKline

Merck Sharp and Dohme

Novartis

Roche

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# Presentations at conferences and meetings

## Conference presentations

**Amin J**, Gidding HF, Gilbert GL, Backhouse J, **Dore GJ**, Burgess MA. Hepatitis C prevalence – a nationwide serosurvey. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Amin J**, **Law MG**, **Micallef J**, Jauncey M, White P, Rawlinson W, van Beek I, **Kaldor JM**, **Dore GJ**. Potential biases in estimates of hepatitis C RNA clearance in the Kirketon Road Centre seroconverters cohort. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Ammaranond P**, **Guerin J**, Finlayson R, Price R, Doong N, McMurchie M, Anderson B, Schroeder K, Cummins E, **Kelleher AD**. The effect of escape mutation upon disease progression in HLA B27 positive individuals within the Australian long-term nonprogressor cohort. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Ammaranond P**, **van Bockel D**, Cummins JE, Zaunders J, **Guerin J**, **Kelleher AD**. The novel escape mutation in HLA B27 positive individuals infected with HIV-1. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Cooper DA**. A practical guide to using protease inhibitors. *6th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine*. Bangkok, Thailand.

**Cooper DA**. Bosentan treatment in patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension associated with HIV infection. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Cooper DA**. Enfuvirtide TORO studies: 48 week results confirm 24 week findings. *The 2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment*. Paris, France.

**Cooper DA**. HIV treatment update. *NSW Chapter of the Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicians Annual Scientific Meeting 2003*. Sydney.

**Cooper DA**. Immune control of primary HIV infection. *International Symposium on Immune Reconstitution and Control of HIV*. Stresa, Italy.

**Cooper DA**. Lipodystrophy and other antiretroviral toxicities: Causes and management. *6th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine*. Bangkok, Thailand.

**Cooper DA**. Lipodystrophy, where are we now? *9th Annual Conference of the British HIV Association*. Manchester, UK.

**Cooper DA**. New drugs and new strategies. *9th Annual Conference of the British HIV Association*. Manchester, UK.

**Cooper DA**. Treatment interruption. *43rd Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy (ICAAC)*. Chicago, USA.

**Cooper DA**. Delivering antiretrovirals to the world – the way forward: *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Cooper DA**. Main areas for HIV research, what's in the pipelines? *6th Argentinean AIDS Congress*. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Cooper DA**. State of the ART in treatment. *6th Argentinean AIDS Congress*. Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**Doab A**, Treloar C, **Dore GJ**. Barriers to hepatitis C treatment among current injecting drug users. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Dore GJ**. Clinical management of HIV/viral hepatitis coinfection. *6th Asia Pacific Congress of Medical Virology*. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Dore GJ**. Improving access to hepatitis C antiviral therapy for people who currently inject drugs. *3rd Community Conference on Hepatitis C*. Melbourne.

**Dore GJ**. Reducing the burden of hepatitis C liver disease in the community. *3rd Community Conference on Hepatitis C*. Melbourne.

**Dore GJ**. Hepatitis C epidemiology and treatment. *2nd Australasian Haemophilia Conference*. Gold Coast, Qld.

**Dore GJ**. HIV/hepatitis C coinfection. *2nd Australasian Haemophilia Conference*. Gold Coast, Qld.

**Dore GJ**. Infections in chronic liver disease. *Australian Gastroenterology Week*. Cairns, Qld.

**Dore GJ**. Is liver biopsy necessary for people with chronic viral hepatitis? *2003 Indian Ocean Conference on Viral Hepatitis*. Perth.

**Dore GJ**. Reducing the burden of hepatitis C liver disease in the community. *2003 Indian Ocean Conference on Viral Hepatitis*. Perth.

**Dore GJ**. The public health implications of the hepatitis C epidemic in Australia. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.



