

NATIONAL CENTRE IN  
HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY AND  
CLINICAL RESEARCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

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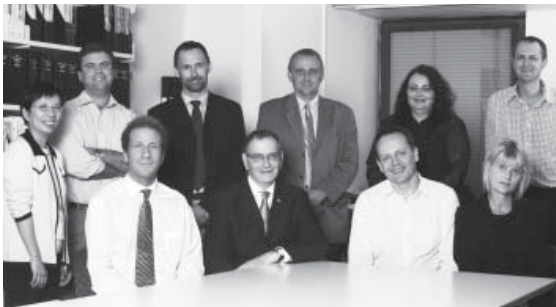
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# What is NCHECR?

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: Annie Tung, Anthony Kelleher, Andrew Grulich, Sean Emery, Bronwen Turner, Matthew Law**  
**Front row: John Kaldor, David Cooper, Greg Dore, Lisa Maher**

NCHECR's primary functions relate to the coordination of national surveillance programs, clinical research 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 including the pharmaceutical industry. 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 Committee 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 Clinical Research
- Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention
- Biostatistics and Databases
- Immunovirology and Pathogenesis

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 the conduct of the Centre's workplan. Externally, the Centre's work is overseen by a Scientific Advisory Committee.



## Foreword

NCHECR is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, through a grant to the University of New South Wales, where it is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine. Its primary role is to coordinate national surveillance and carry out clinical and epidemiological research related to HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections.

At the start of 2005, NCHECR changed its program structure in some important ways. The Viral Hepatitis Program was divided into two, with Lisa Maher leading the Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program, and Greg Dore taking responsibility for the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program. These changes show the emergence of research into viral hepatitis as a stronger theme of NCHECR's work. At the same time, the Primary HIV Infection Research Program merged with the Laboratory Support Program to form the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program under Anthony Kelleher. Basil Donovan also joined NCHECR on a fractional basis to strengthen research activities related to sexually transmissible infections.



**John Kaldor, David Cooper**

Several major research programs were initiated in calendar year 2005. In the clinical trials area, major planning was carried out for the ESPRIT group to merge with CPCRA (Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS), two of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), Division of AIDS (DAIDS) major clinical trials networks. The planning resulted in the formation of the INSIGHT network whose mission is to carry out large clinical endpoint strategic trials in HIV disease that would contribute to important advances in HIV disease management. The new network, with over 300 sites in over 30 countries, applied for the 2006 recompetition with NCHECR being one of the four international coordinating centres. A decision on the application is expected in 2006. Moreover, NCHECR submitted a complementary application to be a clinical trials unit of the DAIDS networks. This outcome will be known subsequent to the successful network leadership applicants being funded in 2006. This is a very

exciting development for NCHECR which should enable us to be in the forefront on the international clinical trials research agenda.

With the official closure of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium in 2005, following the completion of the NIH-supported vaccine contract, it was decided to finish some of the work plan to complete a phase I trial of the subtype A/E HIV DNA and fowlpox prime-boost construct with our partners at HIV-NAT in Bangkok. Extensive planning was carried out in 2005 to enable a trial start date in 2006. The Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program, together with the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program, under Sean Emery's and Anthony Kelleher's joint leadership, have been instrumental in advancing the planning of this trial. NCHECR was able to institute technology transfer of both data management and laboratory immunogenicity assays for the vaccine to our Thai partners at HIV-NAT. The trial is slated to commence in 2006.

The advent of new dual nucleoside fixed dose combinations as standard backbones for combination antiretroviral therapy has enabled the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program to institute a randomised comparative study called STEAL, with the aim of comparing toxicity outcomes of these backbones which has long been an important leadership area for NCHECR. All sites in the network were most enthusiastic in signing up for the STEAL study and will commence enrolment in 2006 as the largest fully independent trial ever carried out by NCHECR in its own home base network.

In intensive planning during 2005 was the first efficacy study of a candidate preventive vaccine developed by Merck against HIV infection to be implemented in Australia. A series of procedural developments and regulatory approval steps were negotiated under the supervision of a collaborative mechanism involving the industry sponsor of the candidate vaccine, community based organisations, the trial site and NCHECR.

Internationally, NCHECR continued to work with research partners in a number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region and elsewhere. Through in-country staff placements, the involvement was particularly strong in Thailand and Cambodia. The Treat Asia network sponsored by amfAR, the American Foundation for AIDS Research, has gone from strength to strength with the technical support of Matthew Law and his team in the Biostatistics and Databases Program at NCHECR. With this scientific leadership from NCHECR, amfAR was successful in applying to be the Asian-Pacific regional cohort in the NIH-sponsored program of international cohorts for the

epidemiological evaluation of HIV disease outcomes globally known as leDEA. This support will also enable the Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD) to continue with renewed enthusiasm for another five years.

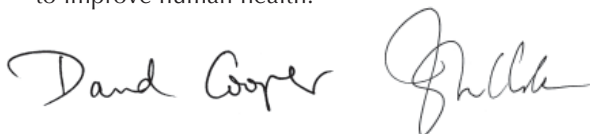
A new grants scheme developed by Australia's National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and its counterparts in Canada and New Zealand made its first award to a collaborative group involving NCHECR, to undertake a research program aimed at enhancing the resilience of Indigenous people to sexually transmissible and blood-borne viral infections. This program is being conducted in Australia through collaboration with three large Aboriginal community controlled health services. Another new direction in 2005 was represented by a very substantial award by NIH for the development of a vaginal microbicide by a consortium in which NCHECR is one of four partners.

Several other projects entered new phases during 2005. NCHECR undertook new responsibilities in the ongoing evaluation of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre in King Cross, including the establishment of a longitudinal cohort of clients. The HIM study of HIV negative gay men, which has proven over the past five years to be an extremely rich source of information on behavioural risk and the transmission of HIV and other sexually transmissible infections, was extended for a further period of follow up by the award of a grant from the NHMRC.

Several large national trials of hepatitis C treatment continued to recruit strongly through the newly created Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program, and there was an increasing focus on research into the treatment of chronic hepatitis B infection.

With new funding, NCHECR was able to extend its activities in the area of mathematical modelling to cover a number of new areas of application, including human papilloma virus transmission and the projection of HIV epidemics in countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

A wide range of other research, teaching and service activities is presented in the remainder of this report. NCHECR's Programs are conducted by highly committed staff working in collaboration with sponsors, researchers and health care providers from a wide range of institutions both nationally and internationally. Finally, and most importantly, we acknowledge the people who participate in our studies. They provide us with the only pathway for achieving our motivating goal, which is to acquire information that could be used to improve human health.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'David Cooper' and the signature on the right is 'John Kaldor'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.



## Research activities

The following sections describe NCHECR achievements and activities within Programs during 2005. 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.

The Director, David Cooper directly supervises the Heads of the Programs in Therapeutic and Vaccine Research, Immunovirology and Pathogenesis and Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research. He takes specific responsibility as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator in the following projects: ESPRIT, SILCAAT, INITIO (see *Annual Report 2004*), the Vaccine Design and Development Project, AIEDRP, SMART, STACCATO and the NHMRC Program Grant entitled "HIV infection, immunology and vaccine design". He is also a 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 Epidemiology and Prevention and Biostatistics and Databases. He takes specific responsibility as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator in the following projects: AIEDRP, the Cambodian research program to support the optimal use of antiretroviral therapy, ATAHG, the project on the role of resiliency in responding to blood-borne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Indigenous communities, the VivaGel™ Microbicide Development Consortium (VMDC) program, as well as NCHECR's contribution to the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project Phase II in Indonesia, the HIV Epidemiological Modelling and Impact (HEMI) Study for Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and East Timor, and the evaluation of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre. He is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Cambodian Treatment Access Program.



### ***Executive Committee***

**Back row: John Kaldor, Sean Emery**

**Front row: Bronwen Turner, David Cooper**



# Surveillance Program

## Overview

The Surveillance Program continued to monitor the pattern of transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C, and specific sexually transmissible infections in Australia in 2005, 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 2005*. This was the ninth successive issue of the *Annual Surveillance Report*, and it was formally released by Professor Frank Bowden, Chair of the HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections Sub-Committee of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis, at the *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine* in Hobart in August 2005.

The *Annual Surveillance Report 2005* indicated that the number of AIDS cases, adjusted for reporting delay, remained relatively stable over the past three years at around 240 cases per year in 2002-2004. However, the age standardised rate of AIDS diagnosis in the Indigenous population increased from 1.5 per 100,000 population to 3.6 per 100,000 population in 2004, whereas the rate of AIDS diagnosis in the non-Indigenous population continued to decline, from 1.4 per 100,000 population in 2000 to 0.8 per 100,000 population in 2004. Recent trends in the rates of HIV/AIDS diagnosis in the Indigenous population are based on relatively small numbers and may reflect localised occurrences rather than national patterns.

Following a steady decline until 1998, the annual number of new diagnoses of HIV infection increased to 818 by 2004. The number of diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection also increased from 151 in 1998, to 281 and 253 in 2003 and 2004 respectively, the highest numbers 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. One case of mother-to-child HIV transmission was diagnosed in 2003-2004.

An estimated 14,840 people were living with HIV/AIDS in Australia at the end of 2004, and around 53% were receiving antiretroviral treatment for HIV infection. Median survival following AIDS had

increased from 17 months among cases diagnosed by the end of 1995, to 45 months among cases diagnosed in 2001.

The number of new diagnoses of hepatitis C infection reported through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System declined from 20,188 in 2000, to 13,028 in 2004. Hepatitis C transmission continued to occur 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 was 25% in 2004. Hepatitis C prevalence among people who had injected drugs and were aged less than 20 years remained high at 28% in 2004.



**John Kaldor**

An estimated 194,260 people were living with hepatitis C infection in Australia in 2004, including 153,300 people with chronic hepatitis C infection and stage 0/1 liver disease, 32,800 with stage 2/3 liver disease and 8,160 living with hepatitis C related cirrhosis. In 2004, an

estimated 2,069 people were treated with ribavirin and interferon combination treatment for hepatitis C infection. The Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Register indicated that infection with hepatitis B and hepatitis C was the primary cause of liver disease in 5.6% and 30.7% of liver transplants in 2004, respectively.

Chlamydia was the most frequently reported notifiable communicable infection in Australia in 2004. The number of new diagnoses increased from 16,953 in 2000, to 35,189 in 2004. The population rate of diagnosis of gonorrhoea increased from 31.4 per 100,000 population in 2000, to 37.0 per 100,000 population in 2004, whereas the rate of diagnosis of syphilis remained stable at around 8.7 per 100,000 population in 2000-2004. However, the population rate of syphilis diagnoses almost doubled in New South Wales in 2000-2004, and increased nine fold in Victoria. These increases were almost completely confined to homosexually active men. Among homosexually active men enrolled in the Health in Men cohort study in Sydney, seven, four and three cases of newly acquired syphilis were diagnosed in 2002, 2003 and 2004, respectively, giving an incidence rate of 1.09, 0.43 and 0.5 per 100 person years, respectively.

The *Australian HIV Surveillance Report* continued to be published in 2005, 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*. The January 2005 issue included a report on hepatitis A and hepatitis B infection among homosexually active men in Sydney who were enrolled in the Health in Men cohort study. The April 2005 issue included a summary of the reported prevalence of HIV infection among homosexually active men participating in Gay Community Periodic Surveys in 1996-2004. Risk factors for late HIV diagnosis among AIDS cases diagnosed in Australia in 2000-2004 was reported in the July 2005 issue. HIV subtypes and transmission of the primary mutation K103N among cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed in South Australia was described in the October 2005 issue.

## Projects

### 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, Jiong Li

**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:** Ongoing. The *Annual Surveillance Report 2005* was published for the ninth successive year.

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

**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

#### *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:** Ongoing. 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; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; 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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

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

**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

### 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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald, Handan Wand

**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



### **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 2004, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; 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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

**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

### **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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald, Handan Wand

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; 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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

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

### **Monitoring HIV subtypes among new HIV diagnoses**

HIV subtypes are monitored among cases of HIV infection for which antiretroviral drug resistance testing has been carried out, and then linked to demographic and exposure information held on the National HIV Database.

**Status:** Ethics committee applications to State and Territory health jurisdictions seeking approval to monitor HIV subtypes were in progress.

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

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

**Funding:** Australian Centre for Hepatitis and 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:** The sensitivity and specificity of the linkage of deaths registered with the National Death Index to diagnosed cases of HIV infection and AIDS was estimated, and the information used in the analysis of causes of death and survival following HIV/AIDS.

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

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

### **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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

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

## Surveillance for viral hepatitis

### Monitoring cases of newly diagnosed viral hepatitis

The pattern of transmission of viral hepatitis is monitored through national surveillance for newly diagnosed hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection, and newly acquired infections notified to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Information on risk factors for newly acquired hepatitis B and C notifications is obtained directly from State and Territory health authorities.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports. Development of a standardised set of fields for newly acquired hepatitis B and hepatitis C continued.

**Personnel:** Melanie Middleton, Swati Shourie, Jiong Li, Lisa Maher

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

### Monitoring perinatally acquired hepatitis C infection and outcome in children

Clinicians on the Australian Paediatric Surveillance (APSU) mailing list are asked to notify newly diagnosed hepatitis C positive children as per case definition and complete a written de-identified questionnaire. The questionnaire asks clinicians to report hepatitis C risk factors, maternal hepatitis C risk factors, clinical assessment and management of positive cases. A follow up questionnaire is completed annually.

**Status:** Ongoing, with an annual surveillance report included in the APSU report to the National Centre for Disease Control, Australian Department of Health and Ageing Financial Markets Foundation.

**Personnel:** Suzanne Polis (to February)

**Collaborators:** Suzanne Polis (from February); Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; The Children's Hospital at Westmead; Royal Children's Hospital; Princess Margaret Hospital



**Handan Wand, Melanie Middleton, John Kaldor, Andrew Grulich, Ann McDonald**

### Monitoring 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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Melanie Middleton, 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 being developed through the Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee.

**Status:** In 2005, the Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee further refined the case definitions for infectious syphilis and syphilis of unknown duration, drafted the case definition for congenital syphilis, finalised its review of the prevalence of review of the prevalence of gonorrhoea in Australia, surveyed jurisdictions about their current and future capacity to collect data on the number of tests conducted for chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis to provide denominator data for STI notifications, and investigated alternate sources of denominator data for chlamydia.

**Personnel:** Basil Donovan, 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 cross-sectional surveys are conducted during a designated week in October at selected needle and syringe program (NSP) sites throughout Australia. All clients attending participating sites during the survey week are asked to complete a self-administered questionnaire, and to provide a finger-prick blood sample for HIV and hepatitis C antibody testing. NCHECR maintains the national database on behalf of the Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs, and develops and carries out analyses of NSP data and prepares surveillance reports and papers for publication.

**Status:** Ongoing during 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Swati Shourie, Bethany White, Kathleen Glenday, Jiong Li, Lisa Maher

**Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; NSPs involved in HIV/hepatitis C surveillance; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs (ANEX); Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL); Justice Health

### **Saliva validation study**

Validation of saliva testing as an alternative to capillary blood for hepatitis C antibody testing using venous blood, dried blood spots and saliva samples collected from injecting drug users. Also includes the collection of survey data exploring the acceptability of different testing methods.

**Status:** Data collection entry complete, and analysis in progress.

**Personnel:** Rosie Thein, Bethany White, Anna Doab, Joanne Holden, Carolyn Day, Greg Dore, Lisa Maher

**Collaborators:** Philip Cunningham, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Ingrid van Beek, Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre; Alex Wodak, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** NSW Department of 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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Jiong Li, Lisa Maher

**Collaborators:** Virginia Macdonald, Ingrid van Beek, 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 2005, 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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Melanie Middleton, 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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Ann McDonald

**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 2005, with publication in NCHECR's surveillance reports.

**Personnel:** Melanie Middleton, Ann McDonald, Lisa Maher

**Collaborator:** Australian Red Cross Blood Service

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

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

**Status:** In 2005, surveys were conducted in Sydney (3,413 completed questionnaires), Melbourne (1,804 completed questionnaires), Queensland (1,382 completed questionnaires) and Adelaide (about 630 completed questionnaires).

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage, Andrew Grulich

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research; State AIDS Councils; State PLWHA organisations

**Funding:** NSW Health Department; Department of Human Services, Melbourne; Queensland Health; Department of Health, Adelaide

### **Behavioural surveillance for HIV risk factors among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homosexual men**

Community-based cross sectional survey of the risk behaviour of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homosexual men.

**Status:** In 2005, surveys were conducted (233 completed questionnaires, including 160 from homosexually active men) among men recruited from both gay community and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community sites in Queensland. A report of the findings was prepared.

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage, Chris Lawrence, Andrew Grulich

**Collaborators:** Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health; Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council; Queensland AIDS Council; National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; Queensland Health

**Funding:** Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

## **Behavioural surveillance for sexual health risk factors among homosexual and bisexual women**

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

**Status:** Data analysis took place during 2005, as well as publication of the project report for 2004, *Sydney Women and Sexual Health 2004*.

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage

**Collaborators:** AIDS Council of New South Wales; National Centre in HIV Social Research

**Funding:** AIDS Council of New South Wales

## **Surveillance Program sentinel surveillance network of sexual health clinics**

### **Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic**

Site principal: John Patten

Site coordinator: Henry Magon

### **Clinic 275**

Site principal: Russell Waddell

### **Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic**

Site principal: John Chuah

Site coordinator: Wendy Fankhauser

### **Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre**

Site principal: Catherine O'Connor

Site coordinator: Ben Allam

### **Melbourne Sexual Health Centre**

Site principals: Christopher Fairley, Ian Denham

### **Sydney Sexual Health Centre**

Site principal: Basil Donovan

Site coordinator: Ben Judd

# Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

## Overview

Two features of HIV medicine have significant implications for the work of the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program (TVRP) and our national and international collaborators. Firstly, HIV medicine is subject to substantial fluxes, some of which are driven by good quality data and sound reasoning, and some of which are driven by fashion and trend. Secondly, as therapies have improved (and one must anticipate will continue to improve), the design and implementation of research becomes considerably more complex. It is therefore an enormous credit to all involved that we continue to make significant research contributions to the management of HIV infection through well designed and conducted research projects. It is equally gratifying that the merits of TVRP are recognised outside of the field of HIV medicine as reflected by a successful application to NHMRC for clinical research in influenza.



**Sean Emery**

Projects that concluded during 2005 included INITIO (see *Annual Report 2004*), phase I testing of the Virax therapeutic vaccine, phase I testing in Australia of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium prime boost vaccine, and the elegant laboratory and clinical

characterisation of metabolic and anthropometric changes that occur following initiation of defined regimens of combination antiretroviral therapy. Each of these has generated at least one peer-reviewed publication in addition to conference presentations nationally and internationally.

Projects that continued included the ESPRIT, SILCAAT and SMART studies with their attendant substudies. It is of note that these three studies require TVRP to coordinate the activities of some 63 clinical sites in nine countries. These sites have recruited and followed over 1,800 patients.

Two new multicentre trials commenced in Australia during 2005 in the form of the STEAL and FLASH projects. The former compares the newly available fixed dose combinations of reverse transcriptase inhibitors for safety and efficacy in patients who are treatment experienced and switching to these new formulations. The latter compares the short and long term safety and efficacy of a cosmetic intervention

for management of facial lipoatrophy. STEAL is all the more remarkable since it marks the first occasion that NCHECR has been able to entirely fund an interventional study without requiring external support. Upon completion of enrolment it will be the largest randomised comparison of a therapeutic intervention we have undertaken solely in Australia. Of equal note we are very grateful to the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, NSW Health Department and a number of local pharmaceutical companies for their spirited financial support of FLASH.

Preparations continued on two new clinical trials of candidate vaccines for prevention of HIV infection. The first is a follow-up study of the Australian prime-boost technology that will be conducted at HIV-NAT in low-risk volunteers. The study will employ higher doses of clade A/E vaccine constructs in an effort to improve upon the disappointing immunogenicity observed at conclusion of the Australian trial. The second study in collaboration with Merck Sharp and Dohme Australia will recruit volunteers who are at high risk of HIV infection and determine if a candidate vaccine using an adenovirus vector that expresses three HIV genes affects either or both rates of HIV transmission or the natural history of HIV disease in individuals who do become infected. This critically important trial for the field of vaccine research has acquired the name, the STEP study.

During 2005, TVRP also played a leadership role in preparing two substantial applications for review by the Division of AIDS at the US National Institutes of Health. We were asked to join a leadership application (subsequently named INSIGHT) to create a new international network for clinical research in HIV/AIDS. Our second application under this round described the national and international network of clinical research sites with whom we collaborate on defined projects. These considerable and substantial applications underwent review toward the end of 2005 and we are confident that they will be well received with notifications being made in response during 2006.

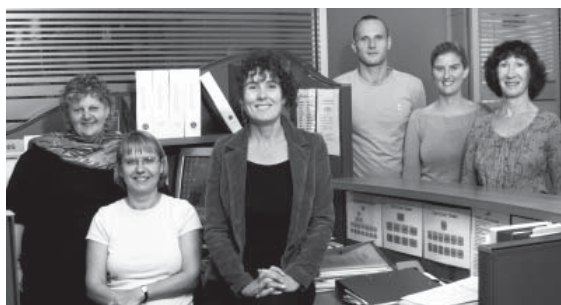
We have continued to develop ideas for a randomised clinical trial to compare innovative regimens of antiretroviral therapy in treatment naïve subjects. We are optimistic that this trial is likely to commence during 2006.

At an operational level TVRP has commenced further real world evaluation of electronic data collection methods in collaboration with Phase Forward. This exciting opportunity has significant implications for the network that we felt was best addressed by a proper field test through the STEAL study. Preliminary results of this evaluation will be available in 2006. We also implemented the MedDRA system for coding and analyses of adverse events. Both these initiatives maintain the operational systems and capacities of TVRP at a level of sophistication that compares very favourably with other groups in the public and private sector.



In part empirical, and in part the subject of careful planning and management, our model for collaborative research and the highly productive outputs are now increasingly being recognised in other disease areas. Immediate opportunities for us to contribute of course are in the newer areas of research within the NCHECR terms of reference. Importantly however, the model is clearly attractive to other funding agencies given the successful award under an NHMRC Urgent Research mechanism for the preparation of protocols and supporting materials to allow multicentre evaluations of the safety and efficacy of neuraminidase inhibitors for the treatment and prophylaxis of influenza (pandemic).

In summary, another extraordinarily busy but productive year.



**Robyn Munro, Wendy Lee, Alison Macdonald, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Kirsten Bailey, Jennifer Tapp**

## Projects

As well as having a supervisory role as Program Head for all projects that fall within the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program, Sean Emery 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, STEP, Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium AE trial, the ITV extension study (see *Annual Report 2003*), SMART, PHIDISA, FLASH, STEAL, ASK-500 and the Truvadaplus project, and provides project related support to HIV-NAT. He is a Chief Investigator on the NHMRC Urgent Research project relating to pandemic influenza.

## Antiretroviral therapy

### Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2005

#### ML16992 (ALLIANCE)

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 April 2003. Follow-up completed March 2005.

**Sites:** 19

**Enrolled/target:** 59/60

**Personnel:** Susan Phipps, Robyn Munro

**Funding:** Roche Products Pty Ltd

#### STACCATO

The Swiss-Thai-Australian Treatment Interruption Study. This study compares continuous therapy with intermittent therapy based on CD4 cell count.

**Status:** Recruitment closed February 2004. Follow-up completed July 2005.

**Sites:** 17 (2 Australia, 7 Thailand, 8 Switzerland)

**Enrolled/target:** 8/30 Australia, 530/600 internationally

**Personnel:** Fraser Drummond, Claudette Satchell

#### ASK-500

A 48-week, randomised study to describe the pharmacokinetic profile and durability of atazanavir-saquinavir-ritonavir once daily, and describe the pharmacokinetic profile of saquinavir-ritonavir using saquinavir 500mg formulation.

**Status:** Recruitment closed December 2005. Follow-up to be completed June 2006.

**Sites:** 1 Australia

**Enrolled/target:** 26/40

**Personnel:** Alan Winston, Claudette Satchell, Robyn Munro

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

## Studies recruiting during 2005

### 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:** Recruitment opened May 2002

**Sites:** 22 Australia, 3 New Zealand, 1 Japan, 13 Argentina, 1 Chile, 1 Uruguay, 5 Thailand

**Enrolled/target:** 150/200 Australia, 5,200/6,000 internationally

**Personnel:** Fraser Drummond, Sue Phipps, Claudette Satchell, Sophie Gunn, Robyn Munro

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

### PHIDISA I

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

**Status:** Recruitment opened January 2004

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

**Enrolled/target:** 2,000/unlimited

**Personnel:** Allison Humphries

**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/μL.

**Status:** Recruitment opened January 2004

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

**Enrolled/target:** 1,391/2,800

**Personnel:** Allison Humphries

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

## Studies in preparation 2005

### STEAL

A randomised, open-label trial to assess the safety and efficacy of switching to fixed-dose tenofovir-emtricitabine or abacavir-lamivudine: the STEAL Study.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** 31 sites in Australia

**Target:** 350 patients

**Personnel:** Allison Humphries, Wilma Goodyear, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Lina Saфро

### Truvadaplus

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:** Rebekah Puls, Fraser Drummond, Kymme Courtney-Vega

**Funding:** Undetermined

## Toxicology/Pharmacology studies

### Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2005

#### Pravastatin Study

A randomised study of pravastatin for the treatment of HIV protease inhibitor-induced hyperlipidaemia.

**Status:** Recruitment closed July 2004. Follow-up completed December 2004.

**Sites:** 1

**Enrolled/target:** 33/40

**Personnel:** Paddy Mallon

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; Bristol-Myers Squibb

## Studies recruiting during 2005

### 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:** 49/80

**Personnel:** Paddy Mallon

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health



Back row: Simone Jacoby, David Courtney-Rodgers, Sophie Gunn  
Front row: Wilma Goodyear, Allison Humphries, Claudette Satchell

## SAMA 002

### ***Seronegatives, Antiretrovirals and Metabolic Abnormalities Protocol 2***

A three arm, prospective study to compare the effect of six weeks exposure to the combination of Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir) and Combivir® (AZT/3TC) versus Kaletra® alone or Combivir® alone in HIV-negative healthy subjects on the development of abnormalities of lipid and glucose metabolism.

**Status:** Recruitment opened December 2004

**Sites:** 1

**Enrolled/target:** 22/50

**Personnel:** Paddy Mallon

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## Study in preparation during 2005

### **Facial Lipoatrophy Trial (FLASH)**

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

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** To be decided

**Target:** 100

**Personnel:** Dianne Carey, Wendy Lee

**Funding:** NSW Health Department; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; GlaxoSmithKline; Bristol-Myers Squibb (Australia); Abbott Australasia; Roche Australia Pty Ltd; Gilead Sciences; Merck Sharp and Dohme Australia

## Immune-based therapies and vaccines

### **Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2005**

#### **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. Follow-up to be completed 2010.

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

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

**Personnel:** Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers, Simone Jacoby

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; Chiron Corporation

## 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. Follow-up to be completed 2010.

**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, Simone Jacoby, Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## 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:** Recruitment closed February 2004. Follow-up completed February 2005.

