



NATIONAL CENTRE IN
HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY &
CLINICAL RESEARCH



ANNUAL REPORT **2008**



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Foreword

The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research has seen a number of major initiatives come to fruition during 2008. One of the most significant has been a substantial undertaking by the Commonwealth and NSW State Governments to support the National Centre's transition into a research institute. This support was in the form of a pledge of \$40 million for a new building to house the institute, which is expected to double in staff size in the short to medium term. The National Centre's Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program has won a grant of \$18 million (US \$12.42 million) from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to support a research project studying the effectiveness of optimised doses of antiretroviral therapy.

A team of NCHCECR and University of Melbourne academics was awarded an NHMRC program grant of \$9.1 million over five years, commencing in 2010. The program on sexually transmissible infections (STIs) has NCHCECR/UNSW as the lead institution. The research is designed to be directly translated into medical and public health interventions to control STIs and will focus on young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and homosexual men.

Another major grant went to the Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program (VHEPP) program for GBP £294,728.46 from the UK Economic and Social Research Council. The title of the project is *Staying Safe: How injecting drug users avoid viral infection in the long-term*.

The last quarter of 2008 saw the establishment of new NCHCECR programs in Sexual Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, both of which achieved early success in grant allocations. The Sexual Health Program undertakes research and surveillance aimed at informing strategies to reduce the impact of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and HIV, conducts trials and evaluates health programs. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Health Program has concluded a memorandum of understanding with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and received an NHMRC Project Grant to conduct a community randomised trial in 21 remote communities in Northern and Central Australia, designed to support primary health care services to achieve best practice in STI care. The National Centre's achievements can in part be measured by the achievements of our staff in the lists of publications and presentations, awards and other measures of professional recognition noted in this annual report. I thank all of them for their contribution, and I also thank the Faculty of Medicine at The University of New South Wales for its continuing support for our work.

DAVID COOPER



Surveillance Program

The Surveillance Program continued to monitor the pattern of transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C, and specific sexually transmissible infections in Australia in 2007, 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 2007*. The twelfth successive issue of the *Annual Surveillance Report* was formally released by Dr Tarun Weeramanthri, Executive Director of Public Health in Western Australia, on 17 September 2008, at the 20th Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Annual Conference, held in Perth. Trends in the population rate of new HIV diagnoses published in the *Annual Surveillance Report 2008* indicated that the rate was stable in New South Wales over the past five years at 6 per 100 000 population. In Victoria, the rate of HIV diagnosis stabilised at 5.4 per 100 000 population in 2006–2007 after having increased steadily from 2.8 in 1998–1998. In Queensland, the rate increased from 3.3 in 2003 to 4.6 in 2007. For the first time, the number of cases of HIV infection that had been previously diagnosed overseas was reported. Approximately ten percent of new HIV diagnoses in 2007 had been previously diagnosed overseas. The number of diagnoses of incident HIV infection,

detected using a specialised assay (the BED capture enzyme immunoassay), was reported for the first time. Almost 50 percent of new HIV diagnoses in the years from 2005 to 2007 had evidence of recent HIV acquisition, based either on a prior negative or indeterminate testing history or BED assay evidence of HIV acquisition within 160 days of HIV diagnosis. New estimates of the number of people living with HIV infection, broken down by State/Territory of HIV diagnosis and gender were also reported for the first time. National trends in new diagnoses of infectious syphilis indicated that the population rate of diagnosis among males increased from 6.7 in 2006 to 11.7 in 2007. In 2007, 1,845 people with a history of injecting drug use were tested for HIV and hepatitis C infection through the annual Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey.

Ms Delaney Thiele, Chief Executive Officer of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, released the second issue of *Bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Surveillance Report 2008*, also in Perth on 17 September 2008. The *Surveillance Report 2008* indicated substantially higher rates of diagnoses of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and infectious syphilis in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared with the non-Indigenous population, particularly in remote and very remote areas of Australia. A gradual decline in the rate of HIV diagnosis was reported among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, compared to an increased rate among non-Indigenous men.