**Dore GJ.** Viral Hepatitis: Infectious disease or liver disease. *Australian Gastroenterology Week*. Cairns, Qld.

**Drummond FM,** Mullin C, Neuhaus J, Poehlman M, Hoy JH. The SMART (Strategies for Management of Antiretroviral Therapy) Study. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Duncombe C.** A prospective randomized trial of structured treatment interruption (STI) in patients with chronic HIV infection. HIV-NAT 001.4. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Duncombe C.** HIV/AIDS in Thailand: Current status and response to the epidemic. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Duncombe C.** Indinavir/ritonavir 800/100mg BID and efavirenz 600mg QD provides durable salvage for patients with combination nucleoside analogue failure. HIV-NAT 009 72 week follow up. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Duncombe C.** The quality of informed consent in a clinical research study in Thailand. ESPRIT substudy. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

Friis-Moller N, Weber R, D'Arminio Monforte A, El-Sadr W, Reiss P, Dabis F, Morfeldt L, DeWitt S, Pradier C, Calvo G, **Law MG,** Kirk O, Sabin C, Lundgren JD on behalf of the DAD Study Group. Exposure to HAART is associated with an increased risk of myocardial infarction: The DAD Study. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Grey P, Cooper DA, Petoumenos K,** Zaunders JJ, Cunningham PH, Bloch M, McFarlane R, Finlayson R, **Smith DE.** Initial treatment phase and first interruption in PULSE Study, a randomised structured treatment interruption trial, using a boosted protease inhibitor regimen with or without hydroxyurea in primary HIV infection (PHI). *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Grulich AE, Zheng W,** Kippax SC, **Smith DE.** Highly targeted use of non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis (NPEP) in Australia. *The 2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment*. Paris, France.

**Grulich AE.** Post-exposure prophylaxis against HIV in Australia. *The 2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment*. Paris, France.

**Grulich AE.** Pre-exposure prophylaxis against HIV. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Grulich AE.** Sexually transmitted infections: Knowledge, attitudes and history in the Australian Study of Health and Relationships. *Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2003*. Christchurch, New Zealand.

**Jin FY, Guerin J, Prestage GP, Grulich AE** and PHAEDRA Study Group. Behavioural risk factors for HIV seroconversion in homosexual men. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.



**Lisa Howard, Charles Tran**

**Jin FY, Prestage GP,** Van de Ven P, Mao LM, Kippax S, Pell C, Donovan B, **Kaldor JM, Grulich AE.** Prevalence, incidence and risk factors syphilis, gonorrhoea and chlamydia in the Health in Men (HIM) cohort. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Kaldor JM, MacDonald MA,** Aspin C, Orcher H, Wodak A on behalf of the Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs. HIV, hepatitis C and related risk behaviour among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander injectors. *National Drug Research Institute, International Research Symposium, Preventing substance use, risky use and harm: What is evidence-based policy?* Perth.

**Kaldor JM.** HIV research and affected countries. *9th NAPWA Biennial Conference*. Cairns, Qld.

**Kaldor JM.** Sex, blood and the virus: A short story of three epidemics. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Kaldor JM.** Tracking the HIV epidemic. How much can we know? How much do we need to know? *Medical Society of Papua New Guinea 39th Annual Medical Symposium*. Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea.

**Kaldor JM.** Transmission and prevention of blood-borne viruses in prison. *Public Health Association of Australia Incarceration Conference: Human Rights, ... Human Wrongs, ... Human Costs, Health of prisoners and detainees in Australia in the 21st Century*. Brisbane.

**Kamarulzaman A, Petoumenos K, Lee KC, Ariffin N, Tan LH, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ.** Clinical spectrum of opportunistic disease and survival in HIV-infected patients in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *The 2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment.* Paris, France.

**Kamarulzaman A, Petoumenos K, Lee KC, Ariffin N, Tan LH, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ.** Antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected patients in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Kelleher AD.** T-cell dysregulation and HIV-1 infection: Effects upon antigen specific and homeostatic proliferation. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Lawrence CG, Prestage GP, Grulich AE, Guthrie J, Van De Ven P, Kippax S.** Gay Community Periodic Surveys: Comparisons amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homosexual men. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**MacDonald MA, Cunningham PH, Kelleher AD, Kaldor JM.** Monitoring HIV transmission using a detuned HIV antibody testing strategy. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**MacDonald MA, Law MG, Hales G, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ.** Impact of needle and syringe programs on hepatitis C transmission among injecting drug users: A systematic review. *11th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease.* Sydney.

**MacDonald MA, Zhou J, Kimber J, Mattick R, van Beek I, Weatherburn D, Lapsley H, Kaldor JM.** Injecting-related health and treatment uptake in clients at the Sydney injecting centre. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society of HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**MacDonald MA, Zhou J, Wodak A.** Trends in hepatitis C prevalence and risk behaviour among young injectors. *14th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm.* Chiang Mai, Thailand.