**Sites:** 1

**Enrolled/target:** 24/24

**Personnel:** Rebekah Puls, Wendy Lee

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## Studies in preparation during 2005

### **HVDDT vaccine (AE#1)**

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

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** 1

**Target:** 10

**Personnel:** Rebekah Puls, Wendy Lee

### **The STEP Study**

A study to compare a 3-dose immunisation with the Merck HIV vaccine (MRKAd5 HIV-1 gag/pol/nef) to placebo in adults at high risk of HIV infection.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** 1

**Target:** 100

**Personnel:** Rebekah Puls

**Funding:** Merck Sharp and Dohme Australia

## **STALWART**

A randomised, open-label, phase II, international study of sc IL-2 with and without concomitant antiretroviral therapy in patients with HIV-1 infection and CD4+ cell counts >300 cells/ $\mu$ L: study of aldesleukin with and without antiretroviral therapy.

**Status:** In development

**Sites:** 20

**Target:** 200 (Australia, Argentina, Thailand)

**Personnel:** Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## **Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program (TVRP) clinical trials network (Australian/New Zealand sites)**

Each site listed below has recruited and followed at least one subject in a TVRP research protocol during 2005.

### **Australian sites**

#### **Australian Capital Territory**

##### **Canberra Sexual Health Clinic, Canberra Hospital**

Site principal: Ashley Watson

Site coordinator: Ruth Primrose

#### **New South Wales**

##### **407 Doctors**

Site principal: David Baker

Site coordinator: Robyn Vale

##### **AIDS Research Initiative**

Site principal: Cassy Workman

Site coordinator: Vanessa Rees

##### **Albion Street Centre**

Site principal: Don Smith

Site coordinator: Jega Sarangapany

##### **Bigge Park Centre, Liverpool Hospital**

Site principal: John Quin

Site coordinator: Gary Keogh

##### **Burwood Road General Practice**

Site principal: Nicholas Doong

Site coordinator: Jeff Hudson

##### **Clinic 16, Royal North Shore Hospital**

Site principal: George Kotsiou

Site coordinator: Joanne Holahan

##### **Holdsworth House General Practice**

Site principal: Mark Bloch

Site coordinator: Ruth Hutchison

##### **Immunology and Infectious Diseases Clinic, John Hunter Hospital**

Site principal: Michael Boyle

Site coordinator: Pauline Dobson

##### **Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital**

Site principal: David Cooper

Site coordinator: Richard Norris

##### **Prince of Wales Hospital**

Site principal: Kate Clezy

Site coordinator: Suzanne Ryan

##### **Royal Prince Alfred Hospital**

Site principal: Roger Garsia

Site coordinator: Marry Moussa

##### **Taylor Square Private Clinic**

Site principal: Robert Finlayson

Site coordinator: Robyn Richardson

##### **Waratah Clinic, St George Hospital**

Site principal: Pam Konecny

Site coordinator: Robyn Dever

##### **Westmead Hospital**

Site principal: Dominic Dwyer

Site coordinator: Margaret Piper

### **Queensland**

#### **AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health**

Site principal: Mark Kelly

Site coordinator: Jo Murray

#### **Clinic 87, Nambour General Hospital**

Site principal: David Sowden

Site coordinator: Alan Walker

#### **The Dolls House, Cairns Base Hospital Sexual Health Services**

Site principal: Kay Haig

Site coordinator: Joanne Leamy

#### **Gladstone Road Medical Centre**

Site principal: David Orth

Site coordinator: David Youds

#### **Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic**

Site principal: John Chuah

Site coordinator: Denise Lester

#### **Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital**

Site principal: Anthony Allworth

Site coordinator: Natalie Gerns

### **South Australia**

#### **Flinders Medical Centre**

Site principal: Mark Boyd

Site coordinator: Robyn Gilligan

#### **O'Brien Street Practice/The Care and Prevention Programme, Adelaide University**

Site principal: Gary Rogers

Site coordinator: Michael Curry

#### **Royal Adelaide Hospital**

Site principal: David Shaw

Site coordinator: Wendy Ferguson

## **Victoria**

### **Carlton Clinic**

Site principal: Richard Moore

Site coordinator: Kaye Lowe

### **Clinical Research Section, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital**

Site principal: Jennifer Hoy

Site coordinator: Janine Roney

### **Melbourne Sexual Health Centre**

Site principal: Tim Read

Site coordinator: Julie Silvers

### **Middle Park Clinic**

Site principal: Ian Chenoweth

Site coordinator: Helen Wood

### **Northcote Clinic**

Site principal: Nicholas Medland

Site coordinator: Helen Wood

### **Prahran Market Clinic**

Site principal: Norman Roth

Site coordinator: Helen Wood

### **Royal Melbourne Hospital**

Site principal: Alan Street

Site coordinator: Janine Roney

### **The Centre Clinic**

Site principal: Nicholas Medland

Site coordinator: Helen Wood

## **Western Australia**

### **Fremantle Hospital**

Site principal: John Dyer

Site coordinator: Jacqueline Kerth

### **Royal Perth Hospital**

Site principal: Martyn French

Site coordinator: Esther Edward

## **New Zealand sites**

### **Christchurch Hospital**

Site principal: Alan Pithie

### **Waikato Hospital**

Site principal: Graham Mills

Site coordinator: Christine Tuffery

### **Wellington Hospital**

Site principal: Tim Blackmore

Site coordinator: Jennifer Masters



**Sarah Pett, Dianne Carey, Fraser Drummond, Rebekah Puls**



# HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

## Overview

2005 was a very successful year for the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program in terms of obtaining research funding, and conducting high quality research on the epidemiology and natural history of HIV infection.

The vaccine preparedness cohort study, known as the Health in Men (HIM) Study, reached its fifth year. This study is conducted in collaboration with the National Centre in HIV Social Research and community partners. The study is now one of the largest ongoing studies of HIV risk in homosexual men in the world, and is probably the most comprehensive in terms of the study of interactions between HIV and sexually transmissible infections (STIs). After five years, the study is maturing and many separate analyses of HIV risk and associated factors are ongoing. In 2005, funding from the US National Institutes of Health ceased, but successful applications to the NSW Health Department and private industry enabled continuation of the study to the end of the year. In November, a NHMRC project grant was awarded which will enable the continuation of the study until 2007, and give the study sufficient power to examine whether specific STIs independently increase the risk of HIV infection. David Templeton, who was awarded a NHMRC Public Health Postgraduate Scholarship in 2004, began a study to examine the role of oral sex in transmission of sexually transmissible infections, the role of circumcision in HIV transmission, and the interrelationship between STI symptoms and diagnosis in the HIM Study as part of his PhD. In 2005, several important findings were published from the Study. First, a comparison of the last protected and unprotected acts of anal intercourse found that disclosure of HIV negative serostatus was a strong predictor of unprotected sex occurring on that occasion. This suggests that HIV negative men are using serosorting as an HIV risk reduction strategy. Second, an analysis of predictors of unprotected anal intercourse in serodiscordant relationships found that an undetectable viral load in the positive partner was predictive of unprotected anal intercourse. Third, data from HIM and other studies was used to describe the emerging syphilis epidemic in Australia. The notification rate of infectious syphilis in New South Wales increased dramatically between 1999 and 2003, and was confined to men. A case series study of men with syphilis found that HIV positive men were greatly over represented among syphilis cases.

The companion cohort study to HIM is of HIV positive homosexual men and is called the Positive Health (pH) Study. In 2005, a UNSW Faculty of Medicine research grant funded the testing of cohort participants for STIs. Initial results presented at the *17th Annual Conference*

*of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine* in Hobart showed that the prevalence of STIs was higher than in HIV negative men.

The study of risk factors for HIV seroconversion continued to recruit well. An analysis, also presented at the *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine* in Hobart, showed that injecting drug use was reported by over 20% of seroconverters.



**Andrew Grulich**

In October 2005, the VivaGel™ Microbicide Development Consortium, of which NCHECR is one of four members, was awarded a four-year grant from the US National Institutes of Health. The grant will fund a comprehensive development program to evaluate the candidate

microbicide SPL7013 ("VivaGel™") in non-clinical studies and clinical trials in Australia and Thailand. This research on an important potential HIV prevention method will build on the internationally recognised strengths of Australian and Thai organisations that have worked together for a number of years.

During 2005, the study of anal intra-epithelial neoplasia in HIV positive and HIV negative men was fully recruited. Also in the field of HIV-related cancer, a protocol was developed to allow linkage of the national HIV and AIDS registers with data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Such linkage projects involve complex processes for ethics approval. In 2005, ethics permission was granted by UNSW. This project will build upon previous work from the Program, and allow the description of cancer rates in those with chronic HIV infection and on long-term antiretroviral therapy.

Researchers at NCHECR conduct a variety of studies on the relationship between various forms of immune dysfunction and cancer. This extends the work that the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program undertakes in HIV-associated cancer. In 2005, we reported that a history of atopic disease, and being an only child or being a first born child in a larger family, were associated with a substantially decreased risk of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). These results are consistent with a hypothesis that early birth order and its immunologic consequence, a Th2-dominated immune response as reflected by a history of atopic disease, are associated with a reduced risk of NHL. We received funding to coordinate an international collaborative analysis of more than ten case-control studies which aim to replicate this finding in studies in Europe and North America. In addition, the study will examine auto-immune disease as a risk factor for NHL. Analyses on the NSW cancer-council funded project on cancer in transplant recipients neared completion.

## Projects

As well as having a supervisory role as Program Head for all projects that fall within the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program, Andrew Grulich takes specific responsibility as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator in the following projects: the international pooled analysis of immune risk factors for lymphoma, the study of the interaction between sexually transmissible infections and HIV infection in homosexual men, cancer in kidney dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients, the Positive Health Study and the study of risk factors for AIDS in the HAART era.

### HIV transmission and prevention research

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

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

**Status:** Of 1,427 men enrolled in the study, 895 men were interviewed to end October 2005. In addition to testing for HIV, 98% were tested for hepatitis A and B and syphilis, and 90% were tested for gonorrhoea and chlamydia in the urine, throat and anus.

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

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

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



**Back row:** Patrick McGrath, Brian Acraman, Hedimo Santana, Garrett Prestage  
**Front row:** Leon Botes, Kim Scholey, Jack Bradley

### 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:** 1,427 men enrolled in the study, of whom more than 90% consented to sexual health screening, including tests for gonorrhoea and chlamydia, as well as herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV1) and herpes simplex virus 2 (HSV2).

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin, Basil Donovan, David Templeton (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research; Cathy Pell, Taylor Square Clinic; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; NSW Health Department; Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd; GlaxoSmithKline Australia

### Risk factors for HIV seroconversion

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

**Status:** By late 2005, 138 men had been enrolled.

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

**Collaborators:** PHAEDRA investigators (see *Immunology and Pathogenesis Program*); National Centre in HIV Social Research; Jonathan Volk

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

### Demographic, behavioural and socio-economic risk factors for AIDS in the era of HAART: a pilot study

A cross sectional analytic study of new AIDS diagnoses in NSW between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2004, designed to assess demographic, socio-economic and behavioural risk factors for AIDS and how they impact on use and compliance with HAART therapy.

**Status:** Study questionnaires were developed, and institutional ethics committee clearances for specific hospital sites in NSW sought.

**Personnel:** Marianne Jauncey, Ann McDonald

**Collaborator:** Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department

**Funding:** NSW Health Department

## HIV prevention trials

### Clinical development program to evaluate the safety and acceptability of the candidate vaginal microbicide, SPL7013

A series of studies under the VivaGel™ Microbicide Development Consortium program designed to comprehensively evaluate the clinical safety of 3% SPL7013 gel (VivaGel™). Topical microbicides such as VivaGel™ are products that are designed to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV and other pathogens.

The first of these studies is a phase 1, double blind placebo controlled study of the safety of 3% SPL7013 gel, when administered to the penis of healthy male volunteers once daily for seven days.

**Status:** The protocol for the first study was in the final stages of preparation for review by the US National Institutes of Health at the end of 2005.

**Site for first study:** Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

**Enrolled/target for first study:** 0/36

**Personnel:** Mary Poynten, Matthew Law, Lisa Maher

**Collaborators:** Starpharma Pty Limited; Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research; Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre; Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## HIV natural history research

### Anal intraepithelial neoplasia (AIN) and anal human papillomavirus (HPV) infection in homosexual men

A prevalence study of AIN and anal HPV infection in a community sample of HIV negative and HIV positive homosexual men.

**Status:** 128 men in the HIV-positive cohort (pH Study) and 204 men in the HIV-negative cohort (HIM Study) were enrolled. Cytologic analysis of samples was completed and HPV testing was commenced. Men with screen-detected anal abnormalities were referred to St Vincent's Hospital for follow-up anoscopy and biopsy.

**Personnel:** Claire Vajdic, Garrett Prestage, Marina van Leeuwen

**Collaborators:** Dorevitch Pathology - Mayne Health; Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Centre; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Cytoc Corporation Australia Pty Ltd

**Funding:** UNSW

### Cancer in people with long standing HIV infection

A data linkage study examining rates and risk factors for cancer in people with HIV. A particular focus of the study is to examine rates of cancer in those with long-term mild immune deficiency.

**Status:** Study protocol developed, ethics approval granted by UNSW.

**Personnel:** Claire Vajdic, Marina van Leeuwen

**Collaborators:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; Australian HIV Observational Database investigators (see *Biostatistics and Databases Program*)

## NSW lymphoma case-control study

A case control study of risk factors for non-Hodgkin lymphoma in the general population.

**Status:** Blood samples were analysed for EBV infection and single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs). Several manuscripts on the key occupational, environmental and immunological exposures were submitted and accepted for publication. NSW study data was also included in several international pooled analyses, either underway or submitted for publication in the areas of smoking, hepatitis C infection, and sun exposure.

**Personnel:** Claire Vajdic

**Collaborators:** The University of Sydney; Viral Epidemiology Section, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; University of Western Australia; Monash University

**Funding:** NHMRC

## International pooled analysis of immune risk factors for lymphoma

A pooled analysis of case-control studies of immune risk factors for lymphoma.

**Status:** An international meeting of collaborators was held, and member studies agreed to contribute data in early 2006. Study funding was obtained.

**Personnel:** Claire Vajdic

**Collaborators:** University of Southern California; German Cancer Research Centre; Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwest University; Centre for Study and Prevention of Cancer; Aviano Cancer Centre; Catalan Institute of Oncology; University of California, San Francisco; David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles; University of York; British Columbia Cancer Registry; School of Medicine, Yale University

**Funding:** Leukaemia Foundation of New South Wales

## Cancer in kidney dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients

A project to link the Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant 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:** Project staff worked with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to define the linkage algorithms and rules prior to linkage. An analysis plan was developed and the standardised incidence ratios for all cancer types for the three key exposure periods, prior to dialysis, during dialysis, and after transplantation, were calculated.

**Personnel:** Claire Vajdic, Matthew Law, Marina van Leeuwen

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

**Funding:** NSW Cancer Council

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

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

**Status:** 82 LTNP participants remained under active follow-up to the end of 2005. The median length of infection for these individuals is 19 years.

**Personnel:** Melanie Middleton, Anthony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Long-term nonprogressor study group, including clinical sites in Sydney, Canberra and Brisbane; NSW HIV Reference Laboratory, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

### **Positive Health Study**

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

**Status:** A total of 566 people living with HIV/AIDS have been enrolled in the study. In 2005, 286 were interviewed, including 46 who were interviewed for the first time. Of these, 177 consented to be tested for hepatitis A and B and syphilis, and for gonorrhoea and chlamydia in the urine, throat and anus.

**Personnel:** Garrett Prestage

**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; Faculty of Medicine, UNSW



**Back row:** Basil Donovan, Melanie Middleton, Mary Poynten, Ann McDonald

**Front row:** Claire Vajdic, Andrew Grulich, Marina van Leeuwin



# Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

## Overview

The first year of the newly created Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program (VHCRP), following the division of the previous Viral Hepatitis Program, continued the Centre's expanding role in viral hepatitis clinical trials and other clinical research.



**Greg Dore**

Enrolment continued in clinical trials examining interferon-based therapy in chronic hepatitis C (CHARIOT) and acute hepatitis C (ATAHC). The CHARIOT trial is a randomised study examining the safety and efficacy of induction dosing pegylated interferon (in combination with ribavirin) in people with hepatitis C genotype 1, and is recruiting from 31 clinic sites around Australia. The Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC) is a five year US National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded study examining the safety and efficacy of pegylated interferon monotherapy in acute and newly acquired hepatitis C. The study also examines the natural history of acute hepatitis C in an untreated prospective cohort. VHCRP also commenced coordination and monitoring of a study of pegylated interferon and ribavirin therapy in people with chronic hepatitis C receiving drug dependency treatment.

Follow-up was completed in HEPCOG, an open-label study examining the impact of chronic hepatitis C treatment on neurocognitive function, mood and quality of life in people with and without HIV coinfection.

By end of 2005, enrolment was close to completion in the TICO trial, a randomised controlled trial examining the safety and efficacy of tenofovir for HIV/hepatitis B coinfection, recruiting through HIV-NAT, Bangkok.

Other clinical research activities included ongoing enrolment into a NIH-funded HIV/hepatitis B coinfection cohort study, a study of lamivudine hepatitis B resistance in HIV/hepatitis B coinfection, and studies of hepatitis C treatment outcomes among injecting drug users.

A further highlight of 2005 was the awarding of a NHMRC project grant to examine the role of hepatitis C neutralising antibodies in acute hepatitis C within the ATAHC study. This grant, led by Dr Heidi Drummer, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research

and Public Health, is the second ATAHC-associated NHMRC project grant, and further strengthens the collaborations between VHCRP and basic science research groups.

## Projects

As well as having a supervisory role as Program Head for all projects that fall within the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program, Greg Dore takes specific responsibility as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator in the following projects: CHARIOT, ATAHC and TICO.

### Australian trial in acute hepatitis C (ATAHC)

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

**Status:** Recruitment commenced July 2004, and was ongoing during 2005.

**Sites:** 18 sites; further sites to be included

**Enrolled/target:** 60/240

**Personnel:** Barbara Yeung, Therese Carroll, Pip Marks, Carolyn Day, Anna Doab, Gail Matthews

**Collaborators:** Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health; School of Pathology, UNSW; South-East Area Laboratory Service, Prince of Wales Hospital; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Prince Alfred Hospital; The Alfred Hospital; Kirkeaton Road Centre; Australian Hepatitis Council; Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL); Australian network of primary care and hospital-based hepatitis clinics

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

### Australian collaborative study in chronic hepatitis C genotype 1 (CHARIOT)

A randomised active control arm study examining the safety and efficacy of high dose induction pegylated interferon therapy, in combination with ribavirin, for chronic hepatitis C genotype 1 infection.

**Status:** Recruitment commenced August 2004, and was ongoing during 2005.

**Sites:** 31

**Enrolled/target:** 270/816

**Personnel:** Elizabeth Knight, Suzanne Polis, Wen Cao, Deam Amr, Natalie Espinosa, Pip Marks, Gail Matthews

**Collaborators:** Stuart Roberts, The Alfred Hospital; Australian network of hospital-based liver and hepatitis clinics

**Funding:** Roche Products Pty Ltd



### **Tenofovir in HIV/hepatitis B coinfection (TICO)**

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 also compares early hepatitis B viral responses in people with HIV/hepatitis B coinfection, and hepatitis B mono-infection.

**Status:** Recruitment opened February 2004 (Australia), and August 2004 (Thailand).

**Sites:** 5 (4 Australia, 1 Thailand)

**Enrolled/target:** 35/36 for HIV/hepatitis B; 3/15 for hepatitis B

**Personnel:** Elizabeth Knight, Pip Marks, Chris Duncombe, Gail Matthews

**Collaborators:** HIV-NAT; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Royal Melbourne Hospital; The Alfred Hospital; Monash Medical Centre; Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory

**Funding:** Gilead Sciences

### **Methadone study: Hepatitis C treatment in drug dependency treatment clients**

Open label study of safety and efficacy of pegylated interferon and ribavirin for chronic hepatitis C in people receiving drug dependency treatment.

**Status:** Recruitment completed November 2005

**Sites:** 4

**Enrolled/target:** 51/50

**Personnel:** Pip Marks, Elizabeth Knight, Deama Amr, Wen Cao, Natalie Espinosa

**Collaborators:** Joe Sasadeusz, Royal Melbourne Hospital; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Nepean Hospital; Western Hospital

**Funding:** Roche Products Pty Ltd

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

An open label trial of 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:** Recruitment completed July 2004. Follow-up completed August 2005.

**Enrolled:** 18 HIV/hepatitis C coinfection; 16 hepatitis C mono-infection

**Personnel:** Rosie Thein

**Collaborators:** St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; La Trobe University; Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

**Funding:** Roche Products Pty Ltd

### **Hepatitis B and C linkage**

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:** Study completed, including analyses of mortality and cancer incidence for hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C/hepatitis B coinfection.

**Personnel:** Janaki Amin, Matthew Law

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

### **Hepatitis C treatment referral in primary care-based methadone clinic**

Rates and predictors of hepatitis C referral and treatment outcomes assessed among a primary care based drug dependency treatment clinic in Redfern.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Collaborator:** The Byrne Surgery

### **Natural history of acute hepatitis C**

Studies to examine the natural history of acute and newly acquired hepatitis C, including rates and predictors of viral clearance, risk of reinfection and superinfection, and early virological evolution of hepatitis C. Such studies help define the extent of protective immunity following prior hepatitis C infection, and may provide important insights into hepatitis C vaccine development.

**Status:** A preliminary study of hepatitis C viral diversity in acute hepatitis C mono-infection and acute hepatitis C/HIV coinfection was completed.

**Personnel:** Joanne Micallef (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** School of Medical Sciences, UNSW; South-East Area Laboratory Service, Prince of Wales Hospital; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## Natural history of HIV/hepatitis B coinfection

A prospective cohort of people with HIV/hepatitis B coinfection to examine the impact of highly active antiretroviral therapy on liver disease progression and provide a means for surveillance of resistance to hepatitis B active agents.

**Status:** A preliminary cross-sectional study of lamivudine resistance among people with HIV/hepatitis B coinfection was completed. Recruitment commenced into a prospective cohort of HIV/hepatitis coinfection.

**Personnel:** Gail Matthews, Wen Cao

**Collaborators:** Johns Hopkins University; Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory; The Alfred Hospital; Royal Melbourne Hospital; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## Hepatitis B epidemiology and disease burden in Vietnam

Studies of seroprevalence and predictors of hepatitis B, and estimates and projections of hepatitis B-related liver disease burden in a rural province of northern Vietnam.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Personnel:** Van Thi Thuy Nguyen (MPH student)

**Collaborator:** School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

## Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program (VHCRP) clinical trials network (Australian sites)

Each site listed below has recruited and followed at least one subject in a VHCRP research protocol during 2005.

### Australian Capital Territory

#### Canberra Hospital

Site principal: Geoff Farrell  
Site coordinator: Anne Blunn

### New South Wales

#### 407 Doctors

Site principal: David Baker  
Site coordinator: Robyn Vale

#### Albion Street Centre

Site principal: George Marinos  
Site coordinator: Jason Gao

#### Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital

Site principal: Chris Meredith  
Site coordinator: Sandra Bluncoski

#### Concord Hospital

Site principal: Alice Lee  
Site coordinator: Vivienne Schiavone



**Back row:** Wen Cao, Rosie Thein, Therese Carroll, Victoria Lightfoot, Pip Marks, Natalie Espinosa  
**Front row:** Elizabeth Knight, Gail Matthews, Greg Dore, Deama Amr

### Holdsworth House General Practice

Site principal: Mark Bloch  
Site coordinator: Colin Anderson

### Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principal: Greg Dore  
Site coordinators: Rebecca Hickey, Zoe Potgeiter

### John Hunter Hospital

Site principal: Jon Watson  
Site coordinators: Tracey Jones, Nadine Leembruggen

### Kirketon Road Centre

Site principal: Ingrid van Beek  
Site coordinator: Therese Carroll

### Liverpool Hospital

Site principal: Mark Cornwell  
Site coordinator: Wendy Evans

### Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic

Site principal: John Quin  
Site coordinator: Pat Walker

### Nepean Hospital

Site principals: Martin Weltman, Nghi Phung  
Site coordinator: Vince Fragomeli

### Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Site principals: Geoff McCaughan, Paul Haber  
Site coordinator: Sue Mason

### Taylor Square Private Clinic

Site principal: Neil Bodsworth  
Site coordinator: Isabel Prone

### Waratah Clinic, St George Hospital

Site principal: John Freiman  
Site coordinator: Robyn Dever

### Westmead Hospital

Site principal: Jacob George  
Site coordinators: Jasmin Canete, SengKee Teo

### Wollongong Hospital

Site principal: Jenny McDonald  
Site coordinator: Pat Bindley

## **Queensland**

### **Nambour Hospital**

Site principal: Don Walker  
Site coordinator: Bronwyn Rynne

### **Princess Alexandra Hospital**

Site principal: Darrell Crawford  
Site coordinators: Fiona Giddens, Julie Roggeveen

### **Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital**

Site principal: Barbara Leggett  
Site coordinator: Deb D'Arcy

### **Townsville Hospital**

Site principal: John Masson  
Site coordinator: Sharon Cooke

## **South Australia**

### **Flinders Medical Centre**

Site principal: John Ring  
Site coordinator: Rosalie Altus

### **Royal Adelaide Hospital**

Site principals: Hugh Harley, David Shaw  
Site coordinators: Megan Phelps, Catherine Ferguson

## **Victoria**

### **Austin Hospital**

Site principal: Peter Angus  
Site coordinators: Lisa Thompson, Brenda Morales

### **Box Hill Hospital**

Site principal: Peter Gibson  
Site coordinator: Sarah Chivers

### **Frankston Hospital**

Site principal: David Badov  
Site coordinator: Rita Coffey

### **Geelong Hospital**

Site principal: Damian Dowling  
Site coordinator: Margaret Wardrop

### **HealthWorks (referral site)**

Site principal: Fran Branwell

### **Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health**

Site principal: Margaret Hellard  
Site coordinator: Oanh Nguyen

### **Monash Medical Centre**

Site principal: Bill Sievert  
Site coordinator: Sherryne Warner

### **Royal Melbourne Hospital**

Site principal: Joe Sasadeusz  
Site coordinators: Maxine Giourouki, Craig Scholten

### **St Vincent's Hospital**

Site principal: Paul Desmond  
Site coordinator: Danielle Croall

## **The Alfred Hospital**

Site principals: Margaret Hellard, Sharon Lewin, Stuart Roberts  
Site coordinators: Oanh Nguyen, Craig Scholten, Caroline Day

## **Western Hospital**

Site principal: Ian Kronborg  
Site coordinator: Marian Croft

## **Western Australia**

### **Fremantle Hospital**

Site principal: Lindsay Mollison  
Site coordinators: Lynette Booth, Gim Andrews

### **Royal Perth Hospital**

Site principal: Wendy Cheng  
Site coordinator: Saroj Nazareth

### **Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital**

Site principal: Gary Jefferies  
Site coordinator: Joanne Young

# Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

## Overview

The Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program (VHEPP) was created in 2005. The primary functions of VHEPP are to conduct epidemiological, social and behavioural research examining risk behaviour and blood-borne virus transmission among injecting drug users; monitor trends in blood-borne virus incidence and prevalence among injecting drug users in Australia; undertake and support viral hepatitis surveillance activities; and initiate and implement strategic research on effective behavioural and biomedical prevention strategies, vulnerable sub-populations, and epidemiological, cultural and social aspects of viral hepatitis.