National surveillance co-ordination and information dissemination

■ Support for national surveillance committees

Ongoing monitoring of new diagnoses of HIV infection and AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia was co-ordinated by the National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee during 2008. The role of the Committee is to

develop new initiatives in case surveillance, new analyses of surveillance data, standardised surveillance procedures across State and Territory health jurisdictions and to facilitate communication and feedback of surveillance outputs to organisations directly involved in surveillance activities. During 2008, the Committee met by teleconference on three occasions and held one face-to-face meeting during 2008. Professor Kaldor chaired the Committee in 2008.

Status: During 2008, the National Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee

developed new procedures for standardisation across State/Territory health jurisdictions of notification of HIV infection that had been previously diagnosed interstate. A revised national HIV notification form was developed, following a detailed review of current HIV and AIDS case notification forms. The revised HIV notification form was introduced for routine reporting of cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed in Victoria from January 2007 and in New South Wales from July 2008; other health jurisdictions have also agreed to provide the information sought on the revised notification form. The value of ongoing monitoring of new AIDS diagnoses in Australia was questioned, now that combination antiretroviral treatment for HIV infection minimises progression to AIDS. The National Association of People living with HIV/AIDS developed a governance statement for the use of information on HIV subtype and drug resistance mutations made available through antiretroviral drug resistance testing, following endorsement of a proposal for national monitoring of HIV subtype and resistance genotype..

Procedures were reviewed for the transfer from State/Territory health authorities to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System of information obtained through enhanced surveillance for gonorrhoea, syphilis of less than two years duration and donovanosis, and enhanced surveillance for viral hepatitis. Methods were also reviewed for the exclusion of diagnoses of gonorrhoea, syphilis and chlamydia in children that were acquired non-sexually.

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Ekramul Hoque, Libby Topp, Handan Wand, Basil Donovan.

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; 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* was published for the twelfth successive year.

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Ekramul Hoque, Rachel Deacon, 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.

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.

■ Bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Surveillance Report 2008

While the pattern of diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is described in the *Annual Surveillance Report*, more detailed analyses and interpretations of national surveillance data for these infections were published separately in a single comprehensive report, for use by organisations and individuals with an interest in the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Status: The second issue of *Bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Surveillance Report 2007* was released in 2008.

Personnel: James Ward, Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton

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

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, providing information on more recent patterns of HIV transmission than does AIDS surveillance.

Status: Ongoing

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

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

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

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

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

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. Additional information on newly acquired hepatitis B and C notifications and country of birth is obtained directly from State and Territory health authorities.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Ekramul Hoque, Melanie Middleton, 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

Personnel: John Kaldor

Collaborators: Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; The Children's Hospital at Westmead; Royal Children's Hospital

■ 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

Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Greg Dore

Collaborator: Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Register

Surveillance for sexually transmissible infections

■ Australian Collaboration for Chlamydia Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS)

ACCESS involves the establishment of six separate chlamydia sentinel surveillance networks, each providing unique information on testing uptake and prevalence of chlamydia infection in a range of priority populations; young heterosexuals, men who have sex with men, Indigenous people, pregnant women and sex workers.

Status: Relationships have been established with all of the networks, memoranda of

understanding signed, and computer programs developed with the aim of extracting data from routine clinical databases.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor, Rebecca Guy, James Ward

Collaborators: Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Perinatal Statistics Unit, UNSW; National Serology Reference Laboratory, Australia; Family Planning Associations; Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Royal Australasian College of Physicians; National Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations

Funding: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

■ Long-term surveillance for genital warts in Australian sexual health services

This project determines trends in rates of diagnoses of genital warts in selected populations attending sexual health services around Australia.

Status: Data collection underway.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich, Rebecca Guy, Neil Franklin, David Regan

Collaborators: Melbourne Sexual Health Centre; Sydney Sexual Health Centre; School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne

Funding: CSL Limited

Surveillance in selected populations

■ Needle and syringe program surveys

Annual cross-sectional surveys are conducted at selected needle and syringe program (NSP) sites throughout Australia during a one to two week period in October. All clients attending participating sites during the survey period are asked to complete a self-administered questionnaire, and to provide a capillary blood sample for HIV and hepatitis C antibody



Surveillance staff
(left to right)

James Ward
Andrew Grulich
Melanie Middleton
John Kaldor
Handan Wand
Rachel Deacon
Rebecca Guy
Skye McGregor
Basil Donovan
Lisa Maher
(Absent)
Anne McDonald

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

Personnel: Jenny Iversen, Rachel Deacon, 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); Centre For Health Research in Criminal Justice, National Drug Research Institute.