**Madeddu, D.** "What do we know about whom?" The Sampling Gay Men Project. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Mallon PWG, Wand H, Law MG, Miller J, Cooper DA, Carr A.** Buffalo Hump seen in HIV-associated lipodystrophy associated with high serum insulin concentrations but not dislipidaemia. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Queensland.

**Mallon PWG, Wand H, Law MG, Miller J, Cooper DA, Carr A.** Factors associated with Buffalo Hump in a cohort of patients with HIV-associated lipodystrophy. *The 2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment.* Paris, France.

**Mallon PWG.** HIV protease inhibitor dyslipidaemia. *Frontiers in Cardiovascular Science.* Eilat, Israel.

**Martin A, Kovacic JC, Wand H** for the ROSEY Study Group. Does rosiglitazone alter markers of risk for coronary artery disease in HIV infected patients with lipodystrophy? *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**McDonald AM** for the National HIV Surveillance Committee. Birthplace and HIV/AIDS diagnoses in Australia, 1993–2002. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**McDonald AM, Cunningham PH, Kelleher AD, Kaldor JM.** Monitoring HIV transmission using a detuned HIV antibody testing strategy. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**McDonald AM, Kaldor JM** for the National HIV Surveillance Committee. Newly diagnosed HIV infection in Australia, 1993–2002. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**McDonald AM, Kaldor JM, Nadew K, Ziegler J.** Perinatal exposure to HIV in Australia, 1982–2002. *Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit 10th Year Scientific Meeting: Surveillance and Beyond.* Hobart.

**McDonald AM, Nadew K, Elliott E, Kaldor JM, Ziegler J** for the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit and the National HIV Surveillance Committee. Perinatal exposure to HIV in Australia, 1982–2002. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Micallef J, Jauncey M, Amin J, Rawlinson W, Gilmour S, van Beek I, Kaldor JM, White P, Dore GJ.** Hepatitis C virus reinfection within a cohort of injecting drug users. *11th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease.* Sydney.

**Micallef J, Jauncey M, Amin J, Rawlinson W, Robertson P, van Beek I, Kaldor JM, White P, Dore GJ.** Hepatitis C virus reinfection within a cohort of injecting drug users. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Micallef J, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ.** Estimation of progression to chronic hepatitis C: A systematic review of longitudinal studies. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

- Micallef JM**, Jauncey M, **Amin J**, Rawlinson W, Gilmour S, van Beek I, **Kaldor JM**, White P, **Dore GJ**. Hepatitis C virus reinfection within a cohort of injecting drug users. *54th Annual Meeting of The American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases*. Boston, USA.
- Micallef JM**, Jauncey M, **Amin J**, Rawlinson W, Robertson P, van Beek I, **Kaldor JM**, White P, **Dore GJ**. Hepatitis C virus reinfection within a cohort of injecting drug users. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Micallef JM**, **Kaldor JM**, **Dore GJ**. Estimation of progression to chronic hepatitis C: A systematic review of longitudinal studies. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Middleton MG**, **McDonald AM**, Dal Pozzo F, Matthews R, Derrington M, Falconer AD, Kinnear RC, Beadle J, Vine R, D’Mello I. HIV prevalence at reception into Australian prisons, 1993–2002. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Munier MLC**, Zaunders JJ, **van Bockel D**, **Kelleher AD**, Dolan G, **Cooper DA**. Optimisation of an intracellular cytokine assay for assessment of vaccine immunogenicity. *Australasian Flow Cytometry Group 26th Annual Conference*. Mooloolaba, Qld.
- Petoumenos K**, **Ringland C** on behalf of the Australian HIV Observational Database. Rates of combination antiretroviral treatment change in patients in the Australian HIV Observational database with HBV and hepatitis C coinfection. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Pett SL**, **Carey C**, Bechuk J, **Emery SE**, **Courtney-Rodgers D**, French M, Finlayson R, **Cooper DA** for the ESPRIT Study Group. ESPRIT (Evaluation of Subcutaneous Proleukin® in a Randomised International Trial): Predictors of CD4+ T-cell response to recombinant subcutaneous interleukin-2 (rIL-2). *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Pett SL**, **Emery SE**, Bechuk J, **Carey C**, **Courtney-Rodgers D**, French M, Finlayson R, **Cooper DA** for the ESPRIT Study Group. ESPRIT: Patterns of IL-2 cycling after the first 3 cycles in patients not achieving CD4+ goal. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Pett SL**, Marriott D, **Kelleher AD**, Milliken S, Carr A, **Cooper DA**. Localised non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) disease in HIV-infected individuals despite specific anti-mycobacterial treatment and immune restoration with highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Polis S**, **Jin F**, Furner V, Freiman J, Rodgers CM, **Dore GJ**. Standardisation of hepatitis C virus minimum data set in South Eastern Area Health. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Poynten IM**, **Zheng W**, Kippax SC, **Smith DE**, **Gulich AE**. Non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis against HIV in Australia, 1999–2003. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Prestage GP**, **Jin F**, **Gulich AE**, Van de Ven P, Kippax S. Sexually transmissible infections testing behaviour among HIV-negative men in the Health in Men (HIM) cohort. *6th International AIDS Impact Conference*. Milan, Italy.
- Prestage GP**, **Jin J**, **Gulich AE**, Van de Ven P, Mao L, Kippax S, **Kaldor JM**. Self-reported sexually transmissible infection testing and symptoms among men in the Health in Men (HIM) Cohort. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Prestage GP**, Van de Ven P, Mao L, Hua M, McMahon T. Disclosure of sex with men and HIV and STI testing among Asian gay men in Sydney. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.
- Prestage GP**. A sociological perspective on HIV prevention intervention programs – a case study in the gay community in Sydney. *The 17th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for AIDS Research*. Kobe, Japan.
- Prestage GP**. Update on Health in Men Cohort. *9th Scientific Meeting of the New South Wales Chapter of the Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicians*. Sydney.
- Sasson S**, Zanetti G, Zaunders JJ, **Mallon PWG**, Stanley K, **Kelleher AD**, **Cooper DA**. Homeostatic regulation of the IL-7/R system and implications for HIV-infected hosts. *33rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology*. Perth.
- Thein H-H**, Krahn M, **Kaldor JM**, **Dore GJ**. Estimates of utilities for chronic hepatitis C from secondary SF-36 scores. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Cairns, Qld.