**Lisa Maher**

Activities in 2005 included studies examining the impact of cultural beliefs and practices on vulnerability to blood-borne viruses among Indo-Chinese injecting drug users, the ethno-epidemiology of psychostimulant use and hepatitis C treatment needs of

current injecting drug users, and commencement of the evaluation of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre

A highlight of 2005 was the award of a five year NHMRC grant in collaboration with researchers and Indigenous communities in Australia, Canada and New Zealand to examine resilience, blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections in Indigenous communities. The Australian arm consists of a partnership between NCHECR and three of the largest and longest-established urban Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services: Aboriginal Medical Service, Redfern (Sydney); Derbarl Yerrigan Medical Service (Perth) and the Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services. This project provides a valuable opportunity to investigate rates of infections in three countries, compare underlying risk and protective factors and increase understanding of the social and cultural factors that protect Indigenous peoples against these infections and their consequences.

The first year of the Program saw several staff departures and new appointments made that begin an expansion within the Program designed to build capacity for research, surveillance and harm reduction through the provision of technical assistance and program support, work with affected communities in conducting research on injecting drug use and related harms, and develop an evidence base for behavioural and biomedical interventions designed to prevent blood-borne virus transmission among injecting drug users.

## Projects

As well as having a supervisory role as Program Head for all projects that fall within the Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program, Lisa Maher takes specific responsibility as a named Principal Investigator in the following projects: Clinical development program to evaluate the safety and acceptability of the candidate vaginal microbicide SPL7013 (see *HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program*), The role of resiliency in responding to blood-borne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Indigenous communities, Ethno-epidemiology of psycho-stimulant related harms in Australia and the Evaluation of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre.

### **Vulnerability to blood-borne viral infections among ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users**

Ethnographic and epidemiological research designed to identify explanatory models of health and illness and risk/protective behaviours, and determine antibody HIV and hepatitis C and associated risk factors in ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users in South Western Sydney.

**Status:** Data collection and analysis were completed, and write up was in progress during 2005.

**Personnel:** Hien Thi Ho (PhD student)

**Collaborator:** Nick Crofts, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre

**Funding:** AusAID

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

Evaluation of the extension of the MSIC trial (Phase II, 2002-2007) involving primary and secondary data collection including service data, an observational cohort study of injecting drug users, and local resident and business surveys.

**Status:** All reports were submitted as per contract requirements. The cohort study was in progress.

**Personnel:** Allison Salmon

**Collaborators:** Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre; NSW Health Department; Hunter Valley Research Foundation

**Funding:** NSW Health Department

### **Participatory action research with young injecting drug users**

A participatory needs assessment of young injecting drug users in South Western Sydney who do not access services, designed to inform service planning, build capacity in research practice and increase consumer participation in drug health services.

**Status:** Study completed, final report completed and paper published in the International Journal of Drug Policy.

**Personnel:** Heidi Coupland

**Collaborators:** Bankstown Community Health Centre; Campbelltown Drug Health Services

**Funding:** South Western Sydney Area Health Service

### **NSW needle and syringe program (NSP) client census**

Annual census of clients attending needle and syringe programs in NSW conducted in conjunction with the annual national NSP survey.

**Status:** The final report of the 2004 census was completed and released. No census was carried out during 2005. The NSW Health Department considered changes to the census model for future data collection.

**Personnel:** Bethany White

**Funding:** NSW Health Department

### **Culture, risk and hepatitis C**

Qualitative study examining the relationships between cultural beliefs and practices and hepatitis C-related risk and protective factors, including treatment in Indo-Chinese injecting drug users.

**Status:** Fieldwork and data collection ongoing during 2005.

**Personnel:** Heidi Coupland

**Funding:** NSW Health Department; Faculty of Medicine, UNSW

### **Hepatitis C treatment for injecting drug users**

Research examining exploring how current injecting drug users perceive hepatitis C treatment and how they feel about participating in clinical trials. The study will assess participants' level of hepatitis C knowledge, treatment and treatment outcomes and perceived or real barriers to hepatitis C treatment.

**Status:** Ethical approval obtained and preliminary work commenced in 2005.

**Personnel:** Carolyn Day, Greg Dore

**Collaborators:** Australian Hepatitis Council; Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League

### **Ethno-epidemiology of psychostimulant-related harms in Australia**

Multi-disciplinary research which aims to identify factors underlying the rising prevalence of psychostimulant use in Australia and their implications

for public health. The study will be conducted in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth and will access a range of psychostimulants using both ethnographic and epidemiological research methods and techniques.

**Status:** Study commenced in mid 2005, and ethnographic fieldwork progressed.

**Personnel:** Suzie Hudson (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University; Monash University; Australian National University

**Funding:** NHMRC



**Back row:** Swati Shourie, Lisa Maher, Bethany White, Allison Salmon  
**Front row:** Carol Harris

### **The role of resiliency in responding to blood-borne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Indigenous communities**

A collaborative project in Australia, Canada and New Zealand to examine resilience, blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections in Indigenous communities. With a focus on adolescents and young adults in urban settings, the Australian component of the study will identify factors among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that protect against acquisition of blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections (BBV/STI), identify factors that promote access to services for prevention and management of BBV/STI, and assess interventions based on these findings. The research will also provide capacity building opportunities for Indigenous researchers and community organisations.

**Status:** Preliminary work commenced in 2005.

**Personnel:** Chris Lawrence, Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage

**Collaborators:** Sandra Eades; Aboriginal Medical Service Coop Ltd, Redfern; Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service; Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services Ltd; Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada; Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network; University of Ottawa; Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, University of Auckland; Auckland University of Technology; University of Otago Medical School

**Funding:** Tripartite Cooperation Agreement between Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC) and the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC NZ)



# Biostatistics and Databases Program

## Overview

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.



**Matthew Law**

The Program develops databases, based on Oracle software, for all NCHECR clinical trials, and also for a number of other studies. During 2005, databases for a number of studies were developed, including FLASH, the Toxicity Substudy of ESPRIT, STEAL, the tenofovir in HIV/hepatitis B

coinfection and the therapy for newly acquired hepatitis C study (see *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research and Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Programs*). Biostatistical analyses were performed on the Alliance, \*ROSEY, \*MITOX, \*INITIO and \*Lipodystrophy Case Definition studies (\*see *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program, Annual Reports 2002 and 2004*). A further major activity, with the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research and Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Programs, was to develop working procedures and databases to implement coding of adverse events across NCHECR clinical trials using the MedDRA database.

During 2005, the Program also continued to undertake clinical cohort studies. The Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD) followed over 2,000 patients recruited from 27 sites, and continued to provide regular information on antiretroviral use and outcomes among patients with HIV infection in Australia. Data from AHOD also contributed to the Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs 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 TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database, an observational study involving several countries in the Asia-Pacific region, continued follow-up during 2005. Data from almost 3,000 patients at 15 sites throughout the region were aggregated. Analyses examined the use of commonly used combination antiretroviral regimens used in the region, and rates of AIDS diagnoses shortly after commencement of antiretroviral treatment.

In mid 2005, Dr David Regan, a post-doctoral mathematical modeller, was recruited to the Program, funded through a NHMRC Capacity Building Grant in mathematical modelling of infectious disease epidemics. This expansion has already allowed significantly greater mathematical modelling work to be undertaken by the Program, including commencing projects modelling chlamydia and human papilloma virus infection in Australia, and an AusAID-funded project, in collaboration with the National HIV Social Research Centre, performing epidemiological and economic modelling of the HIV epidemics in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and East Timor.

## Projects

As well as having a supervisory role as Program Head for all projects that fall within the Biostatistics and Databases Program, Matthew Law takes specific responsibility as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator in the following projects: The Australian HIV Observational Database, including its contribution to the Data Collection on the Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs Study, and the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database.

### **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:** 2,329 patients continued to be followed up during 2005.

**Personnel:** Kathy Petoumenos

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

### **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 combines data from 11 cohorts, including 23,468 patients. Australia contributes 706 patients from the Australian HIV Observational Database. Follow up was confirmed through to at least 2008.

**Personnel:** Kathy Petoumenos

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

**Funding:** European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA)

### **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 2005, 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 (TAHOD)**

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 data transfer in September 2005, baseline and retrospective data from some 2,957 patients were aggregated. It is expected that follow up will continue for up to a further five years.

**Personnel:** Jialun Zhou, Julian Elliott

**Collaborators:** Network of 15 clinical sites at countries through the Asia-Pacific region

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

### **Biostatistics and database support**

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

**Status:** During 2005, members of the Program actively contributed to the Toxicity Substudy of ESPRIT and the FLASH, STEAL, Alliance, \*ROSEY, \*MITOX, \*INITIO and \*Lipodystrophy Case Definition studies (\*see *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program, Annual Reports 2002 and 2004*), as well as the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program's tenofovir in HIV/hepatitis B coinfection study and the therapy for newly acquired hepatitis C study.

**Personnel:** Noorul Absar, Janaki Amin, Rossitza Chevkenova, Kathy Petoumenos, 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 1988 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:** Analyses of examining covariate associated with mortality among prisoners were performed.

**Personnel:** Azar Kariminia (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** Corrections Health Service; Tony Butler, Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice

**Funding:** NHMRC

### **Mathematical modelling of infectious disease epidemics**

Mathematical models are used to assess various aspects of HIV and hepatitis C epidemics in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

**Status:** Projects modelling HIV and hepatitis C virus epidemics in Australia were commenced during the second half of 2005.

**Personnel:** Karina Razali (PhD student), David Regan

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

**Funding:** University of Malaya; NHMRC

### Mathematical modelling for improved planning of infectious disease control policy

This is an NHMRC Capacity Building Grant to develop capacity for mathematical modelling for improved planning of infectious disease control policy in Australia. A number of projects are envisaged over the five-year life of the grant. Initial projects at NCHECR are mathematical models of human papilloma virus and chlamydia transmission in Australia.

**Status:** Initial training meetings took place in August 2005.

**Personnel:** David Regan

**Collaborators:** National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases; National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health; Centre for International Health; School of Population Health, Melbourne University; Victorian Infectious Diseases Service

**Funding:** NHMRC

### Mathematical modelling of human papilloma virus transmission

This study involves the development of a mathematical model of human papilloma virus (HPV) transmission in Australia to assess the effect of various HPV vaccine schedules on HPV incidence and prevalence. These HPV incidence and prevalence estimates are then used as inputs into separate models of HPV disease natural history to assess the cost-effectiveness of HPV vaccine schedules on preventing cervical cancer.

**Status:** HPV natural history was reviewed, and preliminary models developed during 2005.

**Personnel:** David Regan

**Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research; CSL Limited

**Funding:** NHMRC; CSL Limited

### HIV Epidemiological Modelling and Impact (HEMI)

This study involves the development of mathematical models to predict the course of the HIV epidemic, based on the best available epidemiological data and three different intervention scenarios in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and East Timor. The model outputs are applied to forecast the economic, social and security consequences of HIV/AIDS under each of the three intervention scenarios.

**Status:** Report submitted to AusAID

**Personnel:** Karina Razali (PhD student)

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

**Funding:** AusAID

### Simplified CD4 and HIV viral load monitoring schemes in Thailand

Biostatistical analyses and mathematical models are used to develop and assess simplified CD4 and HIV viral load monitoring schemes in Thai patients with HIV receiving antiretroviral treatment. Analyses are based on the HIV-NAT clinical trial database (see *Clinical and epidemiological research in the Asia-Pacific region*) and the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD).

**Status:** Parametric statistical models to predict immunological or virological failure were developed from the HIV-NAT cohort, and validated in both the HIV-NAT and TAHOD data.

**Personnel:** Preeyaporn Srasuebku (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** HIV-NAT, TAHOD investigators

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



**Back row:** Jialun Zhou, Kathy Petoumenos, Noorul Absar  
**Front row:** Handan Wand, Matthew Law, Janaki Amin

### 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 fetal-calf serum is provided.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Personnel:** David Regan

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

## **Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD) network**

### **New South Wales**

#### **407 Doctors**

Site principal: David Baker  
Site coordinator: Robyn Vale

#### **Bligh Street Clinic**

Site principal: Miriam Gotowski  
Site coordinators: Sharon Taylor, Lydia Stuart-Hill

#### **Blue Mountains Sexual Health and HIV Clinic**

Site principal: Eva Jackson  
Site coordinator: Kerrie McCallum

#### **Holden Street Clinic**

Site principal: Debbie Allen  
Site coordinator: Brooke Strazdinis

#### **Holdsworth House General Practice**

Site principal: Mark Bloch  
Site coordinators: Colin Anderson, Shikha Agrawal

#### **Illawarra Sexual Health**

Site principal: Katherine Brown  
Site coordinator: Nina Skobalj

#### **Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital**

Site principals: David Cooper, Andrew Carr  
Site coordinators: Mark Lacey, Karl Hesse

#### **Lismore Sexual Health and AIDS Services (SHAIDS)**

Site principal: David Smith  
Site coordinator: Jude Armishaw

#### **Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre**

Site principal: Catherine O'Connor  
Site coordinator: Ben Allam

#### **Macquarie Sexual Health Centre**

Site principals: David Templeton, Trish Bullen

#### **Medical and Vein Centre**

Site principal: David Ellis

#### **Nepean Sexual Health and HIV Clinic**

Site principal: Tong Liang

#### **Sydney Sexual Health Centre**

Site principal: Basil Donavon  
Site coordinator: Ben Judd

#### **Taylor Square Private Clinic**

Site principal: Robert Finlayson  
Site coordinator: Robyn Richardson

### **Northern Territory**

#### **Communicable Disease Centre, Royal Darwin Hospital**

Site principal: Brian Hughes  
Site coordinator: Peter Knibbs

### **Queensland**

#### **AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health**

Site principal: Mark Kelly  
Site coordinator: Henry Magon

#### **Blackall Terrace Specialist Centre**

Site principal: David Sowden  
Site coordinator: Alan Walker

#### **Gladstone Road Medical Centre**

Site principal: David Orth  
Site coordinator: David Youds

#### **Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic**

Site principal: John Chuah  
Site coordinators: Denise Lester, Wendy Fankhauser, Bridget Dickson

#### **The Dolls House, Cairns Base Hospital Sexual Health Services**

Site principal: Darren Russell  
Site coordinators: Joanne Leamy, Clive D'arcy Evans

### **South Australia**

#### **Care and Prevention Programme, Adelaide University**

Site principal: Gary Rogers

### **Victoria**

#### **Carlton Clinic**

Site principal: Jonathan Anderson  
Site coordinator: Kaye Lowe

#### **Melbourne Sexual Health Centre**

Site principal: Tim Read  
Site coordinator: Jennifer Laing

#### **Monash Medical Centre**

Site principal: Ian Woolley

#### **Prahran Market Clinic**

Site principal: Norman Roth  
Site coordinator: Helen Wood

#### **The Alfred Hospital**

Site principals: Ann Mijch, Jennifer Hoy  
Site coordinators: Melissa Bryant, Kerrie Watson

### **Western Australia**

#### **Department of Clinical Immunology, Royal Perth Hospital**

Site principal: Simon Mallal  
Site coordinators: Jenny Skett, Allison Cain



# Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

## Overview

The Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program (IVPP) was formed in 2005, resulting from the amalgamation of the Laboratory Support and Primary HIV Infection Research Programs. This resulted from the identification of a number of areas of clear complementarity between these two Programs, and during the year increasing cross fertilisation took place, which was accelerated by the institution of combined weekly meetings, and by steps taken towards the seamless linking of data bases previously held separately by the two groupings. This enhanced the standardisation of common work practices and mechanisms of data analysis.



**Anthony Kelleher**

The work of IVPP during 2005 can be divided into three categories. A substantial proportion of laboratory-based activity was directed towards providing routine or semi-routine laboratory procedures essential for the successful

conduct of clinical trials and epidemiological studies, through processing of specimens and conduct of specialised assays. This was in support of studies conducted by IVPP, as well as other NCHECR Programs. Secondly, the conduct of clinical trials and natural history studies commenced by the former Primary HIV Infection Research Program continued. Central to these activities was the continuation of recruitment to 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. And finally, senior scientists and academics within the Program were also responsible for their own research projects on pathogenesis.

During 2005, the laboratory component of IVPP completed the conduct of assays assessing the immunogenicity and mode of action of a fowl pox-based vector co-expressing both HIV proteins and Interferon used as a therapeutic vaccine in patients treated with HAART during primary infection. It continued to act as the Australian coordinating laboratory for the natural history studies conducted through AIEDRP, as well as for the ESPRIT and SMART (see *Therapeutic Vaccine and Research Program*)

studies, and assisted in the successful initiation of the STEAL (see *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program*) and SPARTAC studies.

Other activities in the area of primary HIV infection included completion of primary data analysis for the PULSE study of treatment interruption, and submission of a manuscript for publication reporting these findings. Additional immunological sub-studies of factors associated with control of viremia were undertaken by the laboratory throughout 2005, and the study data analysed. A trial looking at the efficacy of short course therapy initiated during primary HIV infection (SPARTAC) was also started during 2005.

Pathogenesis work relating to CD4 T-cell function in early HIV infection and in natural controllers of the disease expanded during 2005. New methodologies were established in the laboratory resulting in the lodging of one provisional patent, and the preparation of another patent application. Other novel methodologies have been established allowing the molecular characterisation of formalin-fixed cells which will aid our study of HIV-specific T-cell repertoires. This methodology will enhance existing collaborations with Peter Doherty's and Stephen Kent's groups (both at The University of Melbourne) and Ian Ramshaw's group (Australian National University) in T-cell biology aimed at aiding vaccine development.

During 2005, the laboratory was awarded a NHMRC equipment grant which will aid in the establishment of a biologically contained 10 colour 12 parameter high speed cell sorter in the PC3 laboratory, allowing for sorting of lymphocyte sub-populations, and molecular and functional characterisation of these poorly understood sub-populations for the first time. These advances help to keep the laboratory-based research performed within the Program internationally competitive.

Professor Alan Landay completed a year with the Program on sabbatical from Rush Medical School, Chicago. His knowledge of HIV immunology, his high level of enthusiasm and his unparalleled experience with the conduct of immunological assays in the context of clinical trials added a new and invigorating dimension to the IVPP in its inception year.

## Projects

As well as having a supervisory role as Program Head for all projects that fall within the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program, Anthony Kelleher takes specific responsibility as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator in the following projects: AIN504, SPARTAC, PHAEDRA, CORE01, the long term non-progressor cohort and the NHMRC Program Grant entitled "HIV infection, immunology and vaccine design". He provides project-related support to the HIV-NAT and Thai Red Cross HIV Research laboratories.



## Clinical trials and cohort studies

### The Australian Primary HIV Infection Database

An ongoing prospective cohort of patients with primary HIV infection.

**Status:** During 2005, 66 new cases of newly acquired HIV infection were entered into the primary HIV infection database. Information was routinely updated from laboratory and clinical data bases.

**Personnel:** Tim Ramacciotti, Pat Grey, Kathy Petoumenos, Anthony Kelleher

**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 long term collaborative cohort study on vital status, laboratory markers, antiretroviral treatment changes and disease progression, one aim of which is to discern whether survival or rate of progression to AIDS is altered by earlier treatment.

**Status:** 332 Australian subjects contribute to this cohort, 225 of which were followed during 2005.

**Personnel:** Tim Ramacciotti, Anthony Kelleher

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

**Funding:** Medical Research Council

### Acute Infection Early Disease Research Program (AIEDRP)

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

**Status:** Collaboration continued with Massachusetts General Hospital under the leadership of Bruce Walker, working in both Sydney and Melbourne with primary care and hospital sites on recruitment, follow up and treatment of people with primary HIV infection.

**Personnel:** Pat Grey, Tim Ramacciotti, Matthew Law, Ansari Shaik, Anthony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Partners AIDS Research Center (Massachusetts General Hospital), Harvard University; US National Institutes of Health; Don Smith, Albion Street Centre; 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



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

### Core01

The basic protocol of the AIEDRP network, by which acute and early patients are recruited and followed for five years, and within which interventional sub-studies may take place.

**Status:** 49 new participants were enrolled during 2005, making a cumulative total of 200. These patients will continue to be followed up until 2007.

**Personnel:** Tim Ramacciotti, Pat Grey, Anthony Kelleher, Mee-Ling Munier, Ansari Shaik

**Collaborators:** Don Smith, Albion Street Centre; 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; Partners AIDS Research Center (Massachusetts General Hospital), Harvard University

**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:** 20 new participants were enrolled during 2005, making a cumulative total of 273 (141 of which have been transferred to Core01).

**Personnel:** Pat Grey, Anthony Kelleher, Tim Ramacciotti, Mee-Ling Munier, Jennifer Hoy

**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; Partners AIDS Research Center (Massachusetts General Hospital), Harvard University; The Alfred Hospital; Tim Read, Melbourne Sexual Health; Sydney Sexual Health

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

### **Primary HIV Infection Structured Treatment Interruption Trial (AIN502)**

A randomised multicentre trial to determine whether induction therapy followed by treatment interruption is superior to induction therapy alone in the treatment of primary HIV infection.

**Status:** Final US regulatory approval was obtained during 2005, but it was decided not to proceed with the study because it was considered by the study's steering committee that the scientific question was no longer relevant.

**Personnel:** Pat Grey, Matthew Law, Anthony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Partners AIDS Research Center (Massachusetts General Hospital), Harvard University; US National Institutes of Health; 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; Don Smith, Albion Street Centre

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

### **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 2005, the last planned analysis of the trial data was completed and a manuscript submitted for publication.

**Personnel:** Pat Grey, Kathy Petoumenos, Mee-Ling Munier, Anthony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House Private Practice; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Norman Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; 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; Don Smith, Albion Street Centre; Katie Irvine

**Funding:** Bristol Myers Squibb

### **Primary HIV infection therapeutic vaccine trial (AIN504)**

A randomised phase II study of therapeutic immunisation and treatment interruption among subjects who began potent antiretroviral therapy within 16 days of diagnosis of acute or recent HIV infection.

**Status:** This study passed through regulatory procedures, including obtaining local ethics committee, Gene and Related Therapies Research Advisory Panel and Office of Gene Technology Regulator approvals. The laboratory also successfully completed mandatory training by Merck Research Laboratories for PBMC storage.

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, Pat Grey

**Collaborators:** US National Institutes of Health; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House Private Practice; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Philip Cunningham, Kate Merlin, Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

### **Randomised trial in primary HIV infection looking at three forms of intervention (SPARTAC)**

#### **Short pulse antiretroviral treatment at seroconversion**

This trial looks at the effect on CD4 T-cells of three interventions at primary HIV infection, either treating with antiretroviral therapy for 12 or 48 weeks or not treating at all until CD4 declines to <350 cells.

**Status:** 11 patients screened, 9 of which were randomised.

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, Pat Grey

**Collaborators:** Medical Research Council; Jonathon Weber, Sarah Fidler, Imperial College; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House Private Practice; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Philip Cunningham, Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** Wellcome Trust

## **Laboratory 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 PMBC; and archiving and onshipping of samples. This allows for the smooth running of clinical trials and natural history studies.

**Status:** Ongoing

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, Ciara McGinley, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** Kate Merlin, Julie Yeung, Michelle Bailey, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** Project-specific grants

### **Immuno-phenotyping of T-cell subsets**

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

**Status:** Routine use of 6 colour multiparameter flow cytometry. Validation of up to 10 colour panels completed.

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), Susanna Ip, David van Bockel (PhD student), Michelle Bailey

**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, and assays of dendritic cell number and function**

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, identification of antigen-specific T-cells and enumeration of dendritic cell subpopulations and the cytokines they produce. Such assays are included in the protocols of clinical trials and natural history studies carried out by NCHECR.

**Status:** A range of T-cell and dendritic cell assays to define mechanisms behind efficacy of Virax's therapeutic vaccine and the predictors of viral control in PULSE were completed.

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), Susanna Ip, David van Bockel (PhD student), Kellie Cheung, Palanee Ammaranond (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** John Zaunders, ChoeChoe Brereton, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** Project-specific grants

### **HIV drug resistance**

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.

**Status:** Over 200 HIV-1 resistance genotypes were performed.

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher

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

**Funding:** NSW Health Department

### **Transmission of resistance in primary HIV 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 resistant virus in the Australian population.

**Status:** Subtype determination was performed on all sequences. >40 genotypes performed on acute seroconverters.

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, Palanee Ammaranond (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** Philip Cunningham, Kazuo Suzuki, Leakhena Leas, Lisa Martin, Leon McNally, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Damian Purcell, Robert Centre, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne

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

### **Laboratory surveillance of incident HIV infection**

Laboratory markers are used to determine incident from established HIV infection to monitor the trends in newly acquired infections, forming an important sentinel surveillance tool. The application of the 'detuned' ELISA, and analysis of other routine laboratory markers used in the diagnosis of HIV infection, is used in monitoring new infections.

**Status:** All newly identified cases of HIV infection at the NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV at St Vincent's Hospital were analysed.

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher

**Collaborator:** Philip Cunningham, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Sara Evans, Lisa Martin, Joanna Sherring, NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV, 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 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.

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

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, David van Bockel (PhD student), Nabila Seddiki, Palanee Ammaranond (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** Peter Doherty, Stephen Turner, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne; Daniel Douek, David Price, Vaccine Research Centre, US National Institutes of Health; Miles Davenport, Centre for Vascular Research, UNSW

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; NHMRC

### **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:** Anthony Kelleher

**Collaborators:** Kazuo Suzuki, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

## Characterisation of CD4+ CCR5+ T-cells in primary HIV and other primary viral infections

This project involves investigations of the role CD4+ CCR5+ T-cells in the outcome of disease in the long-term non-progressor (see *HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program*) and the PHAEDRA/ CORE01 cohorts.

**Status:** Virus-specific CD4+ CCR5+ T-cells were definitively identified and extensively characterised, in a range of primary immune responses to viruses including HIV, CMV, EBV and vaccinia. The time course of the appearance and disappearance of these cells were defined, and differences in the development of memory cells in HIV as against the other viral infections studied were identified.

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), Susanna Ip

**Collaborators:** John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Daniel Kaufmann, Partners AIDS Research Center (Massachusetts General Hospital), Harvard University

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; NHMRC

## IL-7 receptor modulation

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

**Status:** Studies of IL-7 receptor on malignant B cells in lymphomas and leukemias commenced.

**Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, Sarah Sasson (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** John Zaunders, Sandy Smith, Sam Milliken, John Moore, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; NHMRC

## Molecular mechanisms of lipodystrophy

Six research projects examining various aspects of the pathogenesis of HIV-associated lipodystrophy. A range of *ex vivo* molecular analyses, involving measurement of gene expression in both adipose tissue and peripheral blood, are performed in the context of four clinical trials in both HIV-positive patients and HIV-negative healthy controls. This project also includes the development of *in vitro* models to examine the effects of antiretroviral medications in both adipocyte and monocyte cell culture systems.

**Status:** Robust real time PCR analyses to quantify mitochondrial and nuclear gene expression and mitochondrial DNA content are conducted routinely in samples from both clinical trials and cell cultures.

**Personnel:** Paddy Mallon, Rebecca Sedwell, Anthony Kelleher, Heidi Lim (Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) student)

**Collaborators:** Andrew Carr, Natalie Duarte, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Jane Li, Garvan Institute of Medical Research

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health; Bristol-Myers Squibb; Boehringer-Ingelheim



**Back row:** Kellie Nallaiah, Susanna Ip, Nabila Seddiki, Mee-Ling Munier, Deborah Taylor, Veronica Canale, Anthony Kelleher  
**Front row:** Ciara McGinley, Rebecca Sedwell

## Definition of T regulatory subsets

Studies carried out to define a novel and more rigorous way of defining human T regulatory cells.

**Status:** Assay development was completed, and its use in primary infection, chronic infection and long-term nonprogressors became ongoing. A provisional patent was awarded, and negotiations with biotech companies re licensing of the technology began.