■ 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

Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: Heng Lu, 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

Personnel: Ann McDonald

Collaborators: Collaborative group on sentinel surveillance in sexual health clinics

■ Monitoring HIV antibody prevalence among prison entrants in Australia

HIV transmission among people entering Australian prisons is monitored through reports received from State and Territory Departments of Corrections of the number of people received into prisons each quarter, the numbers who were voluntarily tested for HIV antibody and the numbers with diagnosed HIV infection.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Ann McDonald

Collaborators: State and Territory Departments of Corrections

■ 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

Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Ann McDonald

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 2008, surveys were conducted in Sydney (3,222 completed questionnaires), Melbourne (2,036 completed questionnaires), Queensland (1,243 completed questionnaires) and Perth (750 completed questionnaires).

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Andrew Grulich

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

Funding: NSW Health Department; Victorian Department of Human Services; Queensland Health; Western Australian Department of 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: More than 500 women completed a questionnaire for this study in 2006, and a report on the findings was in preparation.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage

Collaborators: AIDS Council of New South Wales; UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine

Funding: AIDS Council of New South Wales

International

■ Monitoring and surveillance of HIV voluntary counselling and testing sites in Indonesia

To establish an expanded surveillance network based on VCTs in key Indonesian provinces.

Status: The system was established in 2008 and will yield data in 2009 and 2010.

Personnel: John Kaldor, Rebecca Guy.

Collaborators: Sub Directorate AIDS & STI, Directorate for Communicable Disease Control and Environmental Health, Ministry of Health, Jakarta, Indonesia; Indonesia HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project; Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research and Public Health

Funding: AusAID

■ Development of HIV surveillance plan for Papua New Guinea

Provision of technical assistance to the Papua New Guinea National Department of Health to develop a comprehensive surveillance plan.

Status: Consultations were held in Papua New Guinea and a draft plan was prepared.

Personnel: John Kaldor

Collaborators: Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research and Public Health; Government of Papua New Guinea; World Health Organisation

Funding: World Health Organisation

■ Surveillance Program sentinel surveillance network of sexual health clinics

Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic

Site principal: John Patten

Site co-ordinator: Henry Magon

Clinic 275

Site principal: Russell Waddell

Gold Coast Sexual Health Service

Site principal: John Chuah

Site co-ordinator: Wendy Fankhauser

RPA Sexual Health

Site principal and co-ordinator: Catherine O'Connor

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

Site principals: Christopher Fairley, Ian Denham

Sydney Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Basil Donovan, Lynne Wray

Site co-ordinator: Heng Lu

Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Biomedical research can often throw up surprising results and opportunities. It is disappointing when studies do not reveal a benefit for a new approach, but these negative findings reinforce the need for robust and unequivocal results. The place of serendipity is legend in biomedicine. Many critically important observations and discoveries are made on the basis of luck and bravery rather than truly *a priori* defined thinking. Two episodes from NCHCR research during 2008 illustrate this. Firstly, interim results from the STEP study were reviewed by an independent DSMB. Immediately, a recommendation was made to cease further vaccinations and to cease recruitment. The basis was a clear absence of effectiveness associated with use of the

candidate vaccine for either preventing HIV infection or for affecting the natural history of HIV disease in people who became infected. More alarmingly, some data in defined subsets of volunteers suggested that use of the vaccine might actually have increased susceptibility to HIV infection following exposure. Secondly, during the conduct of the STEAL study, observational data (from the D:A:D study) indicated that use of abacavir was associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. These provocative data prompted controversy and dialogue. STEAL was based on the hypothesis that the fixed dose combinations of abacavir/lamivudine and tenofovir/emtricitabine would have similar antiviral efficacy but different safety profiles. To test this, the protocol team put

1. ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY

Studies recruiting during 2008

■ 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: 5,120/unlimited

Personnel: Sean Emery

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 \leq 200 cells/ μ L.