**Thein H-H, McAllister J, Dolan G, Cox J, Koorey D, Matthews G, Kaldor JM, Brew BJ, Maruff P, Dore GJ.** Neurocognitive function and health-related quality of life in chronic hepatitis C and HIV-hepatitis C coinfection. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Vajdic CM, Anderson J, Hillman R, Medley G, Grulich AE.** The optimal anal cell collection technique for screening anal intraepithelial neoplasia in homosexual men: A randomised controlled trial. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Wand H.** Buffalo Hump seen in HIV-associated lipodystrophy is associated with high serum insulin concentrations but not dislipidemia. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Wand H.** Modelling the natural history of anal intraepithelial neoplasia and anal cancer among HIV positive homosexual men in Australia. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Zhou J, Buddle M, Wodak AD, Dore GJ, Kaldor JM, MacDonald MA** on behalf of the Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs. Prevalence of HIV, hepatitis C antibody among injecting drug users at needle and syringe programs in Australia, 1995–2002. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Zhou J, Dore GJ, Wodak A, Kaldor JM, MacDonald MA** and the Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs. Hepatitis C prevalence and risk behaviours among young injecting drug users at Australian needle and syringe program surveys, 1995–2002. *4th International Conference on Drug and Young People.* Wellington, New Zealand.

**Zhou J, Dore GJ, Wodak A, Kaldor JM, MacDonald MA** and the Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs. Hepatitis C prevalence and risk behaviour among young injecting drug users at sentinel needle and syringe programs in Australia, 1995–2002. *11th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease.* Sydney.

**Zhou J, Dore GJ, Wodak A, Kaldor JM, MacDonald MA** and the Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs. HIV, hepatitis C and related risk behaviours among injecting drug users reporting recent imprisonment. *2nd Public Health Association of Australia Incarceration Conference.* Brisbane.

**Zhou J, Dore GJ, Wodak AD, Kaldor JM, MacDonald MA** and the Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs. HIV and hepatitis C incidence among injecting drug users with repeat participation in needle and syringe program surveys. *11th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease.* Sydney.

## Other presentations

**Cooper DA.** Rational use of protease inhibitors. *HIV/Immunology/Infectious Diseases Unit Journal Club.* Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Clinical management of HIV/hepatitis C coinfection. *Central Sydney Area Health Service HIV/AIDS Services.* Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Decision making in hepatitis C treatment. *Schering Plough Hepatitis C Training Workshop.* Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Epidemiology of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C. *St Vincent's Hospital Introductory Program on HIV and Viral Hepatitis.* Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Estimates and projection of hepatitis C in Australia. *Northern Sydney Health Service Hepatitis C Workshop.* Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Estimation of chronic hepatitis B infection in Australia. *NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hepatitis.* Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Expanding access to hepatitis C treatment for current injecting drug users. *National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre.* Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Expanding role for HIV/AIDS collaborative research in the Asia-Pacific region. *World AIDS Foundation Closing Symposium.* Paris, France.