**Personnel:** Nabila Seddiki, Anthony Kelleher, Sarah Sasson (PhD student)

**Collaborators:** John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Barbara Fasekas, Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology, The University of Sydney; Alan Landay, Rush Medical School

**Funding:** NHMRC

## Novel assays for assessing T-cell function

Assays designed to amplify small "primed" responses, and also simplified methodologies that may be applicable in the field in developing countries where large scale vaccine trials are likely to be run.

**Status:** Optimal methodology for priming assays was finalised and validated. Using a simplified T-cell assay, optimal methodology for CD4 responses was identified, and validation neared completion. The patent application process proceeded during 2005.

**Personnel:** Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), Susanna Ip, Anthony Kelleher

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

**Funding:** NHMRC

## **Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program clinical trials network**

Each site listed below has recruited or followed at least one subject in a research protocol investigating primary HIV infection during 2005.

### **New South Wales**

#### **407 Doctors**

Site principal: David Baker

Site coordinator: Robyn Vale

#### **AIDS Research Initiative**

Site principal: Cassy Workman

Site coordinator: Vanessa Rees

#### **Burwood Road General Practice**

Site principal: Nicholas Doong

Site coordinator: Jeff Hudson

#### **Holdsworth House General Practice**

Site principal: Mark Bloch

Site coordinator: Ruth Hutchison

#### **Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital**

Site principal: David Cooper

Site coordinator: Richard Norris

#### **Sydney Sexual Health Centre**

Site principal: Anna McNulty

Site coordinator: Bronwhyn Bourke

#### **Taylor Square Private Clinic**

Site principal: Robert Finlayson

Site coordinator: Robyn Richardson

### **Victoria**

#### **Carlton Clinic**

Site principal: Jonathan Anderson

Site coordinator: Kaye Lowe

#### **Clinical Research Section, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital**

Site principal: Jennifer Hoy

Site coordinator: Janine Roney

#### **Melbourne Sexual Health Centre**

Site principal: Tim Read

Site coordinator: Julie Silvers

#### **Prahran Market Clinic**

Site principal: Norman Roth

Site coordinator: Helen Wood

#### **The Centre Clinic**

Site principal: Nicholas Medland

Site coordinator: Helen Wood



# Clinical and epidemiological research in the Asia-Pacific region

## Thailand



**Chris Duncombe**

The Netherlands, Australia, Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT) is a partnership between NCHECR, the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre in Bangkok and the International Antiviral Therapy Evaluation Centre in Amsterdam.

There are 17 sites in the HIV-NAT clinical trials network; six in Bangkok, nine in regional Thailand and two in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. By December 2005, 17 adult clinical studies and 10 paediatric studies were being conducted at the network sites, with more than 2,200 subjects enrolled. This report lists the projects for which NCHECR personnel play a substantive role.

Research priorities at HIV-NAT in 2005 included antiretroviral (ARV) therapeutic strategies (structured therapy interruption and immediate versus delayed initiation of ARV in children), HIV/tuberculosis co-infection studies, HIV vaccine development, pharmacokinetic studies and new drug development. The research program resulted in 26 publications for the year.

Chris Duncombe is responsible for NCHECR's contribution to all studies listed below. The local study coordinator is also named within each project where applicable. In addition, Chris Duncombe plays a general supporting role in activities at HIV-NAT.



**Stephen Kerr**

Stephen Kerr is responsible for advice on data management and statistical analysis on HIV-NAT studies, as well as having a research role.

### HIV-NAT 006

A long-term follow-up study of safety and efficacy of antiretroviral therapy for patients who have previously participated in HIV-NAT study protocols.

**Status:** Recruitment opened June 2003, and is ongoing.

**Sites:** HIV-NAT

**Enrolled:** 306

**HIV-NAT study coordinator:** Anchalee Avihingsanon

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe, Stephen Kerr

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

### HIV-NAT 009

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

**Status:** Recruitment opened June 2001, and was completed October 2001. A fourth 48 week extension was completed in July 2005.

**Sites:** HIV-NAT

**Enrolled/target:** 60/60

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** Merck & Co Inc

### 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:** Study completed October 2005.

**Sites:** 3

**Enrolled/target:** 43/43

**HIV-NAT study coordinator:** Jintanat Ananworanich

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** HIV-NAT; The Government Pharmaceutical Company; Ministry of Public Health

### HIV-NAT 011

A single arm study to assess the use of pharmacokinetically guided indinavir dose reductions in patients with chronic renal impairment from indinavir use.

**Status:** Recruitment opened November 2002, and is ongoing.

**Sites:** HIV-NAT

**Enrolled:** 28

**HIV-NAT study coordinator:** Anchalee Avihingsanon

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** HIV-NAT

## HIV-NAT 012

The effect on HIV-1 elimination rate constant of combination antiretroviral therapy aimed at three independent HIV viral targets (fusion inhibition + reverse transcriptase inhibition + protease inhibition) compared to that aimed at two independent viral targets (reverse transcriptase inhibition + protease inhibition).

**Status:** Recruitment completed June 2003. Study completed June 2005.

**Sites:** HIV-NAT

**Enrolled/target:** 36/36

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

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

## HIV-NAT 022: Tenofovir in HIV/hepatitis B coinfection (TICO)

This study is described under the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program.

## HIV-NAT 027

Efficacy and safety of a saquinavir based regimen in HIV-1 infected Thai patients who have chronic IDV associated nephrotoxicity.

**Status:** Recruitment opened June 2005, and is ongoing.

**Site:** HIV-NAT

**Enrolled/target:** 30/30

**HIV-NAT study coordinator:** Anchalee Avihingsanon

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** Roche Laboratories Inc

## HIV-NAT 032

Generation of hepatitis B-specific T-cell immunity in individuals with HIV/hepatitis B co-infection receiving hepatitis B-active antiretroviral therapy.

**Status:** Recruitment opened May 2005, and is ongoing.

**Site:** HIV-NAT

**Enrolled/target:** 36/36

**HIV-NAT study coordinator:** Anchalee Avihingsanon

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

## PREDICT 2005

ARV-naïve, HIV-infected children between one and twelve years of age with mild or moderate disease severity (CDC clinical category class A or B) and with moderate immune suppression (CD4 lymphocyte percentage between 15% and 24%) will be included in this study. They will be randomised to one of two arms: Immediate antiretroviral (ARV) therapy (ARV initiated on Day 0 of study) or deferred ARV therapy (ARV initiated when CD4% is less than 15%).

**Status:** Protocol and site preparation took place during 2005.

**Sites:** 8 (6 Thailand, 2 Cambodia)

**Enrolled/target:** 0/300

**HIV-NAT study coordinator:** Jintanat Ananworanich

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe, Robert Oelrichs, Stephen Kerr

**Collaborators:** National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs; National Institute for Public Health; Thai Red Cross; National Pediatric Hospital

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health via a grant to the Thai Red Cross; GlaxoSmithKline; Abbott; F Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd

## ESPRIT

This study is described under the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program.

## STACCATO

The Swiss-Thai-Australian Treatment Interruption Study. An open label, randomised study to evaluate the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of continuous daily boosted saquinavir hard gel capsule/2NRTI versus structured treatment interruption (STI) of the same therapy depending on CD4+ cell counts (CD4-guided treatment).

**Status:** Study completed December 2005.

**Sites:** 7

**Enrolled/target:** 360/360

**HIV-NAT study coordinator:** Jintanat Ananworanich

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe

**Funding:** The Swiss HIV Cohort Study collaboration; F Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd; Abbott; Gilead Sciences

## TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD)

This study is described under the Biostatistics and Databases Program.

## Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Program

A randomised, placebo controlled, double-blind, phase I clinical trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a candidate prophylactic pHIS-HIV-AE DNA prime and recombinant fowlpox (rFPV)-HIV-AE boost HIV vaccination strategy in healthy Thai volunteers at low risk of HIV infection.

**Status:** Site, laboratory and community preparation completed.

**Site:** HIV-NAT

**Enrolled/target:** 0/24

**HIV-NAT study coordinator:** Wadchara Pumpradit

**Personnel:** Chris Duncombe, Stephen Kerr

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

## Cambodia

Access to treatment and care for Cambodians living with HIV/AIDS continued to expand during 2005, with the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy doubling during the year to 12,355. This resulted in Cambodia achieving its contribution towards the WHO/UNAIDS international goal of three million people treated with antiretroviral therapy by the end of 2005. Geographical equity in access also improved with the number of treatment sites increasing from 17 to 32.



Julian Elliott

NCHECR continued to support expansion of access to HIV treatment through an ongoing partnership with the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs (NCHADS) and the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) of the Cambodian Ministry of Health. Key

achievements of the partnership during 2005 were in the areas of program development, clinical care, clinical research and laboratory development.

During 2005, a number of national level programs to support HIV treatment and care were developed. NCHECR staff contributed significantly to improvements in these programs, including revisions to the national HIV care reporting and data systems, further development of centralised antiretroviral (ARV) procurement and logistics, revision of national ARV guidelines, implementation of national CD4 testing quality assurance and development of a national HIV continuing education plan.

During 2005, the Social Health Clinic, an ambulatory clinic in Phnom Penh for Cambodians living with HIV/AIDS, established capacity for treatment and care and a platform for clinical research. The Social Health Clinic currently has a staff of 28, including four doctors, four nurses, a six-member counselling and peer support team, and a six-member research and data management team. Clinic enrolment to December 2005 was 744, of whom 305 commenced ARV therapy.

Clinical research commenced at the Social Health Clinic in June 2005 with support from AusAID for the establishment of a prospective clinical cohort. A major initial focus of the study is ARV adherence, including validation of simple measures, levels of adherence during early ARV therapy and associated factors. Additional work supported by AusAID includes a qualitative study of ARV adherence and a cohort sub-study focussed on improving understanding and diagnosis of immune restoration disease.

NCHECR staff continued to provide technical assistance to the National Laboratory of Public Health, within NIPH, in the development and maintenance of quality managed laboratory diagnostics to support diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS.

### Cambodia Treatment Access Program (CTAP)

Increasing access to antiretroviral treatment in Cambodia through establishment of treatment clinics and technical assistance to the national HIV treatment program.

**Status:** At the end of 2005, 654 people living with HIV/AIDS were under care, and 305 commenced on antiretroviral therapy.

**Personnel:** Sarah Huffam, Julian Elliott, Jenne Roberts, Robert Oelrichs, Mary Poynten, Iona Millwood

**Collaborators:** National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs; National Institute for Public Health

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

### Cambodian research program to support the optimal use of antiretroviral therapy

Investigation of antiretroviral (ART) efficacy and adherence with a program of qualitative, observational and interventional studies.

**Status:** A cohort study was initiated in June 2005, including prospective collection of treatment and adherence data and storage of biological specimens. This was expanded in December 2005 to include more intensive data collection during early ART in order to investigate the characteristics and methods of diagnosis of immune restoration disease. A qualitative study exploring understandings and use of ART was also conducted in order to better understand the determinants of the high levels of ART adherence currently seen in Cambodia.

**Personnel:** Julian Elliott, Robert Oelrichs, Sarah Huffam, Jenne Roberts, Mary Poynten, Iona Millwood

**Collaborators:** National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs; National Institute for Public Health

**Funding:** AusAID

### PREDICT

This study is described under Thailand.

### TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database

This study is described under the Biostatistics and Databases Program.

### **A study of the prevalence of HIV-related neurological disease in the Asia Pacific Region**

A multi site study to describe the prevalence of HIV related neurocognitive impairment and AIDS dementia complex, peripheral sensory neuropathy and central nervous system opportunistic infections and tumours.

**Status:** National ethics committee approval received in December 2005.

**Personnel:** Sarah Huffam, Julian Elliott

**Collaborators:** Asia Pacific Neuro AIDS Consortium; Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health; National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs

**Funding:** US National Institutes of Health via a grant to the Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health



**Sarah Huffam, Robert Oelrichs**

## **Regional**

### **Indonesia HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project Phase II**

This project supports the development and implementation of HIV care and treatment programs in Indonesia.

**Status:** NCHECR contributed to the project primarily through the Technical Advisory Team chaired by John Kaldor.

**Collaborators:** GRM International Pty Ltd; Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health; Albion Street Centre

**Funding:** AusAID

### **HIV Epidemiological Modelling and Impact (HEMI)**

This study is described under the Biostatistics and Databases Program.



## Teaching and training highlights

NCHECR is involved in a wide range of teaching and training activities (see page 72). During 2005, one doctoral student, one honours student and five Masters students whose research had been supervised or co-supervised by NCHECR staff were awarded their degrees. NCHECR staff also supervised another 38 postgraduate students, including 35 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. Over 100 students passed through the core epidemiology course taught by NCHECR staff in 2005, and a further 32 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.

The Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program Trial Network Site Coordinators Meeting was held again during 2005 in Hobart, and was attended by 48 general site coordinators, plus seven hepatitis C trial coordinators from around Australia and New Zealand. A variety of topics included an update on the current research areas of NCHECR. This annual training day continues to be evaluated extremely well.

The Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program (VHCRP) undertook their first training program for hepatitis C nurse coordinators in Sydney. The program's focus was the Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC) Study. Evaluation was extremely positive, and it is hoped that further annual events will continue to strengthen the relationship between VHCRP and the clinical hepatitis/liver clinic network around Australia.

Training provided by NCHECR also included field supervision of students placed from long term programs run by other institutions. Veronica Canale, an overseas exchange student from the University of Padua, Italy, completed a very successful practicum attachment with NCHECR's laboratory. Jonathan Volk completed his one-year placement with NCHECR under a Fullbright scholarship award.

NCHECR also contributed lectures to a variety of other postgraduate courses during the year.





## Service highlights

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 67). These activities operate at a range of levels from local to international and ensure that NCHECR's researchers stay closely in touch with the programmatic and policy applications of their work.

During 2005, preparations continued for the 4th International AIDS Society Conference on Pathogenesis and Treatment of HIV infection to be hosted by the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine in Sydney in 2007, with David Cooper as Local Conference Chair and John Kaldor as one of the two Deputy Chairs.

Also of note were David Cooper's election to Chair of the WHO/UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Advisory Committee; Anthony Kelleher's membership of the CANVAC Expert Panel Meeting for Networks of Centres of Excellence in Montreal, Canada and the Planning Committee for the NSW Ministry for Science and Medical Research Clinical Research Forum; Andrew Grulich's membership of the 9th International Conference on Malignancies in AIDS and Other Acquired Immunodeficiencies: Basic, Epidemiologic and Clinical Research Organising Committee and his continuing role in chairing the NSW HIV Health Promotion Committee; and John Kaldor's membership of the 3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment Prevention Science Scientific Committee.

Through John Kaldor's membership of the Organising Committee led by Alan Landay, and the contribution of a number of other staff members, NCHECR also played a central role in organising an international symposium on vaginal microbicides that was held in Sydney in November. The symposium was largely funded by the US National Institutes of Health, with contributions from the Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health and the Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, as well as NCHECR. It brought together an interdisciplinary program of investigators largely from the United States and the Asia-Pacific region.

NCHECR staff continued to contribute to the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH) through Andrew Grulich's membership of the HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections Subcommittee, Greg Dore's membership of the Hepatitis C Subcommittee and John Kaldor's membership of the Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Committee.



# Awards

## Research grants

Cooper DA, Emery S, Dwyer D. A prospective study to examine the effectiveness and safety of stockpiled antivirals for pandemic influenza. NHMRC Urgent Research into a Potential Avian Influenza-Induced Pandemic Grant Feb 2006-July 2006, A\$142,000.

Drummer H, Poubourios P, Dore GJ, Hellard M, Torresi J. Neutralizing antibody responses in HCV infected individuals. NHMRC Project Grant 2006-2009, A\$467,750.

Elliot EJ, Bower C, Kaldor JM, Booy R, Sullivan E. Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit: A collaborative network for child health research. NHMRC Enabling Grant 2006-2010, A\$1,000,000.

Grulich AE, Donovan B, Kippax S, Prestage GP, Kaldor JM. The interaction between sexually transmissible infections and human immunodeficiency virus infection in homosexual men. NHMRC Project Grant 2006-2007, A\$630,000.

Grulich AE, Kaldor JM, Templeton D. Identification of best practice for nucleic acid amplification testing for *Neisseria gonorrhoea*. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Grant 2005, A\$11,364.

Grulich AE, Prestage GP, Jin FY, Rawstorne PR. Sexually transmissible infections and blood-borne viruses in HIV positive homosexual men: prevalence, incidence and risk factors. UNSW Faculty Research Grant 2006, A\$11,730.

Grulich AE, Vajdic CM, Cozen W. A pooled analysis of studies of immune risk factors for non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Leukaemia Foundation of New South Wales Grant 2006, A\$90,000.

Harvey C, Lloyd A, Zaunders J. Fine positioning and effector function of T cells recruited to the HCV-infected liver. NHMRC Project Grant 2006-2009, A\$315,125.

Kaldor JM, Andersson M, Aspin C (Wong T, Archibald C, Barlow K, Shea B, Jackson R, Sioui G, Eades S, Lawrence C, Wilkes E, Davies V, Panaretto K, Atkinson R, Daniels J, Shipp M, Grulich A, Maher L, Prestage G, Smith L, Ratima M, Jones R, Dickson N co-investigators). The role of resiliency in responding to bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Indigenous communities. International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership Grant 2005-2009, Canadian Institutes of Health Research CAN\$1,650,000; NHMRC A\$1,706,205 (NCHECR); New Zealand HRC NZ\$1,659,108.

Kaldor JM, Law M, Henderson K, McKay J, Worth H. HIV Epidemiological Modelling and Impact (HEMI). AusAID 2005, A\$39,288.

Kelleher AD, Lloyd A. NHMRC Equipment Grant 2006, A\$80,000.

Landay AL, Cunningham A, Wesselingh S, Kaldor JM. *Microbicides for prevention of HIV transmission: Current and future perspectives symposium*. Office of AIDS Research, National Institutes of Health, USA 2005, \$100,000.

Maher L. Barriers to hepatitis C treatment uptake by Indo-Chinese injecting drug users. Faculty Research Grant, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW 2006-2007, A\$20,000.

McCarthy TD (with Kaldor JM, Phanuphak P, Sullivan M, Wesselingh S and others). Clinical development program to evaluate the safety and acceptability of the candidate vaginal microbicide, SPL7013. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, USA 2005-2009, US\$20,320,336 (NCHECR share US\$1,693,677).

Zwi A, Kaldor JM, Hodgkinson A. Scoping the development of a Master of Public Health program at the National Institute of Public Health, Cambodia. UNSW Contestable Funding for International Strategic Projects 2006, A\$27,300.

## Training grants

Coupland H. NHMRC Public Health Postgraduate Scholarship 2006-2008, \$63,693.

Sasson S. NHMRC Dora Lush Biomedical Research Scholarship 2006-2009, \$41,674.

van Leeuwin M. NHMRC Public Health Postgraduate Scholarship 2006-2008, \$63,693.

Weatherall C (placement at NCHECR to commence in 2006). NHMRC Dora Lush Biomedical Research Scholarship 2006-2009, \$91,800.

## Other

Amin J. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine* Epidemiology Poster Prize.



# Personnel

This list includes both full time and part time staff. Activities listed in this report under *External boards, committees and advisory groups; Education and training; Publications and Presentations at conferences and meetings* relate only to individuals whose primary employment is with NCHECR.

## Director's office

### Director and Scientia Professor of Medicine

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

### Executive Assistant

Janette Button

## Deputy Director's office

### Deputy Director and Professor of Epidemiology

John Kaldor PhD

### Epidemiology Group Coordinator\*

Jennifer Kemp

### Administrative Assistants\*

Kate Chivers

Carol Harris (part time) (to August)

Amanda Scott BManagement (from March)

Julia Warning BSc(Hons) (part time) (from August)



Carol Harris, Amanda Scott, Kate Chivers, Jennifer Kemp

## Surveillance Program

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

## Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

### Head and Associate Professor

Sean Emery BSc(Hons), PhD

### Associate Professor

Jennifer Hoy MB BS, Grad Dip Epi Bio, FRACP (part time)

### Lecturers

Dianne Carey BPharm, MPH

Kate Clezy MB BS, FRACP (part time)

Fraser Drummond MB ChB, MRCA, DA (UK)

Paddy Mallon BSc(Hons), MB BCh, BAO

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

Rebekah Puls BSc(Hons), PhD

Alan Winston MB, ChB, MRCP (UK), DFFP, Dip GUM (to March)

### Senior Clinical Project Coordinators

Cate Carey RN, BA, MAppSc(Research)

Allison Humphries BSc, MSc(Med), Grad Dip PH (part time)

### Clinical Project Coordinators

David Courtney-Rodgers

Wilma Goodyear BN, RN (from August)

Sophie Gunn BA(Mod)(Hons) Microbiology, MSc Biotechnology, Dip Bus Studies (from April)

Mary Ellen Harrod BA, Grad Dip Psych (Hons) (from December)

Simone Jacoby BSc, Dip Nutrition, Adv Dip Bot Med

Susan Connor RN, RM, GradCert(Ortho) (to September)

Claudette Satchell BSc(Hons)

### Program Manager

Kirsten Bailey BA

### Data Managers

Kymme Courtney-Vega, Dip Sp Th

Wendy Lee

Robyn Munro

### Administrative Assistants

Margaret Allan BPsych (from October)

Emma Butler BA(Hons), MA (part time) (from October)

Alison Macdonald MCSP

Jennifer Tapp (to July)

Leeanne Thompson (to January)

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

## **HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program**

### **Head and Associate Professor**

Andrew Grulich MB BS, MSc, PhD, FAFPHM

### **Conjoint Professor**

Basil Donovan MB BS, MD, Dip Ven (Lond),  
FACHSHM, FAFPHM, FRCPI (part time) (from August)

### **Lecturers**

Marianne Jauncey BMed, Grad Dip App Epi,  
MPH(Hons), FAFPHM (part time) (from November)

Iona Millwood BA(Hons), PhD (part time)

Mary Poynten MB BS, Dip Child Health, MPH(Hons)  
(part time)

Garrett Prestage BA(Hons), PhD

### **Post Doctoral Research Fellow**

Claire Vajdic BOptom, PhD (part time)

### **Senior Research Officer**

Ann McDonald BSc, MPH

### **Research Assistants**

Lucette Cysique BSc(Hons), MA (part time) (to February)

Chris Lawrence MAppEpid (March to October)

Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH

Marina van Leeuwen BSc(Hons), MPH

### **Project Manager**

Brian Acraman

### **Study Nurses**

Leon Botes RN, MHS(Sexual Health), BCur(Ed & Ad),  
Dip N, Cert SH&V

Joanne Holden RN (part time) (from March to June)

Kim Scholey RN (part time) (from September)

Harry Smith MA (part time) (to January)

### **Project Officers**

Jack Bradley

Patrick McGrath BA, Dip Ed (part time)

Daniel O'Neill (part time) (to July)

Hédimo Santana BA(Hons)

### **Interviewers**

Eli Braga

Lara Cassar (from September)

Jon de Ruiter

Trevor Dougherty BA Media Communications (Hons)

Paul Kelly (from April to October)

Pól McCann BA(Hons)

Nick Cooper BA(Economics) BSocSci(Hons)  
(to October)

Grant Mistler (to July)

Greg Reading

John Redmond

Aurelio Vulcao (from July)

## **Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program**

### **Head and Associate Professor**

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

### **Lecturer**

Gail Matthews MBChB, MRCP (part time)

### **Post Doctoral Research Fellow**

Carolyn Day Bsc (Hons), PhD (part time)

### **Clinical Trials Manager**

Pip Marks BSc

### **Clinical Project Coordinators**

Deama Amr, BSc (Hons), PhD (from September)

Wen Cao BMed, MPH

Natalie Espinosa BAppSc, MHSc (from July)

Elizabeth Knight BSc, MPH

Suzanne Polis RN, BNursing, MPH (to February)

Angeline Premnath, BMedSc (to July)

Barbara Yeung RN, BHSc(Nursing), MPH

### **Research Assistants**

Therese Carroll BSc, MPH (from May)

Anna Doab RN, MPH

Rosie Thein MB BS, MPH (to October)

### **Administrative Assistants**

Victoria Lightfoot BSc (from May)

Virginia Macdonald BSc(Hons), PhD, MPHTM  
(to January)

## **Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program**

### **Head and Associate Professor**

Lisa Maher BA, MA, PhD

### **Surveillance Coordinator**

Jiong Li BSc, MPH, MSc, PhD (from August)

### **Project Coordinator**

Heidi Coupland BAppSc, MPH (part time) (from June)

Allison Salmon BPsych, MPH

### **Research Assistants**

Kathleen Glenday BAppSc, MPH (from July)

Swati Shourie BDSc, MDSc (to April)

Bethany White BA(Psych), MPH (to May)

## **Biostatistics and Databases Program**

### **Head and Senior Lecturer**

Matthew Law MA, MSc, PhD

### **Senior Lecturer**

John Murray BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD (part time)  
(from March)

### **Lecturers**

David Regan BA, BSc(Hons), PhD (from July)  
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

### **Computer Systems Officers**

Noorul Absar BTech, Grad Dip (Inf Sc),  
MComp (SW Engg)  
Rossitza Chevkenova BSc

## **Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program**

### **Head and Senior Lecturer**

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

### **Lecturers**

Mark Bloch MB BS, MMed (part time)  
Robert Finlayson MB BS, Dip Ven, FACVen (part time)  
Kersten Koelsch MD (to January)  
Robert Macfarlane MB BS, FRACGP (part time)  
Nicholas Medland MB BS, BA(Hons), Dip Ven  
(part time)  
Tim Ramacciotti BA(Hons), MD, MPH  
Norman Roth MB BS, Dip Av Med, Dip Ven,  
FACHSHM (part time)  
Nabila Seddiki PhD (from March)  
Cassy Workman MB BS (part time)

### **Clinical Project Coordinator**

Patricia Grey BA, Post Grad Dip App Sci, CNS,  
Dip (Counselling)

### **Research Assistants**

Mee-Ling Munier BSc, Grad Dip Epi, MSc (to March)  
Kellie Nallaiah BMedSc  
Susanna Ip BSc  
Ciara McGinley CertAppBio  
Rebecca Sedwell BSc (to November)  
Michelle Bailey (from November)

### **Data Administrator**

Ansari Shaik BA, MBA

### **Administrative Assistant**

Kylie Butson (to January)  
Susan Lewis MA (part time)  
Deborah Taylor BA

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

### **Chief Operations Officer**

Mark Sullivan BSc (to November)

## **Internationally-based staff**

### **Senior Lecturers**

Chris Duncombe MB BS, RAC GP (HIV-NAT, Thailand)  
Sarah Huffam MB BS, MPH&TM, FRACP, FACHSHM  
(NCHADS, Cambodia)  
Stephen Kerr BPharm(Hons), MPH, PhD (HIV-NAT,  
Thailand)

### **Lecturer**

Julian Elliott MB BS, FRACP (NCHADS, Cambodia)

### **Research Fellow**

\*Robert Oelrichs BMedSc, MB BS, MD, PhD  
(NCHADS, Cambodia)

### **Project Manager**

Jennifer Roberts M Intl Mgmt (NCHADS,  
Cambodia) (to March)

## **Finance and Administration**

### **Manager**

Bronwen Turner BA

### **Business Manager**

Annie Tung MPA

### **Finance Managers**

Gina Lam BA(Hons), EMBA (from December)  
Janette Murdoch (to October)  
Patricia Xu BEc, CPA