Status: Recruitment opened January 2004.

Sites: 6 military medical sites in Republic of South Africa

Enrolled/target: 1,473/2,800

Personnel: Sean Emery

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

Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2008

■ ALTAIR

A randomised open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of three different combination antiretroviral regimens as initial therapy for HIV infection.

Status: Recruitment opened January 2007 – concluded in February 2008.

Sites: 37 sites in 14 countries

Enrolled/target: 329/300

Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Christoph Boesecke, Carlo Dazo, Kathy Petoumenos, Chris Duncombe

Funding: Gilead Sciences

■ PINT

A study of the effects of the integrase inhibitor, raltegravir, on viral reservoirs in those treated at primary HIV-infection compared to those treated during chronic infection.

Status: The trial received ethics approval in December 2007.

in place systems and procedures with which to capture both efficacy and safety variables. The study concluded in 2008 and analyses soon revealed a robust signal indicating that use of abacavir appeared to be associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. Once again research conducted in Australia through a centrally co-ordinated research network is in a position to provide high-quality evidence that is immediately relevant to international clinical issues. TVRP personnel also commenced planning for two additional trials (ENCORE and SECOND-LINE). These moderate-sized studies (700 and 500 patients respectively) are intended to inform clinical practice in two areas: whether it is possible to treat using lower doses of some antiretroviral drugs, and how best to manage patients with virologic failure to first-line therapy, particularly in light of a new class of antiretroviral drugs, the integrase inhibitors. The public health consequences of data from these studies would be

substantial in resource-limited settings. During 2008, recruitment concluded in the PINT study through a network of hospital and primary care facilities. The PINT study was a consequence of some potentially important clinical observations made by NCHECR personnel related to viral decay characteristics following commencement of the new integrase inhibitor, raltegravir. Intensive clinical and laboratory monitoring (including gut biopsies) during the conduct of this study will support exploratory analyses of HIV disease pathogenesis during 2009. TVRP personnel continued leadership and co-ordination for the ALTAIR protocol at more than 30 sites in 14 countries. This study will conclude in mid-2009 along with two substudies investigating neuro-cognitive abnormalities and inflammatory biomarkers. TVRP personnel played a key role during 2008 in the commencement of the STALWART protocol through sites in the INSIGHT network. By the end of the year,

recruitment through sites co-ordinated by TVRP was substantially higher than any other co-ordinating centre. Many TVRP personnel and colleagues from the INSIGHT network were involved in additional analyses of data and samples from the SMART study. Objectives included examinations of clinical endpoints in patients who were not taking antiretrovirals at the time of entry into the study and attempts to understand underlying pathophysiology linked to non-AIDS defining illnesses. Publications arising from this work have resulted in significant changes to antiretroviral treatment guidelines and altered our understanding of the natural history of HIV disease. The research also provided further impetus for the design of a randomised clinical trial to determine the optimal time to commence antiretroviral therapy (the START study). TVRP personnel are at the forefront of the START protocol that we hope will commence during 2009 through the INSIGHT network.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Linda Gelgor, Christophe Boesecke, Sean Emery, Wendy Lee, Janaki Amin, David Cooper
Collaborators: Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House Private Practice; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; John Zaunders, Kat Marks, Kate McGhie, Julie Yeung, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, John Murray, School of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, UNSW
Funding: Merck & Co Inc

Studies in preparation during 2008

■ Strategic Timing of Antiretroviral Therapy (START)

An open-label randomised multicentre trial to examine the safety and efficacy of commencing combination antiretroviral therapy at a CD4+ cell count of >500 cells/mL versus commencing at a CD4+ cell count of <350 cells/mL. This initiative includes several substantial substudies designed to determine the effects of

treatment with ART on neurological manifestations of HIV disease, cardiovascular complications, bone mineral metabolism, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and abbreviated forms of informed consent documentation.
Status: In development.
Sites: To be decided.
Target: about 4000 (with approximately 1000 from sites co-ordinated by NCHECR)
Personnel: Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, Nisha Seneviratne
Funding: US NIH, NHMRC