**Dore GJ.** Hepatitis C epidemiology and the challenges of reducing liver disease burden. *South Australia/Northern Territory Hepatitis C Symposium.* Adelaide.

**Dore GJ.** Hepatitis C estimates and projections report: Findings and implications. *Heplink Meeting.* Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Hepatitis C: Transmission, prognosis and treatment and care options. *Hepatitis C Community Forum.* Hobart.

**Dore GJ.** HIV and hepatitis co-infection. *6th Bangkok Symposium of HIV Medicine.* Bangkok, Thailand.

**Dore GJ.** HIV, hepatitis B and C coinfection. *NSW Chapter of the Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicians, Annual Scientific Meeting.* Sydney.

- Dore GJ.** Mother-to-child HIV and hepatitis C transmission. *St George Hospital Obstetrics Unit*. Sydney.
- Dore GJ.** Treatment and care for people with hepatitis C. *Tasmanian Southern Division of General Practice Forum*. Hobart.
- Dore GJ.** Update on hepatitis C treatments. *South Eastern Sydney Area Inter-agencies Hepatitis C Meeting*. Sydney.
- Dore GJ.** Update on HIV and hepatitis C coinfection. *St Vincent's Hospital HIV Journal Club*. Sydney.
- Dore GJ.** Treatment for current injecting drug users: The Australian experience. *NIH/NIDA/NIDDK/NIAID Workshop on Hepatitis C Infection and Substance Abuse: Medical management and developing models of integrated care*. Washington, USA.
- Drummond FM.** Update on HIV Treatments. *Fun and Esteem Facilitator's Training*. AIDS Council of New South Wales, Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** Feedback on NHMRC grant review panel process. *Centre for General Practice Integration Studies, UNSW*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** Gay men, STIs and HIV in Sydney. *Synergy Workshop, Sydney Sexual Health Centre*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** HIV and sexually transmitted infection risk behaviour. *Australian Research Centre for Sex, Health and Society, Latrobe University*. Melbourne.
- Gulich AE.** How is HHV-8 transmitted? *Sexual Health Registrars' Seminar Program 2003, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** How is HIV incidence influenced by trends in risk behaviour? *Annecy Group Meeting*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** Overview of sexually transmitted infections, HIV and their epidemiological synergy. *Livingstone Road Clinic Retreat, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** Post-exposure prophylaxis against HIV. *Sydney General Practitioner HIV Study Group*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** Sex in Australia: Contraception, HIV and sexually transmitted infections. *Family Planning Australia*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** The 2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment feedback. *Australasian Society for HIV Medicine ad-hoc meeting*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** The National Sex Survey Seminar. *Clinic 16, Royal North Shore Hospital*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** Trends in HIV incidence and trends in HIV testing. *NSW Health Department HIV Surveillance Forum*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** Trends in STI incidence in gay men in Australia. *Annecy Group Meeting*. Sydney.
- Kaldor JM.** Cambodia Tenofovir Prevention Study. *Tenofovir Trial Stakeholder Information Meeting*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- Kaldor JM.** NHMRC Project Grants. *University of Wollongong, NHMRC Grant Information Seminar*. Wollongong, NSW.
- Kaldor JM.** Risk assessment issues related to blood donation and vCJD. *Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Blood and Organ Donation Taskforce, vCJD Donor Deferral Consultative Workshop*. Melbourne.
- Kaldor JM.** Surveillance approaches with particular reference to developing countries. *Presentation to delegation from Xinjiang, China*. Sydney.
- Kaldor JM.** Surveillance for HIV/AIDS, STIs and behaviour. *Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicans Seminar*. Sydney.
- Kaldor JM.** The emerging AIDS epidemics of the Asia-Pacific Region. *The School of Public Health and Community Medicine and the National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW Symposium, The Leading Edge: Current challenges and critical debates in HIV/AIDS*. Sydney.
- Kamarulzaman A.** HIV in Malaysia. *Infectious Diseases Meeting, Woden General Hospital*. Canberra.
- Kelleher AD.** HVDDT-N01-05395 – A randomised, placebo controlled, double-blind, phase I/IIa clinical trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a candidate prophylactic DNA prime rFPV boost HIV vaccination strategy. *Clinical Meeting for Eastern Suburb GPs Continuing Education on Immunotherapy in HIV-I: IL2 and HIV Vaccines*. Sydney.
- Law MG.** Ten things we should be doing in randomized clinical trials, and ten things we are doing but probably shouldn't be. *NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre Statistics Seminar*. Sydney.
- MacDonald MA.** Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey. *Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS Strategy Meeting*. Sydney.
- MacDonald MA.** Collaborative research on injecting drug use. *Kirketon Road Centre*. Sydney.