### **Librarian**

Coralie Kronenberg BA, Dip IM Lib, AALIA (part time)

### **Human Resources Advisor**

Penelope Lister BA, Grad Dip Jap, MAHRI (to June)  
Brigette Sharp BA (Hons) (from September)

### **Computer Systems Officers**

Lisa Howard Dip IT  
Charles Tran BCompSc

### **Finance Administrator**

Chloe Lin BSc, BComm, MComm (to October)

### **Office Administrator**

Yvette Toole



### **Administrative Assistants**

Courtney Bendall Dip Bus

Ian Brodie BEc, Grad Dip Ed, Ass Dip Hlth Sc

### **Receptionists**

John Redmond (part time)

Sarah Raymond (part time)



**Annie Tung, Chloe Lin, Courtney Bendall, Ian Brodie, Yvette Toole, Janette Button, Penelope Lister, Janette Murdoch, Sarah Raymond, Bronwen Turner, Patricia Xu**



# Researchers affiliated to NCHECR

## Visiting Professors

Alan Landay BSc, PhD (to June)  
Professor of Medicine and Associate Chairman  
Department of Immunology/Microbiology  
Rush Medical College, Chicago, USA

Peter McDonald AM, MB BS, FRCPA, FRACP, FASM  
Emeritus Professor  
Flinders University, Adelaide

## Senior Visiting Fellow

Philip Cunningham BAppSc(Med)  
Chief of Operations  
Centre for Immunology  
St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

## Visiting Fellows

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

Nick Crofts MB BS, MPH, FAFPHM  
Professor and Director  
Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Melbourne

Cathy Pell MB BS, MM  
Specialist General Practitioner  
Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney

Don Smith MB ChB, MD  
Associate Professor  
Head of Research Development  
Albion Street Centre, Sydney

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



# Training or student placements at NCHECR

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

Heidi Lim (from July to October)

## **Doctor of Philosophy students**

Palanee Ammaranond B Medtech, M Biotech  
(to October)

Suzie Hudson BSW, PG Cert Addictions, MSW  
(from July)

Jeff Jin BMed, MPH

Azar Kariminia BMedSc, MSc(RHS&HG) (from May  
to June)

Joanne Micallef BMedSc(Hons)

Mee-Ling Munier BSc, Grad Dip Epi, MSc (from March)

Fatemeh Nakhaee BSc, MSc

Karina Razali BSc(BioSc), MSc(EpiID)

Sarah Sasson BA, BSc(Hons) (from March)

Preeyaporn Srasuebkal BSc, MSc

David Templeton MBChB Dip Ven  
GradCertForensMed FACHSHM (from March)

Rosie Thein MB BS, MPH

David van Bockel BBiotech(Hons)

## **Fullbright Scholar**

Jonathan Volk BA(Psych) (University of California,  
USA) (to July)

## **Master of Applied Epidemiology (Indigenous Health) student**

Chris Lawrence (to March)

## **Master of Public Health by research student**

Wari Allison BSc(Hons), MB BS (from March)

Juliet Babirye MBChB (to June)

## **Medical Biotechnology Course student**

Veronica Canale (University of Padova, Italy)  
(from February)

## **NSW Health Department Trainee Biostatisticians**

Aarthi Ayyar BCom (from August)

Katrina Irvine BSc(Psych), MPsych(Org) (to February)



**Wari Allison, Fabrice Bonnet, Joanne Micallef, Jeff Jin,  
Fatemeh Nakhaee, Jonathan Volk, Preeyaporn Srasuebkul**

## **Pre Doctor of Philosophy practicum student**

Katherine Lau BSc (University of Malaya, Malaysia)  
(from September)

## **Visiting Fellow**

Fabrice Bonnet MD, PhD (Bordeaux University  
Hospital, France) (to October)



# Collaborating organisations

## National

Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs Australia (ANEX), Melbourne  
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney  
Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Primary Immunodeficiency Register, Sydney  
Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA), Adelaide  
Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Canberra  
Australian Centre for Hepatitis and HIV Virology Research (ACH2), UNSW, Sydney  
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 (AIVL), Canberra  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra  
Australian Liver Association, Sydney  
Australian National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Registry, Canberra  
Australian National University, 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  
HIV/AIDS Sexually Transmitted Infections Committee, Canberra  
Immunovirology Research Network (IVRN), UNSW, Sydney  
National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney  
National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology, Perth  
National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University, Canberra  
National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases, Sydney  
National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney  
National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW, Sydney  
National Serology Reference Laboratory, Australia, Melbourne  
Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), Canberra  
Phase Forward Pty Ltd, Sydney  
Therapeutic Goods Administration, Canberra

## Australian Capital Territory

ACT Corrective Services, Canberra  
ACT Health, Canberra  
AIDS Action Committee of the ACT, Canberra  
Canberra Sexual Health Clinic, Canberra  
Communicable Disease Control Program, ACT Health, Canberra  
Directions ACT, Canberra  
Interchange General Practice, Canberra  
John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra  
The Canberra Hospital, Canberra

## New South Wales

407 Doctors, Sydney  
Aboriginal Medical Service Coop Ltd, Sydney  
AIDS Council of NSW (ACON), Sydney  
AIDS Research Initiative, Sydney  
Albion Street Centre, Sydney  
Albury Base Hospital, Albury, NSW  
Albury Community Health Centre, Albury, NSW  
Area Public Health Units, NSW Health Department, Sydney  
Bankstown Community Health Centre, Sydney  
Bankstown Hospital, Sydney  
Bigge Park Medical Centre, Sydney  
Blacktown Community Health Centre, Sydney  
Bligh Street Clinic, Tamworth, NSW  
Blue Mountains Sexual Health Clinic, Katoomba, NSW  
Burwood Road General Practice, Sydney  
Campbelltown Health Services, Sydney  
Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice, Justice Health, NSW Health Department, Sydney  
Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney  
Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney  
Complex Systems in Biology, Centre for Vascular Research, UNSW, Sydney  
Concord Hospital, Sydney  
Corrections Health Service, Sydney  
Darlinghurst X-Ray, Sydney  
First Step Program, Port Kembla, NSW  
Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney  
General Medical Practice, Burwood, Sydney  
Harm Reduction Program, Sydney South West Area Health Service (Western Zone), NSW Health Department, Sydney  
Holden Street Clinic, Gosford, NSW  
Holdsworth House General Practice, Sydney  
Holdsworth House General Practice, Byron Bay, NSW

Hunter Valley Research Foundation, Newcastle, NSW  
Illawarra Sexual Health, Port Kembla, NSW  
Institute for Health Research, Sydney  
John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW  
Justice Health, NSW Health Department, Sydney  
K2 Health Service, Sydney  
Kirketon Road Centre, Sydney  
Lismore Sexual Health Clinic, Lismore, NSW  
Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic, Sydney  
Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Sydney  
Macquarie Sexual Health Centre, Sydney  
Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service, Sydney  
Needle and Syringe Program Services, Royal  
Newcastle Hospital, Newcastle, NSW  
Nepean Hospital, Sydney  
Nepean Sexual Health and HIV Clinic, Sydney  
NSW Health Department, Sydney  
NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV/AIDS, St  
Vincent's Hospital, Sydney  
NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA), Sydney  
People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Sydney  
Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney  
Resource and Education Program for Injecting Drug  
Users, Sydney  
Responsive User Services in Health (RUSH), Sydney  
Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney  
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney  
School of Medical Sciences, UNSW, Sydney  
School of Public Health and Centre for Health  
Services Research, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
School of Public Health and Community Medicine,  
UNSW, Sydney  
Sexual Health and Infectious Diseases Service  
(SHAIDS), Lismore, NSW  
Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Centre,  
Westmead Hospital, Sydney  
South Court Primary Care Needle and Syringe  
Program, Sydney  
St George Hospital, Sydney  
St Leonards Medical Centre, Sydney  
St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney  
St Vincent's Medical Imaging, Sydney  
Sydney Children's Hospital, Sydney  
Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, Sydney  
Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney  
Sydney West Area Health Service HIV/Hepatitis C  
Prevention Service, NSW Health Department, Sydney  
SydPath, Sydney  
Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney  
The Byrne Surgery, Sydney  
The Cancer Council NSW, Sydney  
The Cancer Institute NSW, Sydney  
The Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell  
Biology, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney

The City of Sydney Council, Sydney  
The Medical and Vein Centre, Coffs Harbour, NSW  
Westmead Hospital, Sydney  
Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research,  
Sydney  
Wollongong Hospital, Wollongong, NSW

## **Northern Territory**

Clinic 34, Darwin  
Communicable Disease Centre, Royal Darwin  
Hospital, Darwin  
Department of Correctional Services, Darwin  
Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council,  
Alice Springs, NT  
Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council, Darwin  
Palmerston Needle and Syringe Program,  
Palmerston, NT

## **Queensland**

AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health, Brisbane  
Biala Alcohol and Drug Services, Brisbane  
Blackall Terrace Specialist Centre, Nambour, Qld  
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, Brisbane  
Brunswick Street Medical Centre, Brisbane  
Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns, Qld  
Department of Corrective Services, Brisbane  
Gladstone Road Medical Centre, Brisbane  
Gold Coast Hospital, Southport, Qld  
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, Miami, Qld  
GRM International Pty Ltd, Brisbane  
Kobi House, Toowoomba, Qld  
Nambour General Hospital, Nambour, Qld  
Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane  
Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council,  
Brisbane  
Queensland AIDS Council (QAC), Brisbane  
Queensland Corrective Services Commission, Brisbane  
Queensland Health, Brisbane  
Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN),  
Brisbane  
Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN),  
Gold Coast, Qld  
Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN),  
Sunshine Coast, Qld  
Queensland Medical Laboratory (QML), Brisbane  
Queensland Positive People, Brisbane  
Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brisbane  
Sexual Health Service, Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns,  
Qld  
Southcoast Radiology, Pindara Hospital, Benowa, Qld  
Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services  
Limited, Townsville, Qld  
Townsville Hospital, Townsville, Qld  
West Moreton Sexual Health Service, Brisbane



## South Australia

AIDS Council of South Australia, Adelaide  
Clean Needle Program, Drug and Alcohol Services, Adelaide  
Clinic 275, Adelaide  
Flinders Clinical Trials Pharmacy, Adelaide  
Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide  
Hindmarsh Centre, Adelaide  
Infectious Diseases Laboratories, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide  
Nunkuwarrin Yunti Community Health Centre, Adelaide  
Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide  
SAVIVE Noarlunga, Community Health Centre, Adelaide  
SAVIVE Norwood, Darling House, Adelaide  
SAVIVE Parks, Parks Community Health Centre, Adelaide  
SAVIVE Port Adelaide, Port Adelaide Community Health Centre, Adelaide  
SAVIVE Shopfront, Adelaide  
Shopfront Youth Health and Information Services, Adelaide  
South Australian Prison Health Service, Adelaide  
The Care and Prevention Program, Adelaide University, Adelaide

## Tasmania

Devonport Needle Availability Program, Devonport, Tas  
Prison Health Services Tasmania, Hobart  
Public and Environmental Health, Launceston, Tas  
Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (TasCAHRD), Hobart  
Tasmanian Department of Community and Health Services, Hobart

## Victoria

Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre, Melbourne  
Austin Hospital, Melbourne  
Barwon Health, Geelong, Vic  
Box Hill Hospital, Melbourne  
CSIRO Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong, Vic  
Corrections Victoria, Department of Justice, Melbourne  
Department of Human Services, Melbourne  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne  
Dorevitch Pathology – Mayne Health, Melbourne  
Geelong Hospital, Geelong, Vic  
Health Information Exchange, Salvation Army, Melbourne  
Health Works, Melbourne  
La Trobe University, Melbourne

Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne  
Melbourne Inner City AIDS Prevention Centre (MINE), Melbourne  
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Melbourne  
Middle Park Clinic, Melbourne  
Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne  
Monash University, Melbourne  
Northcote Clinic, Melbourne  
People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Melbourne  
Positive Living Centre, Melbourne  
Prahran Market Clinic, Melbourne  
Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne  
Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne  
Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne  
School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne  
South East Alcohol and Drug Services, Outreach and Prevention Program, Melbourne  
Southern Hepatitis/HIV/AIDS Resource and Prevention Service (SHARPS), Melbourne  
St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne  
The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne  
The Carlton Clinic, Melbourne  
The Centre Clinic, Melbourne  
Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Melbourne  
Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre (GMHC), Melbourne  
Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Melbourne

## Western Australia

Centre for Clinical Immunology & Biomedical Statistics, Perth  
Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Department of Health, Perth  
Department of Health, Perth  
Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, Perth  
Fremantle Hospital, Perth  
Ministry of Justice, Strategic and Specialist Services Division, Perth  
Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Perth  
Royal Perth Hospital, Perth  
Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program, Department of Health, Perth  
Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth  
The University of Western Australia, Perth  
WA AIDS Council Mobile Exchange, Perth  
Western Australian AIDS Council, Perth  
Western Australian Substance Users Association, Perth and Bunbury, WA

## 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 Epidemiology Group, University of Otago Medical School, Dunedin, New Zealand
- American Foundation for AIDS Research (amFAR), New York, USA
- Asia Pacific Neuro AIDS Consortium (APNAC), Coordinating Unit, Sydney
- Aviano Cancer Centre, Aviano, Italy
- Bamrasnaradura Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand
- Beijing Ditan Hospital, Beijing, China
- British Columbia Cancer Registry, Vancouver, Canada
- Buddhachinnaraj Hospital, Phitsanulok, Thailand
- Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, Ottawa, Canada
- Canadian Trials Network (CTN), Vancouver, Canada
- Catalan Institute of Oncology, Barcelona, Spain
- Catedra de Enfermedades Infecciosas, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de la Republica, Montevideo, Uruguay
- Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California, San Francisco, USA
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, USA
- Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada, Ottawa, Canada
- Centre for Study and Prevention of Cancer, Florence, Italy
- 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
- Chonburi Regional Hospital, Chonburi, Thailand
- Christchurch Hospital, Christchurch, New Zealand
- Chulalongkorn Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand
- Columbia University, New York, USA
- Community Information and Epidemiological Technologies Group, Canada Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada
- Community Research Initiative of New England, Boston, USA
- Concerted Action on Seroconversion to AIDS and Death in Europe (CASCADE) and its contributors, Coordinating Unit, London, UK
- Copenhagen HIV Programme, Hvidovre University Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark
- David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, USA
- Denver Infectious Disease Consultants, Denver, USA
- Department of HIV/GUM Research, Brighton, UK
- Department of Maori and Pacific Health, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand
- Department of Preventative and Social Medicine, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand
- Division of Public Health and Psychosocial Studies, Auckland University of Technology, Auckland, New Zealand
- Division of Statistics, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA
- Faculty of Arts and Education, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada
- Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA
- Fundacion Arriaran, Santiago, Chile
- Fundacion Centro de Estudios Infectologicos (FUNCEI), Clinica La Sagrada Familia, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Geneva Hospital, Geneva, Switzerland
- German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany
- Hadassah Medical Centre, Jerusalem, Israel
- Harlem Hospital Centre, New York, USA
- Harvard University, Boston, 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 de Clinicas Jose de San Martin, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 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 General de Agudos Teodoro Álvarez, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 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 Rawson, Bajada Pucara, Argentina
- Hospital Universitario Clementino, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Hvidovre Hospital, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Infectologia Hospital Nacional Alejandro Posadas, Haedo, Argentina
- INSERM U593, Université Victor Segalen, Bordeaux, France
- International AIDS Society, Stockholm, Sweden
- International AIDS Therapy Evaluation Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- International Consortium of Investigators Working on Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Epidemiologic Studies, National Cancer Institute, Frederick, USA
- Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA

Kaplan Medical Centre, Rehovot, Israel  
 Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA  
 Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit, London, UK  
 Medizinische Universitätsklinik, Freiburg, Germany  
 Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok, Thailand  
 Montreal General Hospital, Montreal, Canada  
 Nakornping Hospital, Chiangmai, Thailand  
 National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD (NCHADS), Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
 National Center for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
 National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA  
 National Institute for Public Health, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA  
 National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA  
 National Pediatric Hospital, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
 Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, The National Institute of Research Excellence for Maori Development and Advancement, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand  
 Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK  
 Osaka National Hospital, Osaka, Japan  
 Partners AIDS Research Center, Boston, USA  
 Paediatric European Network for the Treatment of AIDS (PENTA), Coordinating Unit, London, UK  
 Perinatal HIV Prevention Trial Network, Thailand  
 Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hong Kong, China  
 Queen Sawangwattana Memorial Hospital, Sri Racha, Chonburi, Thailand  
 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  
 Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, USA  
 San Francisco General Hospital, San Francisco, USA  
 Sanpatong Hospital, Chiang Mai, Thailand  
 School of Medicine, Udayana University and Sanglah Hospital, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia  
 Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand  
 Srinagarind Hospital, Khon Kaen, Thailand  
 Social Health Clinic, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
 Swiss HIV Cohort Study Collaboration, Geneva, Switzerland  
 Taipei Veterans General Hospital and AIDS Prevention and Research Centre, National Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan  
 Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore, Singapore  
 Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Centre, Tel Aviv, Israel  
 Terry Beirn Community Programs for Clinical Research in AIDS (CPCRA), Washington, USA  
 Thai Red Cross Society, Chulalongkorn University Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand  
 The Government Pharmaceutical Organisation, Bangkok, Thailand  
 The Peter Medawar Building for Pathogen Research, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK  
 UNAIDS, Geneva, Switzerland  
 University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
 University of California, San Francisco, USA  
 University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA  
 University of Padua, Padua, Italy  
 University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA  
 University of Tokyo Institute of Medical Science, Tokyo, Japan  
 University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada  
 University of York, York, UK  
 Vaccine Research Centre, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA  
 Vajira Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand  
 Viral Epidemiology Section, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Frederick, USA  
 Waikato Hospital, Hamilton, New Zealand  
 Wellington Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand  
 Wetherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford, UK  
 World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland  
 World Health Organisation Western Pacific Regional Office, Manila, Philippines  
 Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, USA  
 Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan  
 YRG Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai, India

## **Pharmaceutical and biomedical industry**

Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd, Sydney  
 Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd, Sydney  
 Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd, Sydney  
 Chiron Therapeutics, Emeryville, USA  
 CSL Limited, Melbourne  
 Cytyc Corporation Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney  
 F Hoffman-La Roche Ltd, Basel, Switzerland  
 Gilead Sciences, Melbourne  
 GlaxoSmithKline Australia, Melbourne  
 Merck Research Laboratories, West Point, USA  
 Merck Sharp and Dohme, Sydney  
 Roche Diagnostics Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney  
 Roche Molecular Systems, Pleasanton, USA  
 Roche Products Pty Ltd, Sydney  
 Starpharma Holdings Ltd, Melbourne  
 Tibotec, Mechelen, Belgium  
 Virax Immunotherapeutics, Melbourne



# Advisory committees

## Scientific Advisory Committee

**Peter McDonald AM, MB BS, FRCPA, MRACP, FRACP, FASM (Chair)**  
Emeritus Professor, Flinders University, Adelaide

**Don Baxter BA, Dip Lib**  
Executive Director, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

**Terence Campbell AM, MD, PhD, FRACP, FACC**  
Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Medicine, UNSW, Sydney

**David Cooper AO, Bsc(Med), MB BS, MD, DSc, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP**  
NCHECR

**Stuart Loveday BCom**  
Vice President, Australian Hepatitis Council, Sydney

**Kerry Stubbs BA(Hons), MA(Hons), Grad Cert Writing, MAICD**  
Executive Director, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Daniel Tarantola MD**  
Professor of Health and Human Rights, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW, Sydney

**Bill Whittaker AM**  
Co-convenor, Health and Treatments Portfolio, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

## *Ex officio*

**Gayle Anderson BSc, Grad Dip Nut Diet, MHSc**  
Acting Director, HIV/AIDS and STIs Section, Targeted Prevention Programs Branch, Population Health Division, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

**John Kaldor PhD**  
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**Julianne Quaine BSc, Dip Nut Diet, Dip App Epi, MPH**  
Director, Hepatitis C Section, Targeted Prevention Programs Branch, Population Health Division, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

**Bronwen Turner BA**  
NCHECR

## Surveillance Committees

### Annual Surveillance Report Advisory Committee

**Margaret Young FAFPHM (Chair)**  
Public Health Medical Officer, Central Public Health Unit Network, Queensland Health, Bundaberg, Queensland

**Darrell Crawford MD, FRACP**  
Associate Professor and Staff Specialist, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane

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

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

**Brian Hughes FRACP, Dip SHM, FACHSHM**  
Representative, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine

**John Kaldor PhD**  
NCHECR

**Phillip Keen BA**  
HIV Educator, Gay Men, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations/National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS Education Team, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

**Kirsty Machon BAComm(Hons), MA, Grad Dip Arts**  
HIV Health Policy Officer, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

**Paul Magnus MB BS**  
Medical Adviser, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra

**Lisa Maher BA, MA, PhD**  
NCHECR

**Ann McDonald BSc, MPH**  
NCHECR

**Jeremy McAnulty MB BS, MPH**  
Director, Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney

**Tadhg McMahon**  
Manager, Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service, Sydney

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

**Cindy Shannon BA, Grad Dip Ed (Tert), MBA, DSocSc**  
Chair, Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis, Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Committee



**Helen Tyrrell RN, BA(Hons), MBA, FACHSE, CHE**  
Executive Officer, Australian Hepatitis Council,  
Canberra

**Russell Waddell MB BS, BSc, FChSHM**  
Clinic Manager, STD Services, Royal Adelaide  
Hospital, Adelaide

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

**Keflemariam Yohannes MAppdEpid, MTH**  
Epidemiologist, Biosecurity and Disease Control Branch,  
Population Health Division, Australian Government  
Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

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

### **National HIV Surveillance Committee\***

**Jeremy McAnulty MB BS, MPH (Chair)**  
Director, Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW  
Health Department, Sydney

**Mark Bartlett BSc, Dip Ed, RGN, MPH,  
Grad Dip App Epi**  
Senior Surveillance Officer, Communicable Diseases  
Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney

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

**Tess Davey Grad Dip (HealthCoun), Grad Dip Clin Epi**  
Manager, Surveillance Unit, STD Services, South  
Australian Health Commission, Adelaide

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

**Andrew Grulich MB BS, FRACP, MPH, PhD**  
NCHECR

**Rebecca Guy BAppSc (Med Lab Sc), MAE**  
Epidemiologist, Centre for Epidemiology and  
Population Health Research, Macfarlane Burnet Institute  
for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne

**John M Kaldor PhD**  
NCHECR

**Riemke Kampen RN, RM, BA (Asian Studies)**  
Manager, Disease Surveillance and Immunisation,  
Communicable Disease Control Section, ACT Health,  
Canberra

**Kirsty Machon BAComm(Hons), MA, Grad Dip Arts**  
HIV Health Policy Officer, National Association of  
People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

**Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH**  
NCHECR

**Jo Murray RN, RM, Grad Dip Nursing**  
Clinical Nurse Consultant, AIDS Medical Unit,  
Queensland Health, Brisbane

**Linda Selvey MB BS, PhD, FAFPHM**  
Executive Director, Public Health Services,  
Queensland Health, Brisbane

**Kevin Sesnan (from February)**  
Head, Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses Unit,  
Centre for Disease Control, Department of Health and  
Community Services, Darwin

**Cindy Shannon BA, Grad Dip Ed (Tert), MBA, DSocSc**  
Chair, Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS,  
Sexual Health and Hepatitis, Indigenous Australians'  
Sexual Health Committee

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

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

**Jeremy McAnulty MB BS, MPH (Chair)**  
Director, Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW  
Health Department, Sydney

**Mark Bartlett BSc, Dip Ed, RGN, MPH,  
Grad Dip App Epi**  
Surveillance Manager, Centre for Health Protection,  
NSW Health Department, Sydney

**Philip Clift (to August)**  
Manager, Blood-Borne Viruses/Sexually Transmissible  
Infections Program, Communicable Diseases Section,  
Department of Human Services, Melbourne

**David Coleman BSc(Hons), Dip App Sc (EnvHlth)  
(to August)**  
Scientific Officer, Communicable Diseases Surveillance,  
Department of Health and Human Services, Hobart

**Joy Copland MSc, MPH**  
Senior Policy Officer, STD Services, Royal Adelaide  
Hospital, Adelaide

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

**Michael Doyle**  
General Practitioners' Education and Training Project  
Officer, Aboriginal Health Council of Western  
Australia, Perth

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

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



**James Fielding BSc(Hons), Grad Dip Epi Biostat, MAppEpid (from August)**

Senior epidemiologist, Communicable Diseases Section, Department of Human Services, Melbourne

**Carolien Giele RN, RM, BSc(Hons), Grad Dip Clin Epi, MPH**

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

**Margaret Hellard MB BS, FRACP, PhD, FAFPHM**

Head, Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health Research, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne

**John Kaldor PhD**

NCHECR

**Riemke Kampen RN, RM, BA (Asian Studies)**

Manager, Disease Surveillance and Infection Control, Communicable Disease Control Section, ACT Health, Canberra

**Annie Madden**

Executive Officer, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, Canberra

**Lisa Maher PhD**

NCHECR

**Cate Mettam RGN, BNsg, Grad Dip PHC**

Senior Project Officer, Metropolitan Health Division, Department of Health, Adelaide

**Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH**

NCHECR

**Julianne Quaine BSc, Dip Nut Diet, Dip App Epi, MPH (from June)**

Director, Hepatitis C Section, Targeted Prevention Programs Branch, Population Health Division, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

**Linda Selvey MBBS, PhD, FAFPHM (from April)**

Executive Director, Public Health, Queensland Health, Brisbane

**Jiunn-Yih Su MB, MPH**

Surveillance Project Officer, Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses Unit, Centre for Disease Control, Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services, Darwin

**Kate Turner BSc, MPH (from August)**

Public Health Nurse, Public and Environmental Health Service, Communicable Disease Prevention Team, Department of Health and Human Services, Hobart

**Helen Tyrrell RN, BA(Hons), MBA, FACHSE, CHE**

Executive Officer, Australian Hepatitis Council, Canberra

**Keflemariam Yohannes MAppEpid, MTH**

Epidemiologist, Biosecurity and Disease Control Branch, Population Health Division, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

**Jiong Li PhD (Secretary) (from August)**

NCHECR

**Swati Shourie BDS, MDS (Secretary) (to June)**

NCHECR

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

**Russell Waddell MB BS, BSc, FACHSHM (Chair)**

Clinic Manager, STD Services, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide

**Jenny Atthowe BSc, MSc(Research)**

Senior Research Officer, Epidemiology and Surveillance Program, Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Department of Health, Perth

**Mark Bartlett BSc, Dip Ed, RGN, MPH, Grad Dip App Epi**

Surveillance Manager, Centre for Health Protection, NSW Health Department, Sydney

**Danny Csutoros MB BS, MPH**

Medical Adviser, Blood-Borne Viruses/Sexually Transmissible Infections Program, Communicable Diseases Section, Department of Human Services, Melbourne

**Tess Davey Grad Dip (HealthCoun), Grad Dip Clin Epi**

Manager, Surveillance Section, STD Services, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide

**Basil Donovan MB BS, MD, Dip Ven (London), FACHSHM, FAFPHM, FRCPI (from July)**

NCHECR

**Christopher Fairley MB BS, FRACP, FACHSHM, FAFPHM, PhD**

Professor of Sexual Health, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne;

Director, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Melbourne

**Janet Knox MB BS, MMed(STI/HIV), DTM&H, FACHSHM**

Sexual Health Physician, Holdsworth House Medical Practice, Byron Bay, NSW

**John M Kaldor PhD**

NCHECR

**Riemke Kampen RN, RM, BA (Asian Studies)**

Manager, Disease Surveillance and Immunisation, Communicable Disease Control Section, ACT Health, Canberra