TVRP staff (left to right)

Sarah Pett
 Rebekah Puls
 Sean Emery
 Dianne Carey
 Mark Boyd
 Fraser Drummond
 Helen Bykwaga
 Christoph Boesecke



■ ENCORE

A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial to determine the safety and efficacy of reduced dose efavirenz (400mg qd) versus standard dose efavirenz (600mg qd) as part of combination therapy in treatment naive individuals with HIV infection.

Status: in development

Sites: approximately 45

Target: approximately 700

Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Janaki Amin

Funding: to be determined

■ SPARTA

An open-label pilot study to examine the safety and pharmacokinetics of raltegravir in combination with atazanavir for the treatment of HIV infected patients initiating antiretroviral therapy.

Status: In development.

Sites: 2 to 3

Target: 20

Personnel: Dianne Carey

Funding: Undetermined

■ SECOND-LINE

A randomised, open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of two different combination antiretroviral regimens as second-line therapy for control of HIV infection after first-line regimen failure in resource-rich and resource-limited settings.

Status: In development.

Sites: 25

Target: 500

Personnel: Mark Boyd, Alli Humphries, Hila Haskelberg, Kymme Courtney-Vega

Funding: Undetermined

2. IMMUNE-BASED THERAPIES AND VACCINES

Studies recruiting during 2008

■ 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/ μ L: study of aldesleukin with and without antiretroviral therapy.

Status: Recruitment opened December 2005.

Sites: 13

Enrolled/target: 136/200 (Australia, Argentina, Thailand)

Personnel: Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers, Chris Duncombe

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

■ ESPRIT, TOXIL-2 SubstudyA

randomised study to compare the safety and effectiveness of different regimens for supportive medication administered during cycles of interleukin-2.

Status: Recruitment opened April 2006.

Sites: 12 (6 Argentina, 5 Australia, 1 Thailand)

Enrolled/target: 26/168

Personnel: Sarah Pett, Handan Wand, Matthew Law

Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2008

■ 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: Study completed.

Sites: 1

Enrolled/target: 2,940/3,000 globally

Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Anthony Kelleher

Funding: Merck Sharp & Dohme, Australia

■ Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Program (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: Recruitment closed May 2008.

Sites: 1 HIV-NAT

Enrolled/target: 8/24

Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Anthony Kelleher, Wendy Lee, Chris Duncombe

■ 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 under active antiretroviral therapy.

Status: Recruitment closed October 2002.

Follow-up to be completed 2008.

Sites: 17 in the Sydney Regional Coordinating Centre (12 Australia, 5 Argentina)

Enrolled/target: 1971/2000 internationally (includes 126 enrolled in Australia, and 167 in Argentina)

Personnel: Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers, Nisha Seneviratne

Funding: US National Institutes of Health; Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Limited

■ 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/mm³.

Status: Recruitment closed May 2003.



Follow-up to be completed 2008

Sites: 48 in the Sydney International Co-ordinating Centre (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, Nisha Seneviratne, Chris Duncombe

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

■ **ESPRIT, FLUVAC Substudy**

A phase III substudy of ESPRIT exploring immune responses to consecutive annual influenza vaccination.

Status: Recruitment closed December 2005. Follow up to be completed 2008.

Sites: 8

Enrolled/target: 269/400, with 48 enrolments from 8 Australian sites.

Personnel: Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Studies in preparation during 2008

■ **Intensification with raltegravir and hyper-immune bovine colostrum (CORAL)**

A randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled multi-centre study to measure the effect on CD4+ outcomes of combination antiretroviral therapy intensification with or without passive immunotherapy to reduce immune activation in HIV-infected individuals with persistent CD4+ T-cell count <350 cells/ μ L despite prolonged HIV plasma viraemia <50 copies/mL for at least 12 months on combination antiretroviral therapy.

Status: In development.

Sites: To be decided.