**Madeddu D.** A demographic description and outline of responses of Western Sydney participants in the Sydney Gay Community Periodic Surveys 1996 to 2002. *Greater Western Sydney HIV Infections Increase Roundtable.* Sydney.

**Madeddu D.** Discussion of the issues surrounding a sampling gay and other homosexually active men. *Greater Western Sydney gay and other homosexually active Men's Education Team.* Sydney.

**Mallon PWG, Wand H, Law MG, Miller J, Cooper DA, Carr A.** Strong association between Buffalo Hump and high serum insulin concentrations in HIV-infected individuals. *5th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV.* Paris, France.

**Mallon PWG.** HIV-associated lipodystrophy molecular research. *Diabetes and Metabolism Group, Garvan Institute of Medical Research.* Sydney.

**Matthews GV.** HIV/hepatitis B coinfection. *Sydney General Practitioner HIV Study Group.* Sydney.

**Matthews GV.** New trials in viral hepatitis. *NCHCR Combined Working Groups Meeting.* Melbourne.

**Matthews GV.** Tenofovir in HIV/hepatitis B coinfection. *Sydney Liver Group.* Sydney.

**Matthews GV.** Update in HIV/hepatitis B coinfection. *HIV/Immunology/Infectious Diseases Club, St Vincent's Hospital.* Sydney.

**McDonald AM** for the National HIV Surveillance Committee. Trends in newly diagnosed HIV infection in Australia, 1993–2002. *Central Sydney Area Public Health Unit.* Sydney

**McDonald AM.** Birthplace and HIV/AIDS diagnoses in Australia. *Annecy Group Meeting.* Sydney.

**McDonald AM.** Country update on HIV/AIDS surveillance in Australia. *Annecy Group Meeting.* Sydney.

**McDonald AM.** Monitoring HIV transmission using the detuned assay. *Annecy Group Meeting.* Sydney.

**McDonald AM.** Sentinel HIV surveillance and special populations. *NSW Health HIV Surveillance Forum.* Sydney.

**Micallef JM, Jauncey M, Amin J, Rawlinson W, Gilmour S, van Beek I, Kaldor JM, White P, Dore GJ.** Hepatitis C virus reinfection within a cohort of injecting drug users. *Australian Centre for Hepatitis Virology National Scientific Workshop.* Marysville, Victoria.

**Munier MLC, Zaunders JJ, van Bockel D, Kelleher AD, Dolan G, Cooper DA.** Validation of the intracellular cytokine assay. *HIV Vaccine Design and Development Teams Workshop.* Noosa, Qld.

**Prestage GP.** HIV social research as a community development tool. *Osaka MASH Community Forum.* Osaka, Japan

**Prestage GP.** HIV social research as a community development tool. *Kyoto Gay Community Forum.* Tokyo, Japan.

**Prestage GP.** Social research findings and the increase in HIV infections. *AIDS Council of NSW Non Government Organisation Forum.* Sydney.

**Prestage GP.** Social research findings and the increase in HIV infections. *AIDS Council of NSW Board Seminar.* Sydney.

**Prestage GP.** Social research findings and the increase in HIV infections. *AIDS Council of NSW Hunter Area Forum.* Newcastle, NSW.

**Prestage GP.** Social research findings and the increase in HIV infections. *AIDS Council of NSW Illawarra Area Forum.* Wollongong, NSW.

**Prestage GP.** Social research findings and the increase in HIV infections. *AIDS Council of NSW Northern Rivers Area Forum.* Lismore, NSW.

**Prestage GP.** Social research findings and the increase in HIV infections. *Queensland AIDS Council Cairns Community Forum.* Cairns, Qld.