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

**Gary Lum AM, BMedSc, MASM, MB BS, FRCPA, FACTM, MRACMA AFCHSE**  
Director of Pathology, Royal Darwin Hospital, Darwin;  
Director, Northern Territory Government Pathology Service, Darwin

**Maree O'Sullivan MB BS, Dip Ven, M Fam Med, MHSM**  
Director, Sexual Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, Hobart

**Linda Selvey MB BS, PhD, FAFPHM**  
Executive Director, Public Health Services, Queensland Health, Brisbane

**Kevin Sesnan (from February)**  
Head, Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses Unit, Centre for Disease Control, Department of Health and Community Services, Darwin

**Keflemariam Yohannes MAppdEpid, MTH**  
Epidemiologist, Biosecurity and Disease Control Branch, Population Health Division, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

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

**Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH (Secretary from November)**  
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, Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, 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

**Peter Collignon MB BS, BSc(Med), FRACP, FRCPA, FASM**  
Director, Infectious Diseases and Microbiology Department, Canberra Hospital, Canberra;  
Professor, Australian National University, Canberra

**Louise Cooley FRACP, FRCPA**  
Staff Specialist, Royal Hobart Hospital, Hobart

**Suzanne Crowe FRACP**  
Head, Pathogenesis and Clinical Research Program, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne;  
Professor of Medicine/Infectious Diseases, Monash University, Melbourne

**Martyn French MB ChB, MD, FRCPATH, FRCP, FRACP**  
Clinical Director, Department of Clinical Immunology and Biochemical Genetics, Royal Perth Hospital, Perth;  
Clinical Professor in Immunology, University of Western Australia, Perth

**Roger Garsia MB BS, PhD, FRACP, FRCPA**  
Senior Staff Specialist in Immunology and Allergy, Department of Clinical Immunology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney

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

**Patrick Hogan BSc, MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA**  
Director, Division of Immunology, Queensland Health Pathology Service, Brisbane

**John Kaldor PhD**  
NCHECR

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

**Gary Lum AM, BMedSc, MASM, MB BS, FRCPA, FACTM, MRACMA AFCHSE**  
Director of Pathology, Royal Darwin Hospital, Darwin;  
Director, Northern Territory Government Pathology Service, Darwin

**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 MD, PhD, MPH**  
Country Representative Cambodia, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne  
(Seconded to NCHECR, and based at National Institute for Public Health, Cambodia)

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

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

## **National Needle and Syringe Program Survey Advisory Group**

**Alex Wodak MB BS, MRACP, FRACP, MRCP, FAFPHM (Chair)**  
Director, Alcohol and Drug Service, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

**Danielle Bament BA, MPH**  
Manager, Clean Needle Program, Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia, Adelaide

**Tony Butler PhD**

Research Manager, Justice Health, Sydney

**Tracy Dobie (from July)**

Manager, Needle and Syringe and Pharmacy Program, Directions, Canberra

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

NCHECR

**Chrissie Hall-Pascoe (from July)**

Northern Regional Needle Availability Coordinator, Public and Environmental Health, Launceston, Tasmania

**Jenny Iverson BAppSc**

Senior Policy Analyst, Harm Minimisation, AIDS/Infectious Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney

**Roland Jauernig BA(Psych), MAppSc**

Manager, Victorian Needle and Syringe Program, Department of Human Services, Melbourne

**John Kaldor PhD**

NCHECR

**Robert Kemp**

Manager, Queensland Needle and Syringe Program, Queensland Health, Brisbane

**Stephen Lymb BA, Grad Dip Soc Sc**

Manager, Harm Reduction, Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia, Adelaide

**Lisa Maher BA, MA, PhD**

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1st International Workshop on Biomedical Interventions in HIV Therapy in Resource Poor Settings Scientific Committee

(John Kaldor)

1st International Workshop on Targeting HIV Entry Organising Committee

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3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment, Prevention Sciences, Scientific Programme Committee

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3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment, Clinical Sciences, Scientific Programme Committee

(David Cooper)

4th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment

(David Cooper, Local Conference Chair; John Kaldor, Deputy Local Conference Chair)

4th International Conference on Urban Health Scientific Advisory Committee

(Lisa Maher)

7th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV Organising Committee

(David Cooper)

8th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine Organising Committee

(David Cooper)

9th International Conference on Malignancies in AIDS and Other Acquired Immunodeficiencies, Basic, Epidemiologic and Clinical Research Organising Committee

(Andrew Grulich)

15th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm Scientific Program Committee

(Lisa Maher)

Acute Infection and Early Disease Research Program, Pathogenesis Working Group

(Anthony Kelleher)

Acute Infection and Early Disease Research Program, PHAEDRA Steering Committee

(Anthony Kelleher)

Acute Infection and Early Disease Research Program, Structured Treatment Interruptions Trial Steering Committee

(Anthony Kelleher)

AIDS Council of New South Wales Board

(Garrett Prestage)

AIDS Council of New South Wales, HIV and Sexually Transmissible Infections Working Group

(Garrett Prestage)

AIDS Editorial Board

(Andrew Grulich)

amfAR TREAT Asia Steering Committee

(David Cooper, Greg Dore)

AusAID Indonesia HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project Phase II, Technical Advisory Team

(John Kaldor)

Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine, Chapter Committee

(Adrian Dunlop)

Australasian Health & Research Data Managers Association Education Subcommittee

(Pip Marks)

Australasian Health & Research Data Managers Association Executive Committee

(Elizabeth Knight, Pip Marks)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Antiretroviral Guidelines Panel

(Fraser Drummond)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, International Standing Committee

(John Kaldor)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, National Clinical Subcommittee

(Fraser Drummond)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, National Committee

(Andrew Grulich, immediate past President)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, NSW Hepatitis C Prescriber Trial Clinical Subcommittee

(Greg Dore)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Standing Committee on Viral Hepatitis

(Greg Dore, Chair; Lisa Maher)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Treatment Subcommittee

(Fraser Drummond)

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, HIV Vaccine Policy Reference Group

(Andrew Grulich)

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Indigenous Injecting Drug User Project Reference Group

(Lisa Maher)

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Chlamydia Program Implementation Committee  
(Andrew Grulich)

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, HIV Testing Review Committee  
(Andrew Grulich)

Cambodian National Continuum of Care Technical Working Group  
(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)

Central Australian Disease Control Coordinating Committee, STD/HIV Subcommittee  
(John Kaldor)

Central Sydney Area Health Service, Vietnamese Health Promotion Project Reference Group  
(Lisa Maher)

Centre for Culture and Health Advisory Committee  
(Lisa Maher)

Cochrane Collaborative Review Group on HIV infection and AIDS, Biomedical Interventions  
(John Kaldor, Reviews Editor)

Communicable Diseases Intelligence Editorial Board  
(John Kaldor)

Communicable Diseases Network Australia  
(John Kaldor)

Comprehensive International Program for Research on AIDS (CIPRA) HIV Research Program in Thailand and Cambodia International Steering Committee  
(David Cooper, John Kaldor)

Criminal Justice Editorial Board  
(Lisa Maher)

Current HIV/AIDS Reports Editorial Board  
(David Cooper, Honorary Member)

Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS Editorial Board  
(John Kaldor)

Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS  
(David Cooper, Co-Editor)

Victorian Government Department of Human Services, Victoria, Tender Evaluation Panel for 'The Development, Implementation and Evaluation of a Sentinel Surveillance System for Chlamydia, HIV and Hepatitis C in Victoria'  
(John Kaldor)

Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre, Alcohol and Other Drug Use in Six Non-English Speaking Background Communities Project Reference Group  
(Lisa Maher)

Drug and Alcohol Review Editorial Board  
(Lisa Maher)

eJournal of the International AIDS Society Editorial Board  
(John Kaldor)

ESPRIT Executive Committee  
(Sean Emery)

ESPRIT Toxicity Committee  
(Sarah Pett)

Faculty of Medicine Research Committee, Bachelor of Science (Medicine) Subcommittee  
(Greg Dore)

Harm Reduction Journal Editorial Board  
(Lisa Maher)

Hepatitis C Council of NSW Medical Research Advisory Panel  
(Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

Immunovirology Research Network Steering Committee  
(Anthony Kelleher)

Improving Indigenous Identification in Communicable Disease Reporting Project Working Group  
(John Kaldor, Chair)

INITIO Immunology Sub Study Steering Committee  
(Anthony Kelleher)

INITIO Trial Writing Committee  
(Dianne Carey)

Institute for Health Research Scientific and Program Advisory Committee  
(Lisa Maher)

International Consortium of Investigators Working on Lymphoma Epidemiologic Studies (InterLymph), Infectious Diseases Subcommittee  
(Andrew Grulich, Co-Chair)

Johnson & Johnson Institutional Biosafety Committee  
(Anthony Kelleher)

Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes Editorial Board  
(David Cooper)

Journal of Drug Issues Editorial Board  
(Lisa Maher)

Journal of HIV Medicine Editorial Board  
(Andrew Grulich)

Journal of HIV Therapy, Current Trends Advisory Board  
(David Cooper)

Law and Sexworker Health (LASH) Core Committee  
(John Kaldor)

Lotus House Management Committee  
(Lisa Maher, President)

Microbicides for Prevention of HIV Transmission:  
Current and Future Perspectives Symposium  
Organising Committee  
(John Kaldor)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual  
Health and Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and Sexually  
Transmissible Infections Subcommittee  
(Andrew Grulich)

Hepatitis C Virus Projections Working Group  
(John Kaldor, Matthew Law)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual  
Health and Hepatitis, Indigenous Australians' Sexual  
Health Committee  
(John Kaldor)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual  
Health and Hepatitis, Hepatitis C Subcommittee  
(Greg Dore)

Monitoring the AIDS Pandemic Steering Committee  
(John Kaldor)

National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD,  
Steering Committee for Cambodian Treatment Access  
Program (CTAP) and AusAID funded HIV projects  
(David Cooper, John Kaldor)

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 Health and Medical Research Council,  
Large Scale Clinical Trials Committee  
(Sean Emery)

National Health and Medical Research Council,  
Special Expert Committee on Transmissible  
Spongiform Encephalopathies (SECTSE)  
(John Kaldor)

National Health and Medical Research Council,  
Special Expert Committee on Transmissible  
Spongiform Encephalopathies (SECTSE), Working  
Group on Biostate  
(John Kaldor)

National Health and Medical Research Council,  
Special Expert Committee on Transmissible  
Spongiform Encephalopathies (SECTSE), Working  
Group on Blood Matters  
(John Kaldor, Matthew Law)

National Influenza Pandemic Action Committee,  
Antivirals and Clinical Trials Working Group  
(John Kaldor, Matthew Law)

National Surveillance Committee  
(Ann McDonald)

Non-English Speaking Background Needle and  
Syringe Program Advocacy Project Reference Group  
(Lisa Maher)

NSW Department of Corrective Services Ethics  
Committee  
(John Kaldor)

NSW Health Department, NSW Multi-Resistant  
Organism Expert Group  
(John Kaldor)

NSW Health Department, HIV Health Promotion  
Committee  
(Andrew Grulich, Chair)

NSW Health Department, Medically Supervised  
Injecting Centre Evaluation Advisory Committee  
(John Kaldor)

NSW Health Department, Sexually Transmissible  
Infections Strategy Subcommittee  
(Andrew Grulich)

NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hepatitis  
(Greg Dore)

NSW Ministry for Science and Medical Research,  
National Clinical Research Forum Planning Committee  
(Anthony Kelleher)

People Living with HIV/AIDS NSW Board Advisory  
Group  
(Garrett Prestage)

PULSE Steering Committee  
(Anthony Kelleher)

Repatriation Medical Authority  
(John Kaldor)

Review of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood  
Borne Virus Management and Prevention in the  
Northern Territory Steering Committee  
(John Kaldor)

Sexual Health Editorial Board  
(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

Sexual Health  
(David Cooper, Joint Editor)

Sexually Transmitted Infections Editorial Board  
(David Cooper)

SILCAAT Executive Committee  
(Sean Emery)

SILCAAT Toxicity Committee  
(Sarah Pett)

SMART Anal Dysplasia Substudy Team  
(Fraser Drummond)

SMART Body Composition Substudy Team  
(Fraser Drummond)

SMART Executive Committee  
(David Cooper, Fraser Drummond, Sean Emery)

SMART Neurology Substudy Team  
(Fraser Drummond)

SMART Protocol Team  
(Fraser Drummond)

St Vincent's Hospital Campus Institutional Biosafety Committee  
(Anthony Kelleher)

St Vincent's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee  
(Matthew Law)

St Vincent's Hospital Intellectual Property Committee  
(Sean Emery)

Steering Committee for NHMRC grant under the International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership  
(John Kaldor)

The 45 and Up Study, Cancer Theme Committee  
(Andrew Grulich)

The Cabinet Office NSW, Monitoring Committee of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre  
(John Kaldor)

HIV Netherlands, Australia, Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT)  
(David Cooper, Co-Director)

The University of Sydney, Corrections Health Service and NSW Department of Juvenile Justice Breaking the Juvenile Crime Cycle: Rehabilitating High Risk Young Offenders Reference Group  
(John Kaldor)

The University of Sydney, School of Health Information Management External Advisory Committee  
(Pip Marks)

TREAT Asia Steering Committee  
(David Cooper)

UNAIDS Asia Regional Consultation Ethical Issues and Community Involvement in Prevention Research Trials  
(John Kaldor)

UNSW Faculty of Medicine, Faculty Research Grants Committee  
(Lisa Maher)

UNSW Human Research Ethics Advisory Panel: Medical/Community  
(Greg Dore, Lisa Maher)

UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Research Degree Committee  
(Lisa Maher)

UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Research Development Committee  
(Lisa Maher)

Victorian Government Department of Human Services, Drugs of Dependence Advisory Committee  
(Adrian Dunlop)

Vietnamese Australian Buddhist Assistance Trust Management Committee  
(Lisa Maher)

Vision Cooperative Research Centre and Institute for Eye Research Human Ethics Committee  
(Claire Vajdic)

World Health Organisation-UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Advisory Committee  
(David Cooper, Chair)



## Consulting

Cotrimoxazole prophylaxis in HIV infection,  
World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland  
Chris Duncombe

Heptitis B in the Asia-Pacific Region, Janssen-Cilag  
Pty Ltd, Auckland, New Zealand  
John Kaldor

National buprenorphine guidelines,  
Intergovernmental Committee on Drugs, Canberra  
Adrian Dunlop

National clinical guidelines for managing drug use  
during pregnancy, birth and the early development  
years of the newborn, Intergovernmental Committee  
on Drugs, Canberra  
Adrian Dunlop

Pacific Regional Training Workshop on HIV Care and  
Treatment, World Health Organisation, Suva, Fiji  
Paddy Mallon

Progress in prevention and care in the context of  
the 3 by 5 initiative and the perspective of universal  
access in the Western Pacific Region, UNAIDS and  
World Health Organisation, Manilla, Philippines  
Chris Duncombe

Second generation HIV surveillance in the Pacific,  
World Health Organisation and The Global Fund to  
Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Nadi, Fiji  
Lisa Maher





# Education and training

## Students supervised or co-supervised by NCHECR personnel

Supervisor(s) in brackets

Activities of students whose primary supervisor is an NCHECR staff member are listed in this report under *External boards, committees and advisory groups; Education and training; Publications and Presentations at conferences and meetings.*

### Bachelor of Medical Science (Honours) awarded

#### Heidi Lim

Effect of nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors on adipocyte mitochondrial function  
(Paddy Mallon, Anthony Kelleher)

### Bachelor of Medicine candidates (Year 5 elective term supervision)

#### Jason Chan

The incidence and predictors of nevirapine association hypersensitivity in a Thai HIV infected population  
(Chris Duncombe)

#### Zewlan Moor

The incidence and predictors of nevirapine association hypersensitivity in a Thai HIV infected population  
(Chris Duncombe)

### Doctor of Medicine candidate

#### Gail Matthews

Therapeutic strategies in HIV/viral hepatitis coinfection  
(Greg Dore)

#### Sarah Pett

Aspects of HIV-1 treatment: An exploration of the positive and negative physiological aspects of host-directed treatments for HIV-1 infection  
(Sean Emery)

### Doctor of Philosophy awarded

#### Palanee Ammaranond

Evolution of HIV in response to therapeutic and immune mediated pressures  
(Anthony Kelleher, David Cooper)

### Doctor of Philosophy candidates

#### Janaki Amin

Hepatitis B and C disease progression  
(Matthew Law, Greg Dore)

#### Mark Boyd

The efficacy, toxicity, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and pharmacogenomics of indinavir-containing antiretroviral therapy in adult Thai HIV-infected subjects  
(David Cooper)

#### Michael Burke

Factors influencing participation in prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV programs in Tanzania, East Africa  
(John Kaldor)

#### Dianne Carey

Optimising HIV therapies  
(Sean Emery)

#### Oliver Distler

Molecular and cellular mechanisms for HIV protease inhibitor associated hyperlipidaemia  
(David Cooper)

#### Adrian Dunlop

Treatment for Vietnamese heroin users with new opioid pharmacotherapies  
(Lisa Maher)

#### Katie Edwards

Epidemiological studies of contact lens related infection  
(John Kaldor)

#### Julian Elliott

Expanded use of antiretroviral therapy in resource limited settings  
(John Kaldor)

#### Rachel Green (Curtin University)

Ethnography and epidemiology of drug use  
(Lisa Maher)

#### Peter Higgs (Monash University)

Factors influencing hepatitis C infection among ethnic Vietnamese heroin injectors  
(Lisa Maher)

#### Hien Thi Ho

Cultural influences on risk behaviours and anti-HIV and hepatitis C virus seroprevalence in ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users in Australia  
(Lisa Maher)

#### Suzie Hudson

Improving understanding of psychostimulant-related harms in Australia: Experiences of street sex workers who inject psychostimulants  
(Lisa Maher)

**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**

Clinical and molecular aspects of HIV-associated lipodystrophy  
(David Cooper, Anthony 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)

**Mee-Ling Munier**

CD4 T-cells in primary HIV infection  
(Anthony Kelleher)

**Fatemeh Nakhaee**

Modelling survival following HIV and AIDS in Australia in the era of HAART  
(Matthew Law)

**Van Thi Thuy Nguyen**

Hepatitis B natural history and liver disease burden among Vietnamese populations in Thai Binh province and Australia  
(Greg Dore, Matthew Law)

**Meredith Nirui**

The health and wellbeing of homeless women and their accompanying children  
(Lisa Maher)

**Kathy Petoumenos**

The Australian HIV Observational Database  
(Matthew Law, John Kaldor)

**Farhad Pourfazi**

The influence of environmental risk factors on gastric cancer in North West of Iran – Ardabil Province  
(John Kaldor)

**Mary Poynten**

Biological and behavioural methods of prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission  
(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

**Karina Razali**

Estimates and projections of HIV and hepatitis C virus in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region  
(Matthew Law, John Kaldor)

**Allison Salmon**

Establishing the efficacy of health and psycho-social services and drug treatment referrals provided via a medically supervised injecting centre in Kings Cross, Sydney  
(Lisa Maher, John Kaldor)

**Sarah Sasson**

Dysregulation of the IL-7/R system in HIV-1 infection and implications for T-cell homeostasis  
(Anthony Kelleher)

**Preeyaporn Srasuebkul**

Evaluating CD4 cell count and HIV viral load monitoring strategies in patients commencing antiretroviral treatment  
(Matthew Law)

**David Templeton**

Sexually transmitted infections in homosexual men  
(Andrew Grulich)

**Rosie Thein**

Measuring the health burden of hepatitis C at an individual and population level in Australia  
(Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

**David van Bockel**

Comparison within long term non-progressors of T-cell factors contributing to control of viral infection  
(Anthony Kelleher)

**John Zaunders**

Effect of primary HIV-1 infection on subsets of CD4+ and CD8+ T lymphocytes  
(David Cooper, Anthony Kelleher)

**Jialun Zhou**

HIV/AIDS natural history and treatment in the Asia-Pacific region: TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database  
(Matthew Law, Greg Dore)

**Master of Applied Epidemiology (Indigenous Health) awarded**

**Chris Lawrence (Australian National University)**  
(John Kaldor, Andrew Grulich)

**Master of Biomedical Science by research awarded (practicum supervision)**

**Sandra Klijn (Vrije University, The Netherlands)**  
The impact of medical care on people living with HIV/AIDS enrolled in clinical trials at HIV-NAT  
(Chris Duncombe)

**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)

**Master of Health Science (Sexual Health) awarded****Jeff Hudson (The University of Sydney)**

Married men who have sex with men: Exploring a landscape model of fluid sexuality

(Garrett Prestage)

**Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV) awarded (treatise supervision)****Nurlan Silitonga (The University of Sydney)**

Trends in the prevalence of gonorrhoea and the condom use pattern among female sex workers first attending STD clinic in the mining town, Timika, West Papua, Indonesia 1997-2002

(John Kaldor)

**Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV) candidate (treatise supervision)****Mwadi Kakoma (The University of Sydney)**

The clinical correlations of lopinavir trough plasma concentrations with adverse events and concomitant medication use

(Dianne Carey)

**Master of Public Health by research awarded****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 by research candidates****Wari Allison**

Establishing an observational database on paediatric antiretroviral therapy in developing countries

(John Kaldor)

**Juliet Babirye**

The role of infant feeding counselling in prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Uganda

(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

**Adeeba Kamarazulman**

Natural history of HIV/AIDS

(Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

**Master of Public Health major project awarded****Robert Oelrichs**

Implementing a quality management system in a public health laboratory in Cambodia

(John Kaldor)

**Bethany White**

Prevalence of injecting drug use and associated risk behaviour among regular ecstasy users

(Carolyn Day)

**Course coordination**

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: Australian and International Responses, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney

(Greg Dore)

National Institutes of Health Regional Physicians HIV Training Course, 8th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine, Bangkok, Thailand

(Chris Duncombe)

Rational Drug Use, Doctor of Philosophy Program in Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

(Stephen Kerr)

**Teaching**

Advanced Day Course in Hepatitis C (s100

Community Prescribing Pilot), Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney

(Greg Dore, Gail Matthews)

Advanced HIV Infection, Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney

(Anthony Kelleher)

Advanced HIV Nursing Course, Albion Street Centre, Sydney

(Dianne Carey)

An epidemiological approach to the critical appraisal of clinical evidence, short courses to the pharmaceutical industry, Sydney/Melbourne

(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

Deviance, Bachelor of Arts, UNSW, Sydney

(Garrett Prestage)

Drug Intervention Training in Australia, Indonesian-Australian Specialised Training Project, The University of New South Wales and Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Sydney

(John Kaldor)

Epidemiology for Public Health, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney

(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

ESPRIT and SILCAAT Regulatory Training, ESPRIT and SILCAAT Regional Coordinating Centre, Sydney

(David Courtney-Rodgers)

Global Perspectives on HIV/AIDS, Master of International Public Health, The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Sean Emery, John Kaldor)

HIV/AIDS: Australian and International Responses, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney  
(Dianne Carey, Greg Dore, Sean Emery, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor, David van Bockel)

HIV Medicine Interactive Session (St Vincent's Hospital), Year 6 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(David Cooper)

Immunology 1, Bachelor of Science, UNSW, Sydney  
(Anthony Kelleher)

Immunology 2, Bachelor of Science, UNSW, Sydney  
(Anthony Kelleher)

International Health, Year 4 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(Andrew Grulich)

International Short Course in HIV Medicine, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Hobart  
(Sarah Huffam)

Introduction to Clinical Pharmacology, Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Dianne Carey)

Introductory Program to HIV and Viral Hepatitis, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney  
(Greg Dore)

Population Health and Community Medicine, Year 4 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(Lisa Maher)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Hepatitis C, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney  
(Greg Dore)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Infection Control, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney  
(Dianne Carey, Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Ophthalmology, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney  
(John Kaldor)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Sexual Health and Venereology, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney  
(Janaki Amin, Dianne Carey, Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

Public Health Aspects of HIV/AIDS, Master of Public Health/Master of International Public Health/Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Andrew Grulich)

Public Health Aspects of STDs, Master of Public Health/Master of International Public Health/Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney  
(Greg Dore, John Kaldor, Matthew Law)

Short Course in HIV Medicine, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney  
(Dianne Carey, Sean Emery, Sarah Pett)

Short Course in HIV Medicine, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Hobart  
(Dianne Carey, Paddy Mallon)

Short Course in HIV Medicine for Pharmaceutical Industry, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine and AIDS Treatment Project Australia, Sydney  
(Dianne Carey, Sean Emery, Ann McDonald, Paddy Mallon)

Short Course in HIV Medicine for Pharmaceutical Industry, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine and AIDS Treatment Project Australia, Melbourne  
(Paddy Mallon)

Social Health Clinic Training Program, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
(David Cooper, Julian Elliott, Sarah Huffam, John Kaldor, Lisa Maher, Kathy Petoumenos)

The HIV pandemic and global healthcare, Master of International Affairs, Columbia University, New York, USA  
(John Kaldor)

Training in Sexually Transmitted Infections, Family Health International, Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
(Sarah Huffam)

Update on contemporary HIV issues for nurses working in HIV medicine, HIV and Hepatitis C Education Projects, The University of Queensland, Brisbane  
(John Kaldor)

Viruses and Disease, Bachelor of Science, UNSW, Sydney  
(Joanne Micallef)

## Tutoring

Clinical and Communications Skills (Prince of Wales Hospital), Phase 1 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(Kate Clezy)

Clinical Medicine (St Vincent's Hospital), Year 3 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(Fraser Drummond)

Clinical Medicine (St Vincent's Hospital), Year 4 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney  
(Anthony Kelleher)

Health Maintenance 2, Phase 1 Medicine,  
UNSW, Sydney  
(Joanne Micallef)

Statistics for Public Health, Master of Public Health,  
UNSW, Sydney  
(Julian Zhou)

Viruses and Disease, Bachelor of Science,  
UNSW, Sydney  
(Joanne Micallef)





# Funding for 2005

All amounts listed are in Australian dollars.

Names of funding organisations are as specified at the time the funding agreement commenced.

## Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing core grant

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing provided an allocation in 2005 to fund the activities and administration of NCHECR.