Target: 75

Personnel: Helen Byakwaga, Hila Haskelberg, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Janaki Amin

Funding: Undetermined

3. MISCELLANEOUS

Studies in preparation during 2008

■ **STEAL biomarker substudy**

An analysis of biomarkers related to cardiovascular disease in patients recruited and followed in the STEAL study.

Status: In development.

Sites: not applicable.

Target: not applicable.

Personnel: Allison Humphries, Janaki Amin, Anthony Kelleher

Funding: Gilead Sciences

■ **PIPET A**

A prospective study to examine the effectiveness and safety of neuraminidase inhibitors in index cases with presumed pandemic influenza infection.

Status: In development.

Sites: To be decided, submitted at 8 sites in Australia.

Target: To be decided.

Personnel: Allison Humphries, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Wendy Lee, Noorul Absar, Anthony Kelleher

Funding: NHMRC

■ **PIPET B**

A prospective study to examine the effectiveness and safety of neuraminidase inhibitors in volunteers who receive short-term prophylaxis against pandemic influenza.

Status: In development.

Sites: To be decided, submitted at 8 sites in Australia.

Target: To be decided.

Personnel: Allison Humphries, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Wendy Lee, Absar Noorul, Anthony Kelleher

Funding: NHMRC

■ **PIPET C**

A prospective study to examine the effectiveness and safety of neuraminidase inhibitors in volunteers who receive long-term prophylaxis against pandemic influenza.

Status: In development.

Sites: To be decided, submitted at 8 sites in Australia.

Target: To be decided.

Personnel: Allison Humphries, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Wendy Lee, Absar Noorul, Anthony Kelleher

Funding: NHMRC

THERAPEUTIC AND VACCINE RESEARCH PROGRAM 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 2008.

AUSTRALIAN SITES

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Canberra Sexual Health Clinic, Canberra Hospital

Site principal: Ashley Watson

Site co-ordinators: Ruth Primrose, Rendry del Rosario

NEW SOUTH WALES

East Sydney Doctors

Site principals: David Baker, Marilyn



TVRP staff

(left to right)

Leanne Kearney
Carlo Dazo
Maria Arriaga
Hila Haskelberg
David Courtney-Rodgers
Nisha Seneviratne
Allison Humphries
Enmoore Lin
Cate Carey
Rosemary Robson
Wendy Lee
Kymme Courtney-Vega
Jose Aurelio Vieira Vulcao
Maja Berilazic
(Absent)
Margaret Allan
Kate Clezy
Simone Jacoby

McMurchie

Site co-ordinators: Robyn Vale, Tina Basic

AIDS Research Initiative

Site principal: Cassy Workman

Site co-ordinator: Vanessa Rees, Sarah Baker

Albion Street Centre

Site principals: Don Smith, Julian Gold

Site co-ordinators: Jega Sarangapany, Jason Gao, Denise Smith, Rachel Musson

Bigge Park Centre, Liverpool Hospital

Site principal: John Quin

Site co-ordinators: Gary Keogh, Catherine MacGill

Burwood Road General Practice

Site principal: Nicholas Doong

Site co-ordinator: Jeff Hudson

Clinic 16, Royal North Shore Hospital

Site principals: George Kotsiou, Linda Dayan, Steven Davies

Site co-ordinator: Joanne Holahan, Victoria Hounsfeld, Carol Martin, Peter Jenkins

Holdsworth House Medical Practice

Site principal: Mark Bloch

Site co-ordinators: Shikha Agrawal, Teo Franic, Kate Beileiter, Nicky Cunningham, Bernie Monaghan

Immunology and Infectious Diseases Clinic, John Hunter Hospital

Site principal: Michael Boyle

Site co-ordinators: Pauline Dobson, Leah Carrall, Carolyn Nowlan

Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principals: David Cooper, Sarah Pett, Anthony Kelleher, Fraser Drummond, Andrew Carr

Site co-ordinators: Richard Norris, Karen MacRae, John McAllister, Martina Rafferty, Robert Fielden, Mengjun Zhu, Gary Keogh