**Prestage GP.** Social research findings and the increase in HIV infections. *AIDS Council of NSW Young Gay Men's Workshop.* Sydney.

**Prestage GP.** Description of methods and sample for the Health in Men study. *National Centre in HIV Social Research Colloquium.* Sydney.

**Prestage GP.** Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey: Findings and implications. *AIDS Council of NSW Community Forum.* Sydney.

**Prestage GP.** Perth Gay Community Periodic Survey: Findings and implications. *West Australian AIDS Council Community Forum.* Perth.

**Prestage GP.** Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey: Findings and implications. *Victorian AIDS Council Community Forum.* Melbourne.

**Prestage GP.** Queensland Gay Community Periodic Survey: Findings and implications. *Queensland AIDS Council Community Forum.* Brisbane.

**Sasson S, Zanetti G, Zaunders JJ, Mallon PWG, Stanley K, Kelleher AD, Cooper DA.** Homeostatic regulation of the IL-7/R system: Implications for HIV-infected hosts. *The 13th St Vincent's & Mater Health Sydney, Research Symposium.* Sydney.

## Poster presentations

**Ammaronond P, Guerin J,** Anderson B, Doong N, Finlayson R, Kelly M, McMurchie M, Price R, **Cooper DA, Kelleher AD.** The effect of escape mutation upon disease progression in HLA B27 positive individuals within the Australian Long Term Non-Progressor Cohort. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Ammaronond P, Guerin J,** Anderson B, Doong N, Finlayson R, Kelly M, McMurchie M, Price R, **Cooper DA, Kelleher AD.** The effect of escape mutation upon disease progression in HLA B27 positive individuals within the Australian Long Term Non-Progressor Cohort. *The 13th St Vincent's & Mater Health Sydney, Research Symposium.* Sydney.

**Ammaronond P, van Bockel D,** Zaunders JJ, **Satchell CS, Guerin J, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD.** The novel escape mutation in HLA B27 positive individuals infected with HIV-1. *The 13th St Vincent's & Mater Health Sydney, Research Symposium.* Sydney.

**Boyd M,** Bien D, Srasuebkul P, van Warmerdam P, Chomchey N, Methanukroh T, Hassink E, Sopa B, Wangsuphachart S, Krisanachinda A, Ruxrungtham K, Carr A, Lange J, **Cooper DA,** Phanuphak P, Reiss P. Lipodystrophy in patients switched to indinavir/ritonavir 800/100mg bid and efavirenz 600mg qd after failing nucleoside combination therapy: A prospective, 48-week observational sub-study of HIV-NAT 009. *10th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.* Boston, USA.

**Boyd M, Duncombe C,** Siangphoe U, Srasuebkul P, Hassink E, Chomchey N, Ubolyam S, Ruxrungtham K, Stek M, Lange J, **Cooper DA,** Phanuphak P. Indinavir/ritonavir 800/100mg bid and efavirenz 600mg qd provides durable salvage for patients with combination nucleoside analogue failure: HIV-NAT 009 72 week follow up. *2nd IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment.* Paris, France.

**Boyd M, Duncombe C,** Srasuebkul P, Hassink E, Chomchey N, Methanukroh T, Ubolyam S, Ruxrungtham K, Stek M, Lange J, **Cooper DA,** Phanuphak P. Dual therapy with indinavir/ritonavir 800/100mg bid and efavirenz 600mg qd effectively treats patients with combination nucleoside analogue failure: HIV-NAT 009 48-week analysis. *10th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.* Boston, USA.

**Boyd M,** Ruxrungtham K, Zhang X, Bellibas E, Buss NE, Patel IH. Enfuvirtide: investigations on the drug interaction potential in HIV-infected patients. *10th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.* Boston, USA.

Bugeja MJ, Booth DR, Bennetts BH, **Guerin J, Kaldor JM,** Stewart GJ and the Long-term Nonprogressor Study Group. Analysis of the gene for CCL3-L1 as a factor in HIV-1 susceptibility or rate of progression of disease. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Carey DL, Wand H,** Rothwell S on behalf of the ROSEY Study Team. Rosiglitazone for the treatment of HIV lipodystrophy: Malar sub-study. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

Carr A, **Carey DL, Martin A, Wand H, Law MG, Emery SE,** Workman C, Rogers G, Baker D, Samaras K, **Cooper DA** on behalf of the ROSEY Study Group. Rosiglitazone for the treatment of HIV lipodystrophy: A multi-centre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Courtney-Rodgers D, Pett SL, Carey C,** Bebchuk J, **Emery SE,** Finlayson R, French M, **Cooper DA** on behalf of the ESPRIT Study Group. Baseline characteristics of patients participating in the evaluation of subcutaneous (SC) Proleukin interleukin-2 (rIL-2) trial (ESPRIT). *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Dore GJ, Freeman AJ, Law MG, Kaldor JM.** Longitudinal studies of hepatitis C-related liver disease progression: A systematic review and natural history model. *11th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease.* Sydney.