Core allocation	3,624,480
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## Other Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing grants

Hepatitis C surveillance and research activities	258,183
Identification of best practice for nucleic acid amplification testing for <i>Neisseria gonorrhoea</i>	7,273
Survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men who have sex with men in Queensland	6,613

## Other grants and contracts from public sources

AIDS Council of New South Wales	9,091
American Foundation for AIDS Research: TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database	408,159
AusAID: Cambodia HIV/AIDS antiretroviral therapy project	100,213
European Medicines Evaluation Agency: Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs Study	41,648
Family Health International: Tenofovir prevention study	262,722
Institute for Health Research: Career Development Award for Chris Lawrence	30,000
Medical Research Council, UK	
Immune restoration disease in INITIO trial patients	118,555
INITIO Study	246,526
*INITIO Study – Lipodystrophy Substudy	50,668
SPARTAC Study	23,492
NHMRC	
Causes of mortality following imprisonment in NSW	68,500
Public Health (Australia) Fellowship for Caroline Day	66,000
Public Health (Australia) Fellowship for Claire Vajdic	23,100
The role of resiliency in responding to blood-borne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Indigenous communities	15,000
NHMRC Program Grant Subcontract	
Curtin University: Improving understanding of psycho stimulant-related harms in Australia	27,310
The University of Melbourne: HIV infection – immunology and vaccine design	295,911
NSW Health Department	
Evaluation of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre Phase 2	215,500
Expert services in HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible diseases	225,000
Health in Men (HIM) HIV vaccine preparedness cohort study – Extension of the HIM cohort	122,652
Health in Men (HIM) HIV vaccine preparedness cohort study – Project Officer	104,288
New South Wales client census survey	27,163
Research and development infrastructure grant program	464,845

## Other grants and contracts from public sources (...continued from previous page)

The Cancer Council of NSW: Cancer in dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients	27,500
University of Minnesota: SILCAAT Study	403,051
US National Institutes of Health	
HIV Vaccine Design and Development Team contract	1,737,007
Longitudinal cohort of newly acquired hepatitis C infection	376,760
Protease Inhibitor Related Atherosclerosis in HIV	256,471
US National Institutes of Health subcontracts	
Massachusetts General Hospital : AIEDRP Study	949,582
Social and Scientific Systems: SMART Study	716,399
University of California San Francisco: Phase 1/11 trial of pharmacological HIV-1 prevention	172,974
University of Minnesota: ESPRIT Study	1,109,931
University of Minnesota: STALWART Study	32,609

## Pharmaceutical industry funding

Abbott Australia Ptd Ltd	30,000
Boehringer-Ingelheim Pty Ltd	97,732
Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals (Australia)	657,276
CSL Research and Development	28,582
Gilead Sciences Inc	142,312
GlaxoSmithKline Research and Development (Australia)	73,607
Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd	44,478
Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd	110,804
Merck Sharp & Dohme	78,305
Pfizer Inc	57,327
F Hoffman-La Roche Ltd (Switzerland)	968,296
Roche Products Pty Ltd (Australia)	559,564
Virax Immunotherapeutic Pty Ltd	45,200

\* Industry funds administered through publicly-funded agencies



**Bronwen Turner, Annie Tung**



# Disclosure of financial and other relationships with industry

As noted under *Funding for 2005* (see page 77), NCHCR 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 2005.

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 NCHCR's research program during 2005.

Abbreviated forms of the company names have been used for ease of recognition.

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**David Cooper**

Abbott  
Avexa  
Biogen Idec  
Boehringer-Ingelheim  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Gilead  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Incyte  
Johnson & Johnson  
LTB4 Sweden  
Merck  
Pfizer  
Primagen  
Roche  
Schering-Plough  
Virax

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**Greg Dore**

Gilead  
Roche  
Schering-Plough

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**Fraser Drummond**

GlaxoSmithKline

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**Chris Duncombe**

Johnson & Johnson  
Organon  
Roche

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**John Kaldor**

Janssen-Cilag

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**Anthony Kelleher**

Merck  
Virax

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**Andrew Grulich**

CSL  
Gilead

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**Paddy Mallon**

Abbott  
Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Gilead  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Merck  
Roche

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**Sarah Pett**

Biogen Idec  
Gilead  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Merck  
Roche

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**Alan Winston**

Bristol-Myers Squibb  
Gilead

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# Presentations at conferences and meetings

## Conference oral presentations\*

**Amin J, Law MG, Bartlett M, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ.**

Causes of death in people with hepatitis B or C infection: A population based cohort study. *Australian Gastroenterology Week 2005*. Brisbane.

**Amin J, Law MG, Bartlett M, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ.**

Causes of death in people with hepatitis B or C infection: A population based cohort study. *The Liver Meeting – 57th Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases*. San Francisco, USA.

**Ammaranond P, Petoumenos K, Middleton MG,**

Anderson B, Doong NC, Finlayson R, Kelly M, McMurchie M, Price R, **Cooper DA, Kaldor JM, Kelleher AD** on the behalf of the LTNP Study Group. The escape mutation in HLA-B27 positive individuals predicts viral load outcome. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Cooper DA.** Management of virological failure. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Cooper DA.** New drugs in development. *8th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine*. Bangkok, Thailand.

**Cooper DA, Yeni P.** Virological and immunological outcomes at three years following initiation of antiretroviral therapy with regimens containing a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor or protease inhibitor or both: The INITIO trial. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.

**Coupland H, Maher L, Ho H, Pham A.** Barriers to hepatitis C treatment uptake in Indo-Chinese injecting drug users. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Degenhardt L, **Day C**, Conroy E, Gilmour S, Weatherburn D. Examining links between injecting cocaine use and street based sex work in NSW, Australia. *16th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm*. Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**Doab A, Day C, Treloar C, Matthews GV, Dore GJ.**

Hepatitis C treatment for injecting drug users: Knowledge, barriers, attitudes and advances. *16th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm*. Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**Dore GJ.** Decision making in hepatitis C treatment. *13th National Haemophilia Conference*. Melbourne.

**Dore GJ.** Natural history of hepatitis C virus and HIV/hepatitis C coinfection. *13th National Haemophilia Conference*. Melbourne.

**Dore GJ, Hellard M, Haber P, Day C, Kaldor JM.**

Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC): Baseline characteristics and early virological response. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2005 Conference*. Melbourne.

**Dore GJ, Hellard M, Haber P, Marks P, Matthews GV,**

**Yeung B, Nguyen O, Pan Y, French R, McCaughan G, White P, Rawlinson W, Lloyd A, Kaldor JM** for the ATAHC Protocol Steering Committee. Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC): Baseline characteristics and early virological response. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Drummond F.** When to commence antiretroviral therapy (in established HIV infection). *1st Australasian Consensus Conference on the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-1 Infected Adults*. Hobart.

**Drummond F, Neuhaus J, Hoy J** on behalf of the SMART Protocol Team. The SMART (Strategies for Management of Antiretroviral Therapy) Study: Enrolment update, risks for cardiovascular disease and adherence to strategy. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Duncombe C, Kerr SJ, Avihingsanon A, Ananworanich J, Boyd M, Sopa B, Cooper DA, Lange J, Phanuphak P, Ruxrungtham K** for the HIV-NAT Study Group. Dyslipidaemia in an Asian population following treatment for two years with five different protease inhibitor containing regimens: The HIV-NAT cohort. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.

**Dunlop A.** Neonatal withdrawal in the antipodes: Management of neonatal abstinence syndrome in Australia. *67th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College of Problems on Drug Dependence*. Orlando, USA.

Dwyer DE, Workman C, **Amin J, Connor S, Emery SE, Hales G, Miller J, Cooper DA** on behalf of the Alliance Study investigators. Final results from the Alliance Study (ML16992) – A 96 week, open-label study to describe the efficacy and safety of enfuvirtide in patients changing therapy to an NRTI-sparing regimen. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

\* This section includes presentations on which an NCHECR staff member was the presenting author, apart from presentations made at the *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine* and the *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections* for which all authorships are noted.

El-Sadr W, Reiss P, De Wit S, d'Arminio Monforte A, Thiébaud R, Morfeldt L, Weber R, Pradier C, Calvo G, **Law MG**, Kirk O, Sabin C, Friis-Moller N, Lundgren J on behalf of the DAD Study Group. Relationship between prolonged exposure to combination ART and myocardial infarction: Effect of sex, age and the lipid changes. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.

**Glenday KA**. Antibody HIV and hepatitis C prevalence and risk behaviours among Indo-Chinese injecting drug users in the National Needle and Syringe Program survey. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Grey P**, Smith DE, Bloch M, McFarlane R, Finlayson R, Doong N, Chuah J, Carr A, **Cooper DA**, **Kelleher AD** and the PULSE Study Team. Time to commencing long-term antiretroviral therapy, for patients who were treated at primary HIV infection, achieved virological suppression, and then followed a structured interruption strategy. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Grulich AE**. AIDS-related cancer: Perspectives from HIV research. *27th Annual Meeting of the International Association of Cancer Registries*. Entebbe, Uganda.

**Grulich AE**. HIV-related cancer: An update. *Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2005*. Hobart.

**Grulich AE**. Interactions between HIV and sexually transmitted infections in homosexual men. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Grulich AE**. Sexually transmitted infections in gay men in Australia: Implications for HIV prevention. *Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine NSW Regional Committee*. Sydney.

**Grulich AE**, **Jin FY**, **Prestage GP**, **Emery SE**, Kippax S, Mao L, **Kaldor JM** on behalf of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Defining high incidence groups of homosexual men for HIV prevention studies: Data from the Health in Men (HIM) cohort. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Hull P, Rawstone P, **Prestage GP**, Kippax S. Looking for sex partners: From sex-on-premises venues and gay bars to the internet and implications for HIV risk. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Jauncey M**, **Salmon A**, van Beek I. Measuring severity of opioid overdoses at the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre: A potential new approach. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2005 Conference*. Melbourne.

**Jin FY**, **Prestage GP**, Kippax S, **Donovan B**, Pell C, Cunningham P, **Kaldor JM**, **Grulich AE** on behalf of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Incidence and risk factors for urethral and anal gonorrhoea and chlamydia in the Health in Men (HIM) cohort. *16th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research*. Amsterdam, Netherlands.

**Jin FY**, **Prestage GP**, Kippax S, **Donovan B**, Pell C, Cunningham P, **Kaldor JM**, **Grulich AE** on behalf of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Incidence and risk factors for urethral and anal gonorrhoea and chlamydia in the Health in Men (HIM) cohort. *Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2005*. Hobart.

**Jin FY**, **Prestage GP**, Kippax S, **Kaldor JM**, **Grulich AE** on behalf of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Incidence and risk factors for HIV infection in the Health in Men (HIM) cohort. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Kaldor JM**. Challenges and opportunities for the control of sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections in Australia. *Communicable Diseases Control Conference 2005*. Sydney.

**Kaldor JM**. Current global and Australian trends in HIV infection. *5th Australian Update on Paediatric HIV and Hepatitis*. Sydney.

**Kaldor JM**. International study coordinated by the International Agency for Research on Cancer on cancer mortality in nuclear industry workers. *Australasian Radiation Protection Society Conference 2005*. Melbourne.

**Kaldor JM**. Update on Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) activities. *90th National Congress of the Returned and Services League of Australia*. Hobart.

**Kaldor JM**. When is the right time to start an HIV prevention trial? *Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific*. Kobe, Japan.

**Kaldor JM**, **McDonald AM**. The HIV/AIDS epidemic in Australia: Current situation and likely trends over the next decade. *Pan Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Conference 2005*. Auckland, New Zealand.

**Kaldor JM**, Shipp M. Sexually transmitted and bloodborne viral infections: Emerging issues for Indigenous adolescents and young people. *NSW Aboriginal Health Research Conference 2005*. Sydney.

**Kelleher AD**. An update on the pathophysiology of primary infection. *Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research Annual Meeting*. Terrigal, NSW.

**Kelleher AD**. Management of primary infection. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.



- Kelleher AD.** RX of primary. *1st Australasian Consensus Conference on the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-1 Infected Adults.* Hobart.
- Kelleher AD.** The HIV-infected immune system: A gutless wonder? *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Kerr SJ,** Wang LCH. How accurately do the news media communicate risks and benefits about medicines? *Second Asian Association of Schools of Pharmacy Symposium.* Bangkok, Thailand.
- Lawrence C, Prestage GP,** Rawstone P, **Grulich AE.** Queensland survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men who have sex with men. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Lim H, Sedwell R,** Duarte N, **Cooper DA, Kelleher AD,** Carr A, **Mallon PWG.** Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors effects on adipocyte mitochondrial transcription *in vitro.* *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Maher L.** Behavioural aspects of second generation HIV surveillance. *Pan Pacific Regional HIV/AIDS Conference 2005.* Auckland, New Zealand.
- Maher L.** Cocaine use, risk behaviour and incident hepatitis C infection linked to a national reduction in heroin availability. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2005 Conference.* Melbourne.
- Maher L.** Ethics and drug ethnography: Beyond being there. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2005 Conference.* Melbourne.
- Maher L, Ho H, Thein HH, Kaldor JM.** Prevalence of antibody HIV and hepatitis C and related risk behaviour in Vietnamese and non-Vietnamese injecting drug users in the national needle and syringe program survey. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2005 Conference.* Melbourne.
- Maher L, Thein HH,** King E, **Ho H, Kaldor JM,** Cunningham P. Antibody HIV and hepatitis C prevalence and risk behaviours among Indo-Chinese injecting drug users in the national needle and syringe program survey. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Mallon PWG.** Methodological considerations in human studies of gene expression in HIV-associated lipodystrophy. *Mitochondrial Toxicity and HIV Infection: Understanding the Pathogenesis for a Therapeutic Approach Conference.* Modena, Italy.
- Mallon PWG,** Miller J, Kovacic J, Kent-Hughes J, Norris R, Samaras K, Chisholm D, **Cooper DA,** Carr A. A randomised, placebo-controlled trial of pravastatin for the treatment of protease-inhibitor-induced hypercholesterolaemia in HIV-infected men. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Mallon PWG, Sedwell R,** Rogers G, Nolan D, Unemori P, **Wand H,** Samaras K, **Kelleher AD,** **Emery SE, Cooper DA,** Carr A and the ROSEY investigators. The effect of rosiglitazone on PPARE- $\gamma$  expression in human adipose tissue is limited by continued exposure to thymidine NRTI. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.* Boston, USA.
- Mao L, Crawford J, Kippax S, **Prestage GP, Grulich AE, Kaldor JM** on behalf of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Serosorting distinguishes unprotected from protected anal intercourse with casual partners: Findings from the Health in Men (HIM) cohort. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- McDonald AM.** HIV prevalence at reception into Australian prisons, 1994-2003. *2nd Prisoner Health Research Symposium.* Sydney.
- McDonald AM.** Perinatal exposure to HIV in Australia, 1995-2004. *5th Australian Update on Paediatric HIV and Hepatitis.* Sydney.
- McDonald AM, Kaldor JM** for the National HIV Surveillance Committee. Trends in newly acquired and newly diagnosed HIV infection in Australia, 1995-2004. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- McGuigan D, Clayton S, **Prestage GP,** Honnor G. Negotiated safety or negotiated risk: Is it time to rethink talk, test, test trust? *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Middleton MG, McDonald AM, Kaldor JM.** Monitoring the completeness of notifications to the National AIDS Registry via linkage to the National Death Index. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Middleton MG, Thein HH, Day C,** Yohannes K, **Maher L, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ** for the National Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Committee. Trends in hepatitis C virus infection in Australia, 1995-2003. *Communicable Diseases Control Conference 2005.* Sydney.
- Millwood IY, Grulich AG, Kaldor JM.** Pre-exposure chemoprophylaxis for HIV prevention. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Murray JM, **Mallon PWG, Zaunders J, Kelleher AD, Cooper DA.** Comparison of variability over time of T-cell subsets for HIV-uninfected controls and HIV-infected individuals on successful HAART. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Petoumenos K, Law MG.** Risk factors and causes of death in the Australian HIV Observational Database. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.

**Pett SL, Jacoby S, Bechuk J, Emery SE, Carey C, Courtney-Rodgers D, French M, Finlayson R, Cooper DA** for the ESPRIT Study Group. Cycling with recombinant interleukin-2 (rIL-2) in ESPRIT and SILCAAT. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Pett SL, Jacoby S, Wyman N, Bechuk J, Emery S, Carey C, Courtney-Rodgers D, French M, Finlayson R, Cooper DA** for the ESPRIT Study Group. ESPRIT (Evaluation of Subcutaneous Proleukin® in a Randomised International Trial): CD4+ T-cell responses to recombinant interleukin-2 (rIL-2). *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Potgieter Z, Hickey B, **Matthews GV, Dore GJ**. Hepatitis C treatment discontinuation and response: Improved management of morbidity. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Prestage GP**. Estimating the size of the gay community 'ghetto' in Sydney. *Health in Difference 5 Conference*. Melbourne.

**Prestage GP**. Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men who have sex with men survey: Findings and implications. *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Gay Educators Conference*. Sydney.

**Prestage GP, Grulich AE, Kaldor JM, Van de Ven P, Mao L, Rawstone P, Fogarty A, Kippax S**. Alcohol and drugs amongst gay men. *Health in Difference 5 Conference*. Melbourne.

**Prestage GP, Jin FY, Mao L, Kippax S, McGuigan D, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE** on behalf of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Illicit drug use and HIV seroconversion in the Health in Men (HIM) cohort. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Prestage GP, Mao L, Grulich AE, Kippax S, Kaldor JM**. Risk and sex work among gay men: The Health in Men Study. *Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific*. Kobe, Japan.

**Prestage GP, Rawstone P, Fogarty A, Grierson J, Grulich AE**. Alcohol and illicit drug use in the Positive Health (pH) cohort. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Prestage GP, Van de Ven P, Mao L**. Australian gay men of Asian background: Community involvement and support. *Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific*. Kobe, Japan.

**Prestage GP, Volk JE, Jin FY, Rawstone P, Grulich AE**. Sexually transmitted infections in a cohort of HIV positive gay men in Sydney. *Tenth National Conference of People Living with HIV/AIDS*. Adelaide.

Ralph A, **Mallon PWG**, Brew B. Evaluation of serum and CSF syphilis serology in the diagnosis of early neurosyphilis in HIV positive and negative patients. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Rawstone P, Race K, **Prestage GP**, Fogarty A, Grierson J, Kippax S. Assumptions about partner serostatus and difficulties with disclosure among a cohort of HIV-positive men. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Razali K**. Modelling the impact of regular and casual partnerships in HIV transmission among homosexual men in Australia. *3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment*. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**Razali K**. Modelling the impact of regular and casual partnerships in HIV transmission among homosexual men in Australia. *Communicable Diseases Control Conference 2005*. Sydney.

**Salmon AM, Kaldor JM, Jauncey M, van Beek I, Maher L**. The Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre: Services delivered and potential public health achievements in 44 months of operation. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Salmon AM, Kaldor JM, Jauncey M, van Beek I, Maher L**. The Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre evaluation: An update after four years of operation. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2005 Conference*. Melbourne.

**Salmon AM, Kaldor JM, Jauncey M, van Beek I, Maher L**. The Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre evaluation: An update after four years of operation. *UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine Postgraduate Research Student Conference*. Sydney.

Sasaduesz J, **Dore GJ**, Kronberg I, Barton D, Weltman M. An interim analysis from a single-arm, open-label, multicentre pilot study evaluating the efficacy and safety of PEGASYS RBV (peginterferon alfa-2a plus ribavirin) in patients with chronic hepatitis C (CHC) attending a methadone (or drug dependency treatment program) clinic. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Sasson S**. Increased plasma IL-7 correlates with decreased CD127 and increased CD132 extracellular expression on T-cell subsets in HIV-1 infection. *Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research Annual Meeting*. Terrigal, NSW.

Schapiro J, Cahn P, Trottier B, Antunes F, Jayaweera D, Gerstoft J, Norris D, **Cooper DA**, Hicks C, McCallister S, Hall D, Valdez H, Neubacher D, Kohlbrenner V, Mayers D. Effect of baseline genotype on response to tipranavir/ritonavir compared with standard-of-care comparator in treatment-experienced patients: The Phase 3 RESIST-1 and -2 trials. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.

**Seddiki N, Zaunders J, Sasson S**, Landay A, **Kelleher AD**, Fazekas de St Groth B. A new gating strategy to identify human regulatory T-cells. *35th Meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology*. Melbourne.

Smith DE, Bloch M, Quan D, **Kaldor JM, Zaunders J, Petoumenos K**, Irvine K, **Law MG, Grey P**, Finlayson R, McFarlane R, **Kelleher AD**, Carr A, **Cooper DA**. The role of hydroxyurea in enhancing the virological control achieved through structured treatment interruption (STI) in primary HIV infection (PHI): Final results from a randomized clinical trial (PULSE). *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Sokhal B, Chuop S, Saphonn V, **Oelrichs R, Huffam S**, Chel S, **Elliott JH, Kaldor JM, Cooper DA**, Mean CV, An US. How quality managed laboratory services can support HIV care in a resource limited setting. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Srasuebkul P**, Ungsedhapand C, Ruxrungtham K, **Boyd MA**, Phanuphak P, **Cooper DA, Law MG** and the HIV-NAT Study Team. Parametric models to predict immunological failure in Thai patients receiving antiretroviral treatment. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Suzuki K, **Zaunders J, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD**. Promoter-targeted DSRNA induces HIV-1 gene silencing and de novo CPG methylation. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Thein HH**, Butler T, Krahn M, Rawlinson W, Levy M, **Kaldor JM, Dore GJ**. Health related quality of life in prisoners with and without chronic hepatitis C infection in Australia. *2nd Prisoner Health Research Symposium*. Sydney.

**Thein HH, Day C, Dore GJ, Kaldor JM, Maher L**. Antibody hepatitis C prevalence and risk behaviours among vulnerable populations attending needle and syringe programs in Australia. *16th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm*. Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**Thein HH, Day C, Kaldor JM, Maher L**. Public opinion and community impact of a medically supervised injecting centre in Sydney, Australia. *16th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm*. Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**Thein HH**, Krahn M, **Kaldor JM, Dore GJ**. Estimation of utilities for chronic hepatitis C virus infection from SF-36 scores. *1st Annual Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver Winter Meeting: Updates in Hepatology*. Banff, Canada.

**Thein HH, Law MG**, Krahn M, **Kaldor JM, Dore GJ**. Estimating the impact of antiviral treatment on health burden of hepatitis C in Australia. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Thein HH, Law MG**, Krahn M, **Kaldor JM, Dore GJ**. Estimating the impact of antiviral treatment on health burden of hepatitis C in Australia. *UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine Postgraduate Research Student Conference*. Sydney.

**Thein HH, Law MG**, Krahn M, **Kaldor JM, Dore GJ**. Estimating the impact of hepatitis C antiviral treatment on disease burden in Australia. *Communicable Diseases Control Conference 2005*. Sydney.

**Thein HH**, Maruff P, Krahn M, **Kaldor JM**, Koorey D, Brew BJ, **Dore GJ**. The prevalence and correlates of depressive symptoms during pegylated interferon-alpha and ribavirin therapy in hepatitis C mono-infection and HIV- hepatitis C coinfection. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Vajdic CM**, Medley G, Hillman RJ, **van Leeuwen MT, Prestage GP**, Rawstone P, **Gulich AE**. Prevalence of anal squamous intraepithelial lesions and related abnormalities in a community-based sample of HIV-positive and HIV-negative homosexual men. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Vajdic CM, Middleton MG**, Bowden FJ, Fairley CK, **Kaldor JM**. The prevalence of genital chlamydia trachomatis in Australia 1997-2004: A systematic review. *Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2005*. Hobart.

**van Bockel D**. Comparison of peripheral and lymph node CD4+ lymphocyte activity against mycobacterium antigen in HIV-infected individuals with persistent non-tuberculous mycobacterium immune reconstitution disease to uninfected controls. *Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research Annual Meeting*. Terrigal, NSW.

Volk JE, **Prestage GP, Jin FY, Kaldor JM**, Ellard J, Kippax S, **Gulich AE**. Risk factors for HIV seroconversion in homosexual men in Australia. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Volk JE, **Prestage GP, Jin FY**, Rawstone P, **Gulich AE**. Sexually transmitted infections in a cohort of HIV positive gay men in Sydney. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.



**Wand H, Law MG, Emery SE, Cooper DA, Carr A** for the MITOX and ROSEY Study Group. Combined analysis of two randomised trials: MITOX and ROSEY to determine the factors associated with changes in body composition parameters and their respective relation to metabolic changes at weeks 24, 48 and 72. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Wand H, Zhou B, Spiegelman D.** Comparison of measurement error model with latent class model in estimating sensitivity and specificity of a screening test with an imperfect gold standard. *3rd Eastern Mediterranean Region International Biometrics Society Conference*. Corfu, Greece.

Wilson KM, Croom HA, Richards K, Doughty L, Cunningham PH, **Grey P, Kelleher AD**, Smith DE, Dax EM. Maturation of the humeral immune response to HIV-1 infection. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Winston AD, Bloch MT, Carr A, Amin J, Mallon PWG, Ray JE, Marriott DJE, Satchell CS, Cooper DA, Emery SE.** Atazanavir through plasma concentration monitoring in a cohort of HIV-1 positive individuals receiving highly active antiretroviral therapy. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Zaunders J.** Downregulation of antigen-specific CD4+ T-cells during primary HIV-1 infection. *Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research Annual Meeting*. Terrigal, NSW.

**Zaunders J, Dyer W, Munier MLC, Ip S, Amyes E, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD.** Distinct survival phenotype of CCR5+ antigen-specific CD4+ T lymphocytes in the acute phase of the antiviral responses to HIV-1 and vaccinia. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Zhou J** on behalf of the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. New AIDS defining illness diagnosed within 90 days after initiation of antiretroviral treatment among patients from the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD). *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

## Other oral presentations

**Ammaranond P.** Escape at an immunodominant epitope predicts loss of viral control in HLA-B27 positive individuals. *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar*. Sydney.

**Babirye JN.** Infant feeding behaviour among HIV-positive mothers in Uganda. *UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine Lunchtime Seminar Series*. Sydney.

Conroy E, Black E, **Day C.** Findings from the rural injectors project: Where to from here? *Statewide Needle and Syringe Program Workers' Meeting 2005*. Sydney.

**Cooper DA.** New drugs in development. *St Vincent's Hospital, Centre for Immunology, HIV/Infectious Diseases Immunology Journal Club*. Sydney.

**Courtney-Rodgers D.** ESPRIT and SILCAAT quality assurance update. *ESPRIT, SILCAAT, SMART and STALWART Investigator Meeting*. Sydney.

**Day C.** Australian stories from Belfast: Overview of the 16th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm. *Anex*. Sydney.

**Day C, Degenhardt L, Conroy E, Gilmour S, Hall W.** Age differentials in the impacts of reduced heroin supply in NSW. *2005 National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre Annual Symposium*. Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Advances in hepatitis C therapeutics. *Viruses in May Workshop*. Katoomba, NSW.

**Dore GJ.** Australian blood-borne virus epidemiology update. *Queensland Needle and Syringe Program Statewide Workshop*. Brisbane.

**Dore GJ.** Epidemiology and treatment of hepatitis C: An update. *Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Eastern Area Hepatitis C General Practitioners Update*. Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Hepatitis C epidemiology and treatment. *Medically Supervised Injecting Centre Annual Meeting*. Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Hepatitis C epidemiology and treatment: An update. *Sydney South West Area Health Service Mental Health Seminar Series*. Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Meeting the challenges in Australian hepatitis C clinical research. *CHARIOT Study Investigators Meeting*. Sydney.

**Dore GJ.** Public health implications of hepatitis C. *Hepatitis C Council of Victoria and Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, Hepatitis C to Hepatitis Free: The Courageous Solutions Forum*. Melbourne.

**Dore GJ.** Responding to the challenge of hepatitis C. *St Vincent's Hospital Hepatitis C Treatment Awareness Week*. Sydney.

**Drummond F.** Enrolment update, baseline demographics for the SMART study. *ESPRIT, SILCAAT, SMART and STALWART Investigator Meeting*. Sydney.

**Drummond F.** Kivexa – A new once-daily option for HIV treatment. *Kivexa Nurse and Social Work Launch*. Sydney.

**Drummond F.** NCHCCR Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program study outcomes and ongoing trials. *NCHCCR Trial Network Site Coordinators Satellite Meeting*. Hobart.