Lismore Sexual Health Service

Site principal: David Smith

Site co-ordinator: Cherie Mincham
Prince of Wales Hospital

Site principals: Kate Clezy, Jeff Post

Site co-ordinator: Suzanne Ryan

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Site principal: Roger Garsia

Site co-ordinator: Marry Moussa, Geoff Turnham

Taylor Square Private Clinic

Site principal: Robert Finlayson

Site co-ordinators: Sophie Dinning, Debra Gleeson, Isabel Prone, Iman Ridda

Waratah Clinic, St George Hospital

Site principal: Pam Konecny

Site co-ordinator: Robyn Dever

Westmead Hospital

Site principal: Dominic Dwyer

Site co-ordinator: Margaret Piper

QUEENSLAND

AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health

Site principal: Mark Kelly

Site co-ordinators: Jo Murray, Paul Negus, Peita Lee Ambrose

Clinic 87, Nambour General Hospital

Site principal: David Sowden

Site co-ordinators: Alan Walker, Colleen Shields, Stephen Nash, Emma Smith

The Dolls House, Cairns Base Hospital Sexual Health Services

Site principal: Darren Russell

Site co-ordinators: Joanne Leamy, Chris Remington, Laura Foy, Sandra Downing

Gladstone Road Medical Centre

Site principal: David Orth

Site co-ordinator: David Youds

Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic

Site principal: John Chuah

Site co-ordinators: Tammy Schmidt, Denise Lester, May Ngieng

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Site principal: Anthony Allworth

Site co-ordinators: Natalie Gerns, Janelle Zillmann, Holly Asher

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Flinders Medical Centre

Site principals: Mark Boyd, David Gordon

Site co-ordinators: Robyn Gilligan, Michelle Wall, Rachel Wundke, Vicki Waddell

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

Site principals: Gary Rogers, William Donohue

Site co-ordinators: Michael Curry, Andrew Lohmeyer, Joy Oddy, Jillian Thompson

Royal Adelaide Hospital

Site principal: David Shaw

Site co-ordinator: Lyndal Daly

VICTORIA

Carlton Clinic

Site principals: Richard Moore, Jonathan Anderson

Site co-ordinators: Kaye Lowe, Paul Cortissos, Sian Edwards, Sally Carson

Clinical Research Section, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital

Site principal: Jennifer Hoy

Site co-ordinators: Janine Roney, Cath Magness, Sally Price, Rachel Liddle, Melissa Bryant, Elissa Giddings, Julie Moyer