Dyer WB, **Pett SL,** Sullivan JS, **Kelleher AD, Emery SE,** Lloyd AR, Lewin SR on behalf of the Immune-Based Therapies Working Group (IBTWG) of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) and the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS). Results of a single-donor quality control (QC) program for peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) across the network of Australian immunology laboratories involved in HIV-clinical trials. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

Edmonds JH, **Kelleher AD,** Piller SC. Effects of the fusion inhibitor Fuzeon™ (T-20) on the replication of a novel HIV-1 isolate containing a large truncation in the GP41 cytoplasmic tail. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Micallef JM, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ.** Estimation of progression to chronic hepatitis C: A meta-analysis of longitudinal studies. *11th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease.* Sydney.

Middleton T, Taqi R, **Hales G**, Birch C. Virologic outcome 12 months after drug resistance testing (genotyping) in a subgroup of CREST patients. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Munier MLC, Zaunders JJ, van Bockel D, Kelleher AD, Dolan G, Cooper DA.** Optimisation of an intracellular cytokine assay for assessment of vaccine immunogenicity. *The 13th St Vincent's & Mater Health Sydney, Research Symposium.* Sydney.

**Petoumenos K** on behalf of the Australian HIV Observational Database. Mortality in the Australian HIV Observational Database. *7th International Workshop on HIV Observational Databases.* Fiuggi, Italy.

**Petoumenos K** on behalf of the Australian HIV Observational Database. Characteristics of patients on their third or more combination antiretroviral therapy in the Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD). *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Petoumenos K, Amin J, Lincoln D, Dore GJ.** Coinfection with hepatitis C in the Australian HIV Observational Database and CAESAR Cohorts. *11th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease.* Sydney.

**Pett SL, Emery SE, Collins G, Carey C, Courtney-Rodgers D, Cooper DA** on behalf of the SILCAAT Study Group. Baseline characteristics and preliminary CD4+ T-cell responses of patients participating in SILCAAT – a phase III multicentre randomised study of the biological and clinical efficacy of subcutaneous (SC) recombinant interleukin-2 in HIV-infected patients with low CD4+ counts under active antiretroviral therapy. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Pett SL, Williams LA, Day RO, Lloyd AR, Carr AD, Clezy KR, Emery SE, Kaplan E, McPhee DA, McLachlan AJ, Gelder FB, Lewin SR, Liauw W, Williams KM.** A Phase I study of the pharmacokinetics and safety of passive immunotherapy with caprine anti-HIV antibody, PEHRG214, in HIV-1-infected individuals. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Phipps S, Carey DL, Mijch A, Cooper DA** on behalf of the INITIO Study Group. Quality of life at randomisation in patients enrolled in the INITIO Trial. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Phipps S, Drummond FM, Mullin C** on behalf of the SMART Body Composition Substudy Team and Investigators for the Terry Beirn Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS. Australian overview of radiology in the body composition substudy over the first twelve months of the SMART Study. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Puls RL** for the Australia-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Recruitment into Phase I/IIa clinical trials of a HIV vaccine – the Sydney HIV vaccine trial experience. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Puls RL** for the Australia-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Regulatory requirements in Australian HIV vaccine research – the Sydney HIV vaccine trial experience. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Robotin M, Copland J, Tallis G, Coleman D, Giele C, Carter L, Spencer J, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ.** Surveillance for newly acquired hepatitis C in Australia. *11th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease.* Sydney.

**Sasson S, Zanetti G, Zaunders JJ, Mallon PWG, Stanley K, Kelleher AD, Cooper DA.** Homeostatic regulation of the IL-7/R system: Implications for HIV-infected hosts. *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

**Satchell CS, Keoshkerian E, Law MG, Jaramillo A, Kelleher AD, French R.** Participating in multinational clinical trials? Validate the ELISpot assay in your laboratory today! *15th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Cairns, Qld.

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