- Elliott JH.** The Cambodian national HIV care training program. *TREAT Asia Network Meeting*. Bangkok, Thailand.
- Glenday KA.** The Australian Needle and Syringe Program survey 1995-2004: 10 years of HIV and hepatitis C antibody prevalence and risk behaviour data among injecting drug users in Australia. *NSW Needle and Syringe Program Worker's Meeting*. Sydney.
- Glenday KA.** The Australian Needle and Syringe Program survey: Helpful hints for 2005. *NSW Needle and Syringe Program Worker's Meeting*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** HIV/AIDS: Current epidemiology, future trends and implications for prevention. *Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Population Health Division Seminar*. Canberra.
- Gulich AE.** HIV/sexually transmitted infection interactions in gay men. *St George Hospital, Infectious Diseases Journal Club*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** HIV surveillance update. *Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections Subcommittee Meeting*. Canberra.
- Gulich AE.** How is human herpesvirus 8 transmitted? *Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sexual Health Registrars Seminar Series*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** Immune risk factors pooling project update. *International Consortium of Investigators Working on Lymphoma Epidemiologic Studies (InterLymph) Annual Meeting*. York, UK.
- Gulich AE.** Risk factors for HIV in the Health in Men Study. *NSW Health Department Ministerial Committee on AIDS Strategy*. Sydney.
- Gulich AE.** Sexually transmitted infections and sexual health in gay men. *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations/National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS Education Policy Group*. Melbourne.
- Gulich AE.** Sexually transmitted infections in gay men in Australia – implications for HIV prevention. *Westmead Hospital, Centre for Health Services Research Seminar Series*. Sydney.
- Huffam S.** Bacterial vaginosis and HIV. *National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD, Technical Working Group on Sexually Transmitted Infections*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- Huffam S.** Capacity building for health providers. *3rd National Scientific Conference on HIV/AIDS Satellite Meeting*. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- Jacoby S.** SILCAAT update. *ESPRIT, SILCAAT, SMART and STAWART Investigator Meeting*. Sydney.
- Kaldor JM.** HIV/AIDS research in developing countries: What makes real partnership? *IDP Education Australia Seminar*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- Kaldor JM.** HIV Epidemiological Modelling and Impact (HEMI) Study, Indonesia. *AusAID HIV/AIDS Sub-Regional Initiative: Workshop in Jakarta*. Jakarta, Indonesia.
- Kaldor JM.** HIV Epidemiological Modelling and Impact (HEMI) Study, Papua New Guinea. *AusAID HIV/AIDS Sub-Regional Initiative: Workshop in Port Moresby*. Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.
- Kaldor JM.** Population impact of hepatitis B. *NSW Health Department seminar: Hepatitis B in NSW - A strategic review*. Sydney.
- Kaldor JM.** Prevention research in the Asia-Pacific region. *Update for the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and AusAID on NCHECR's involvement with vaccine development and clinical trials*. Canberra.
- Kaldor JM.** Progress at a national level. *NSW Health Department Workshop: Aboriginal Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood-Borne Virus Epidemiology Forum*. Sydney.
- Kaldor JM.** Recent trends in blood-borne viral and sexually transmitted infections among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Bi-Annual Members Meeting*. Sydney.
- Kaldor JM.** Recent trends in HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and STIs. *Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services Meeting*. Townsville.
- Kaldor JM.** Supporting enhanced antiretroviral access in Cambodia. *Medecins Sans Frontieres Symposium: HIV/AIDS programs in the field: lessons learnt and challenges faced*. Sydney.
- Kaldor JM.** Tenofovir study. *St Vincent's Hospital, HIV/Immunology and Infectious Diseases Unit Journal Club*. Sydney.
- Kaldor JM.** The global expansion of HIV prevention and treatment: Synergies and challenges for public health programming. *Sax Oration*. Canberra.
- Kaldor JM.** Using epidemiological and behavioural data to estimate and project HIV epidemics in the Asia-Pacific region. *Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia/UNESCO Workshop: HIV/AIDS, Fragile States and Human Security*. Melbourne.
- Kelleher AD.** Biomedical prevention. *NSW Health Department, AIDS/Infectious Diseases Branch, HIV and Sexually Transmissible Infections Unit*. Sydney.
- Kelleher AD.** Current status of HIV prophylactic vaccines and current status of development of the MERCK Ad5 vaccine constructs. *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Vaccines Policy Reference Group Meeting*. Sydney.



- Kelleher AD.** Development of a multiparameter flow cytometric assay for the detection of primed T-cells. *Assaying Potency of Novel Vaccines Workshop*. Bethesda, USA.
- Kelleher AD.** Early career training - The transition to clinical researcher. *NSW Ministry for Science and Medical Research and the National Health and Medical Research Council National Clinical Research Forum, Clinical Research – Removing the Barriers*. Sydney.
- Kelleher AD.** Utility of T-cell assays. *Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Department of Clinical Immunology*. Sydney.
- Kerr SJ.** Drug regulation and supply systems in Australia. *Chulalongkorn University, Social and Administrative Pharmacy Research Unit Annual Academic Forum*. Bangkok, Thailand.
- Kerr SJ.** Pharmacoepidemiology as a tool for risk management. *Thai Food and Drug Administration*. Nonthaburi, Thailand.
- Law MG.** Approaches to estimating HIV incidence and prevalence in Australia. *Health Canada Workshop on Methods of Estimating HIV Incidence and Prevalence*. Toronto, Canada.
- Law MG.** Mathematical and statistical modelling at NCHECR. *National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases Meeting*. Sydney.
- Law MG.** Modelling of HIV and viral hepatitis. *The Inaugural Workshop of the Network of Infectious Diseases Modellers of Australia: Modelling of infectious diseases*. Melbourne.
- Law MG.** Modelling sexual risk behaviour. *The Inaugural Workshop of the Network of Infectious Diseases Modellers of Australia: Modelling of infectious diseases*. Melbourne.
- Law MG.** TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database: Methods and processes. *TREAT Asia First Paediatric HIV Network Meeting*. Bangkok, Thailand.
- Law MG, Kaldor JM.** Current methods of risk assessment. *National Health and Medical Research Council, Special Expert Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Forum*. Melbourne.
- Lim H.** Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor effects on mouse adipocyte mitochondria. *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar*. Sydney.
- Lim H.** Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor effects on mouse adipocyte mitochondria. *Professor William Powderly, School of Medicine and Medical Science, University College Dublin, Dublin, visit to St Vincent's Hospital, Centre for Immunology*. Sydney.
- Maher L.** A global snapshot and successes in HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C prevention and care. *Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service*. Sydney.
- Maher L.** Culture, risk and hepatitis C. *National Centre in HIV Social Research Colloquium*. Sydney.
- Mallon PWG.** Clinical and molecular aspects of HIV-associated lipodystrophy. *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar*. Sydney.
- Mallon PWG.** Feedback from the 6th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV and the 12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections - something for everyone. *St Vincent's Hospital, HIV/Immunology and Infectious Diseases Unit Journal Club*. Sydney.
- Mallon PWG, Miller J, Kovacic J, Kent-Hughes J, Norris R, Samaras K, Feneley M, Cooper DA, Carr A.** Changes in body composition and cardiovascular measures in hypercholesterolaemic HIV-infected men treated with pravastatin: A randomised, placebo-controlled study. *7th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV*. Dublin, Ireland.
- Marks P.** Trials of treatment for acute or newly acquired hepatitis C. *The NCHECR Trial Network Site Coordinators Meeting*. Hobart.
- Marks P.** Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program Overview. *Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C Coordinators' Meeting*. Sydney.
- McDonald AM.** HIV prevalence at reception into South Australian prisons, 1994-2003. *South Australian Prison Health Service Senior Nurses Meeting*. Adelaide.
- McDonald AM, Donovan B, Rohrsheim R, Judd B, O'Connor C.** Monitoring HIV transmission through sexual health clinics in NSW, 2000-2004. *NSW Health Department HIV Surveillance and Policy Forum*. Sydney.
- Millwood IY.** Biological/medical science perspectives of pre-exposure prophylaxis. *Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Forum*. Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Agreements and relationships. *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Education Managers Workshop*. Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Agreements, relationships and communication. *AIDS Council of New South Wales Non-Government Organisation Forum*. Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Male sex work in HIM. *AIDS Council of New South Wales and Sex Workers Outreach Project Staff Forum*. Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men who have sex with men survey: Findings and implications. *Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexual Health Congress*. Gold Coast, Qld.
- Prestage GP.** Queensland gay community periodic survey findings. *Queensland AIDS Council Non-Government Organisation Forum*. Brisbane.

- Prestage GP.** Recreational drug use among gay men. *AIDS Council of New South Wales Board.* Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Recreational drug use among gay men. *AIDS Council of New South Wales Community Forum.* Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Recreational drug use among gay men. *Sexually Transmissible Infections in Gay Men Action Group.* Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Research on gay men in rural NSW: Findings and implications. *NSW Health Rural Forum.* Mudgee, NSW.
- Prestage GP.** Research on gay men in Sydney: Findings and implications. *AIDS Council of New South Wales Staff Forum.* Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Research on gay men in Western Sydney: Findings and implications. *Western Sydney Area Health Service Staff Workshop.* Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Sexual adventurism and sexpigs in HIM and Positive Health. *People Living with HIV/AIDS New South Wales and AIDS Council of New South Wales Community Forum.* Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Twenty years of ACON and the community response. *AIDS Council of New South Wales Staff Workshop.* Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Use of quantitative data in social research. *National Centre in HIV Social Research Consortium Workshop.* Sydney.
- Prestage GP.** Young gay men. *AIDS Council of New South Wales Fun and Esteem Project Workshop.* Sydney.
- Ritter A, **Dunlop A.** Buprenorphine and Pregnancy. *Buprenorphine and Pregnancy Workshop held during the 67th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College of Problems on Drug Dependence.* Orlando, USA.
- Sasson S.** Linking IL-7/R system with T and B-cell neoplastic events (LINE) study. *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar.* Sydney.
- Satchell CS.** SMART monitoring update. *ESPRIT, SILCAAT, SMART and STALWART Investigator Meeting.* Sydney.
- Seddiki N.** Regulatory T-cell populations in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar.* Sydney.
- Sedwell R.** Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors and mitochondrial toxicity - Gene expression and functional studies. *Professor William Powderly, School of Medicine and Medical Science, University College Dublin, Dublin, visit to St Vincent's Hospital, Centre for Immunology.* Sydney.
- van Bockel D.** HIV-1 virology. *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar.* Sydney.
- van Bockel D.** T-cell receptor usage in HLA B27 long-term non-progressors. *Characterisation of CD4+ CCR5+ T-cells in primary HIV and other primary viral infections study investigators meeting.* Terrigal, NSW.
- Yeung B.** ATACH study update. *Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C Coordinators' Meeting.* Sydney.
- Yeung B.** Screening and enrolment. *Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C Coordinators' Meeting.* Sydney.
- Zaunders J.** Early proliferation of CCR5+ CD38+++ antigen-specific CD4+ Th1 effector cells during primary HIV-1 infection. *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar.* Sydney.
- Zaunders J.** Informing the generation of primary CD4+ memory responses through studying responses to vaccinia. *Acute Infection and Early Disease Research Program Teleconference.*

## Conference poster presentations\*

**Amin J, Dore GJ, O'Connell DL, Bartlett M, Tracey E, Kaldor JM, Law MG.** Cancer incidence in people with hepatitis B or C infection: A population based cohort study. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.

**Amin J, Dore GJ, O'Connell DL, Bartlett M, Tracey E, Kaldor JM, Law MG.** Cancer incidence in people with hepatitis B or C infection: A population based cohort study. *40th Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of the Liver.* Paris, France.

**Amin J, Law MG.** The use of composite endpoints in HIV clinical trials. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.

**Ammaranond P, Leas L, Cunningham P, Suzuki K, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD** on behalf of the PHAEDRA Steering Committee. Prevalence and persistence of transmitted T215 revertant mutations in acute primary HIV-1 infection. *3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment.* Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Ananworanich J, Kosalaraksa P, Siangphoe U, Hill A, Bergshoeff A, Pancharoen C, Engchanil C, Sankote J, Intasan J, Chuamchaitrakool A, **Cooper DA,** Phanupak P, Ruxrungtham K, Burger D. Pharmacokinetics and 24-week efficacy and safety of saquinavir/lopinavir/ritonavir in RTI-pre-treated children. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.* Boston, USA.

\* This section includes all posters co-authored by an NCHCR staff member for the *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*, the *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections* and the *3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment*, as well as other selected posters.

Arnott A, Verity E, Wilson K, James H, Jardine D, Gorry P, Merlin K, **Grey P, Kelleher AD**, Smith DE, McPhee D. Early antiretroviral therapy (ART) and treatment interruption in HIV-1 infection: The impact on the immune response, viral fitness and virus control. *3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment*. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Arnott A, Verity E, Wilson K, Jardine D, Gorry P, Merlin K, **Grey P, Kelleher AD**, Smith DE, McPhee D and the PULSE Study Team. Early antiretroviral therapy (ART) and treatment interruption in HIV-1 infection: The impact on the immune response, viral fitness and virus control. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Autar RS, Sankote J, Mahanontharit A, Ubolyam S, Giel D, **Cooper DA**, Lange J, Phanupak P, Burger D, Ruxrungtham K. Results from pilot quality control program of generic antiretrovirals: Content and dissolution analysis of generic nevirapine (HIV-NAT 026). *3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment*. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**Babirye JN, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE**. Adherence to Ugandan infant feeding guidelines among HIV-positive and HIV-negative mothers. *Uganda Society for Health Scientists Annual General and Scientific Meeting*. Kampala, Uganda.

**Babirye JN, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE**. Adherence to Ugandan infant feeding guidelines among HIV-positive and HIV-negative mothers. *UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Day*. Sydney.

Bachelor L, Winters B, Harrigan PR, Montaner J, Perez-Elias M, Millar M, **Emery SE**, van Leth F, Robinson P, Baxter J, Pozniak A, Gazzard B. Determination of phenotypic clinical cutoffs for the virco® TYPE HIV-1 resistance analysis. *3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment*. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Bloch M, Smith DE, **Grey P**, Quan D, McFarlane R, Finlayson R, **Kelleher AD, Zaunders J, Petoumenos K**, Irvine K, **Law MG**, Carr A, **Kaldor JM, Cooper DA**. The role of hydroxyurea in enhancing the virological control achieved through structured treatment interruption in primary HIV infection: Final results from a randomised clinical trial. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.

**Boyd MA**, Perelson AS, Dixit NM, Siangphoe U, **Duncombe CJ**, Burger D, Ubolyam S, Mahanontharit A, Paksin S, Phanuphak P, Lange JMA, **Cooper DA**, Ruxrungtham K. Comparison of HIV decay rates with the addition of enfuvirtide to a combination of boosted saquinavir and efavirenz in PI and NNRTI naïve patients: A randomised, controlled trial (HIV-NAT 012). *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.

Burke M, Rajabu M, Kippax S, Crawford J, Black D, **Kaldor JM**. Men, knowledge and PMTCT in Tanzania. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Carey C, Courtney-Rodgers D, Pett SL**, Bebhuk J, **Jacoby S**, French M, Finlayson R, **Emery SE, Cooper DA** for the ESPRIT Study Group. ESPRIT (Evaluation of Subcutaneous Proleukin® in a Randomised International Trial): CD4+ T-cell response to recombinant interleukin-2 (rIL-2). *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Carlin S, Moore J, **Zaunders J, Kelleher AD**, Ma D. T lineage differentiation *in vitro* of adult haematopoietic stem cells. *28th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Flow Cytometry Group*. Gold Coast, Qld.

Chel S, Saphonn V, **Huffam S, Elliott JH**, Hun C, Pouv S, **Oelrichs R, Kaldor JM, Cooper DA**, Mean CV. Selection for antiretroviral therapy in an HIV clinic in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Chuah J, Fankhauser W, Page M, Dickson B, **Petoumenos K**. HIV performance indicators in a regional sexual health clinic. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Clayton S, **Prestage GP**, Ellard J, Chan D, McGuigan D. Gay men and condom use: Access and education are not enough. *Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific*. Kobe, Japan.

**Cooper DA** on behalf of the Alliance Investigator Group. An analysis of the correlation between the severity of injection site reactions and the amount of subcutaneous fat in the Alliance cohort. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.

**Cooper DA**, Hicks C, Cahn P, Lazzarin A, Walmsley S, Arasteh K, Katlama C, Grinsztejn B, Moreno S, Clumeck N, Lopez P, Mukwaya G, Villacian J, Kohlbrenner V, McAllister S. 24-week RESIST Study analyses: The efficacy of tipranavir/ritonavir is superior to lopinavir/ritonavir, and TPV/r treatment response is enhanced by inclusion of genotypically active antiretrovirals in the optimized background regimen. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.

**Dore GJ**, Hellard M, Haber P, **Marks P, Yeung B**, Nguyen O, McCaughan G, Rawlinson W, Lloyd A, **Kaldor JM**. Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC): Baseline characteristics and early virological response. *Australian Gastroenterology Week 2005*. Brisbane.



- Duncombe C, Kerr SJ**, Avihingsanon A, Ananworanich J, **Boyd MA**, Sopa B, **Cooper DA**, Lange J, Phanuphak P, Ruxrungtham K for the HIV-NAT Study Group. Dyslipidaemia in an Asian population following treatment for two years with five different protease inhibitor containing regimens: The HIV-NAT cohort. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.
- Dunlop A**, Petroulias D, Ritter A. Buprenorphine and pregnancy. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs 2005 Conference*. Melbourne.
- Fogarty AS, Rawstorne P, **Prestage GP**, Grierson J, Kippax S. Factors distinguishing employed from unemployed in the Positive Health Study. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.
- Grulich AE, Jin FY, Prestage GP**, Kippax S, **Donovan B**, Taylor J, Mindel A, Pell C, **Kaldor JM**. Incident bacterial and viral sexually transmissible infections and HIV acquisition in a cohort of homosexual men. *16th Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Sexually Transmitted Diseases Research*. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Ip S, Zauanders J, Munier MLC, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD**. Optimizing 9-colour analysis of gut-homing CD4+ T-cell subsets. *28th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Flow Cytometry Group*. Gold Coast, Qld.
- Ip S**. Extracellular and intracellular marker comparison of fresh whole blood, fresh peripheral blood mononuclear cells versus cryopreserved PBMCs. *15th Annual St Vincent's and Mater Health Research Symposium*. Sydney.
- Jin FY, Prestage GP**, Kippax S, **Donovan B**, Pell C, Taylor J, Mindel A, **Templeton D, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE** on behalf of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Prevalence, incidence and risk factors for herpes simplex type 1 and 2 in the Health in Men (HIM) cohort. *Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2005*. Hobart.
- Kaufmann D, Wagner B, Sette A, Johnston M, Strick D, Walker B, **Zauanders J**, Rosenberg E. *Ex vivo* functional analysis of HIV-specific CD4+ T-cell responses using combined MHC Class II tetramer and intracellular cytokine staining. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.
- Kelleher AD** on behalf of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Preliminary safety and immunogenicity of a B-subtype DNA prime/recombinant fowlpox boost candidate prophylactic HIV vaccine. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.
- Lim H, Sedwell R**, Duarte N, **Cooper DA, Kelleher AD**, Carr A, **Mallon PWG**. Nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor effects on adipocyte mitochondrial DNA quantity and quality *in vitro*. *7th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV*. Dublin, Ireland.
- Macdonald V, **Vajdic CM, Kaldor JM**, Kearley J, van Beek I. Prevalence and incidence of chlamydia and gonorrhoea in a population of sex workers in central Sydney. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.
- Maher L, Thein HH, Dore GJ, Shourie S, White B, Kaldor JM**. Antibody HIV and hepatitis C prevalence and risk behaviours among vulnerable populations attending needle and syringe programs in Australia. *Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific*. Kobe, Japan.
- Mallon PWG**, Miller J, Norris R, Samaras K, Chisholm D, **Cooper DA**, Carr A. A randomised, placebo-controlled trial of pravastatin for the treatment of protease-inhibitor-induced hypercholesterolaemia in HIV-infected men. *3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment*. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Matthews GV**, Bartholomeusz A, Ayre A, Yuen L, Lewin S, Sasadeusz J, **Cooper DA**, Thomas D, **Dore GJ**, Locarnini S, Thio C. Characterisation of lamivudine-resistant hepatitis B virus mutations in a prospectively followed cohort of HIV/hepatitis B-coinfected individuals. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.
- McGinley C, Munier MLC**, Yeung JY, Bailey MR, Merlin KM, **Ip S**, Brereton C, **van Bockel D, Kelleher AD**. Importance of ongoing internal quality control program; monitoring the recovery of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) derived from participants of HIV clinical trials. *15th Annual St Vincent's and Mater Health Research Symposium*. Sydney.
- McGinley C, Munier MLC**, Yeung JY, Bailey MR, Merlin KM, **Ip S**, Brereton C, **van Bockel D, Kelleher AD**. Importance of ongoing internal quality control program; monitoring the recovery of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) derived from participants of HIV clinical trials. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.
- Munier MLC, van Bockel D, Zauanders J, Ip S**, Merlin K, **Satchell CS, McGinley C**, Piperias M, **Ammaranond P, Cooper DA, Pett S, Kelleher AD**. Ongoing exuberant CD4 T-cell responses in chronic pauci bacillary non-tuberculous mycobacteria immune reconstitution disease are persistent in both peripheral blood and lymphoid tissue. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.

- Munier MLC, Zaunders J, Ip S, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD.** Development and optimisation of a culture amplified multiparametric intracellular cytokine assay for the assessment of vaccine immunogenicity. *15th Annual St Vincent's and Mater Health Research Symposium.* Sydney.
- Munier MLC, Zaunders J, Ip S, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD.** Development and optimisation of a culture amplified multiparametric intracellular cytokine assay for the assessment of vaccine immunogenicity. *35th Meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology.* Melbourne.
- Nakhaee F, McDonald AM, Law MG.** Trend in mortality following HIV and AIDS in Australia: Linkage between the national HIV/AIDS registry and the National Death Index. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Opravil M, Sasaduesz J, **Cooper DA**, Rockstroh J, Clumeck N, Clotet B, Montaner J, Torriani F, DePamphilis J, Dieterich D. Effect of baseline CD4 count on efficacy and safety of pegylated interferon- $\alpha$ -2a (PEGASYS) plus ribavirin in HIV/hepatitis C co-infection: The AIDS PEGASYS Ribavirin International Co-infection Trial (APRICOT). *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.* Boston, USA.
- Pett SL, Jacoby S**, Wyman N, Bebhuk J, **Emery SE, Carey C, Courtney-Rodgers D**, French M, Finlayson R, **Cooper DA** for the ESPRIT Study Group. Cycling with recombinant interleukin-2 (ril-2) in ESPRIT and SILCAAT. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Pett SL, Wand H, Law MG**, Arduino R, Lopez JC, Knysz B, Pereira LC, Pollack S, Reiss P, Tambussi G for the ESPRIT Research Group. Evaluation of subcutaneous Proleukin (interleukin-2) in a randomized international trial (ESPRIT): Regional differences in baseline characteristics of ESPRIT participants. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Prestage GP**, Rawstone P, Hull P, Kippax S, McGuigan D, Honnor G, **Gulich AE.** Trends in unprotected anal intercourse among Sydney gay men. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Puls RL** on behalf of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Final safety and immunogenicity of a Phase I/IIa trial of a B-subtype DNA prime, recombinant fowlpox virus boost prophylactic HIV vaccine candidate. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Razali K.** Modelling the impact of regular and casual partnerships in HIV transmission among homosexual men in Australia. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Sabin C, Friis-Moller N, Reiss P, Weber R, d'Arminio Monforte A, Dabis F, El-Sadr W, De Wit S, Mateu S, Kira O, Pradier C, Morfeldt L, **Law MG**, Lundgren J. Risk factors for new onset diabetes mellitus (DM) in HIV patients. *3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment.* Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Sabin C, Morfeldt L, Friis-Moller N, Rickenbach M, Reiss P, d'Arminio Monforte A, Padier C, Kirk O, Calvo G, **Law MG**, Mercie P, El-Sadr W, De Wit S, Lundgren J and the DAD Study Group. Changes over time in the use of antiretroviral therapy and risk factors for cardiovascular disease in the DAD Study. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.* Boston, USA.
- Samri A, Lampe F, Kinloch De Loos S, Phillips A, Perrin L, **Cooper DA**, Goh L, Hoen B, Andersson, Sonnerberg A, Smith DE, Tsoukas C, El Habib R, Theofan G, Autran B. Relative effects of therapeutic immunization and discontinuation of ART on HIV-1-specific CD4 and CD8 T cells producing interferon- $\gamma$  in ART-treated acutely infected subjects (QUEST Study). *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections.* Boston, USA.
- Saphonn V, Chel S, **Huffam S, Elliott JH**, Hun C, Pov S, **Oelrichs R, Kaldor JM, Cooper DA**, Mean CV. The Cambodian Treatment Access Program: Observational data from the Social Health Clinic. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Saphonn V, **Elliott JH**, Heng S, Ly PS, Mean CV. Estimation of national antiretroviral therapy coverage of medically eligible adults in Cambodia, 1999-2005. *3rd International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment.* Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Sedwell R, Mallon PWG**, Duarte N, **Zaunders J, Kelleher AD, Cooper DA**, Carr A. Impaired mitochondrial function induced by NRTI is only detectable in the monocyte (CD14+) subset of human PBMC. *7th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV.* Dublin, Ireland.
- Sedwell R, Mallon PWG**, Duarte N, **Zaunders J, Kelleher AD, Cooper DA**, Carr A. *In vitro* evaluation of drug induced mitochondrial toxicity using the mitochondrial membrane potential stains DiIC(5) and JC-1. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Hobart.
- Sokheng C, Saphonn V, **Oelrichs R**, Denna S, Vuthy S, Mattke P, Thomas C, Cunningham P, Devenish R, **Roberts J, Huffam S, Elliott JH**, Sim S, Casey S, Grant R, Page-Shafer K, **Kaldor JM, Cooper DA**, Ung SA, Mean CV. Implementing a quality management system in a public health laboratory in Cambodia. *Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific.* Kobe, Japan.



Soloman A, Murray J, **Grey P**, Smith DE, **Cooper DA**, **Kelleher AD**, Lewin SR. Quantification of HIV viral reservoirs using total or integrated HIV DNA is unable to predict virological rebound after stopping antiretroviral therapy initiated in primary HIV infection. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

**Srasuebkul P**, Ungsedhapand C, Ruxrungtham K, **Boyd MA**, Phanuphak P, **Cooper DA**, **Law MG** and the HIV-NAT Study Team. Factors predicting immunological failure in Thai patients receiving antiretroviral treatment. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Suzuki K, Suter C, Shijuuku T, Fukamachi T, **Zaunders J**, Ku SL, Cheong KF, Ward R, Martin D, **Cooper DA**, **Kelleher AD**. Promoter-targeted dsRNA induces HIV-1 gene silencing and de novo CpG methylation. *12th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Boston, USA.

Suzuki K, **Zaunders J**, **Cooper DA**, **Kelleher AD**. Promoter-targeted dsRNA induces HIV-1 gene silencing and de novo CpG methylation. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

Suzuki K, **Zaunders J**, **Cooper DA**, **Kelleher AD**. Promoter-targeted dsRNA induces HIV-1 gene silencing and de novo CpG methylation. *15th Annual St Vincent's and Mater Health Research Symposium*. Sydney.

**Thein HH**, Maruff P, Krahn M, **Kaldor JM**, Koorey D, Brew BJ, **Dore GJ**. Health-related quality of life effects of pegylated interferon-alpha and ribavirin therapy in hepatitis C monoinfection and HIV-hepatitis C coinfection. *17th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Hobart.

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