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Tim Read

Site co-ordinators: Julie Silvers, Helen Kent

Middle Park Clinic

Site principal: Ian Chenoweth

Site co-ordinator: Helen Lau

Monash Medical Centre

Site principal: Ian Woolley

Site co-ordinators: Pauline Galt, Carly Thornhill, Sue Burton

Northcote Clinic

Site principal: Nicholas Medland

Site co-ordinator: Helen Lau

Prahran Market Clinic

Site principal: Norman Roth

Site co-ordinator: Helen Lau

Royal Melbourne Hospital

Site principal: Alan Street

Site co-ordinators: Janine Roney, Julie Moyer
The Centre Clinic

Site principal: Nicholas Medland, Ban Keim Tee

Site co-ordinator: Helen Lau

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Fremantle Hospital

Site principal: John Dyer

Site co-ordinators: Jacqueline Kerth, Nataasha Lethbridge, Samantha Libertino

Royal Perth Hospital

Site principal: Martyn French

Site co-ordinators: Esther Edward, Claire Forsdyke, Allison Cain, Jenny Skett

NEW ZEALAND SITES

Christchurch Hospital

Site principal: Alan Pithie

Waikato Hospital

Site principal: Graham Mills

Site co-ordinator: Christine Tuffery, Caroline Wharry

Wellington Hospital

Site principal: Tim Blackmore

Site co-ordinator: Jennifer Masters, Kylie Lahman, Suzanne Miller

HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

The HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program (HEPP) conducts research into the transmission and prevention of HIV and sexually transmissible infections (STIs), and work on the natural history of HIV. The main focus of work on the natural history of HIV infection is on the development of cancer in immune deficient individuals. Scientists in HEPP conduct a range of work on the intersection of infection, immunity and cancer to inform our knowledge of the types of cancer that might be expected to occur at increased rates in people with HIV. In 2008, our finding of a wide range of cancers occurring at increased rates in people with HIV infection were presented through invited presentations at several national and international scientific meetings. Data published from a collaboration of HEPP scientists with lymphoma researchers in several other countries revealed that people with hepatitis C virus infection were more likely to develop a range of lymphoma subtypes. In 2008, the first full year after completion of follow up in the HIM study, work continued on writing up important findings from that study. An important finding was that gay men who preferred the insertive

role in anal intercourse were at lower risk of HIV if they were circumcised. The Gay Community Periodic Surveys continued to provide the primary method of monitoring sexual risk behaviour among gay men in Australia. Supplementing this activity, we have initiated several studies investigating in further detail key indicators of HIV infection. These have included studies of recent seroconverters, and men participating in highly sexually active gay community subcultures. In 2008, funding was obtained to extend existing studies to most Australian states and territories. Another focus of work in 2008 was a detailed collaborative investigation of reasons for the divergence in rates of HIV notification across Australian states and territories since 2000. This work demonstrated that the primary reason for this divergence was that risk behaviour for HIV had declined slightly in homosexual men in NSW, but had increased elsewhere, and that this reflected trends in investment in HIV prevention education. In 2008, STI research, led by Professor Basil Donovan within HEPP, was expanded into a new Sexual Health Program, and that research is described in a separate section.

HIV transmission and prevention research

■ HIV vaccine preparedness cohort study (Health in Men study)

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

Status: During 2001-2004, 1,427 HIV negative men were enrolled in the study, and active follow up ceased in 2007. In 2008, data analysis and reporting continued.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Mary Poynten, David Templeton, Jeff Jin

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

Funding: NHMRC; NSW Health Department.

■ HIM (Health in Men) study: interaction between sexually transmissible infections and HIV infection

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

Status: More than 90% of enrolled HIM participants 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). Analysis and reporting occurred in 2008.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin, Basil Donovan, David Templeton

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

Funding: NHMRC; NSW Health Department; Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd; GlaxoSmithKline Australia

■ HIM (Health in Men) study: circumcision and sexually transmissible infections and HIV infection

A cohort study to examine the interaction between circumcision and incidence of

sexually transmissible infections and HIV among initially HIV-negative homosexual men.

Status: All 1,427 men enrolled in the study had been previously asked about their circumcision status. Analysis and reporting occurred in 2008.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin, Basil Donovan, David Templeton

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

Funding: NHMRC; NSW Health Department; Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd; GlaxoSmithKline Australia

■ The HIM (Health in Men) study: post-exposure prophylaxis and HIV infection

A cohort study to examine the use of non-occupational prophylaxis against HIV, and its association with future HIV seroconversion among initially HIV-negative homosexual men.

Status: All men under follow up in the study were asked about their use of post-exposure prophylaxis during the annual interviews. Analysis and reporting occurred in 2008.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin, Mary Poynten

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

Funding: NHMRC; NSW Health Department

■ The HIM (Health in Men) study: risk reduction behaviours and risk of HIV infection

A cohort study to examine behavioural risk factors for HIV infection among initially HIV-negative homosexual men.

Status: All 1,427 men enrolled in the study underwent a detailed interview about sexual risk behaviour. Analysis and reporting occurred in 2008.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

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

Funding: NHMRC; NSW Health Department

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

Status: During 2008, online and direct enrolment continued in Queensland. The study was funded for extension to Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia. In total, 48 men with recent primary HIV infection have been enrolled. Preliminary analysis and reporting commenced in 2008.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Jack Bradley, Jeff Jin, Andrew Grulich

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society; Curtin University; State AIDS Councils, State PLWHA organisations, and State Health Departments.

Funding: Queensland Health; Victorian Department of Human Services; NSW Health Department; Western Australian Health Department.

■ Periodic surveys of HIV risk behaviour

A study of sexual risk behaviour, HIV and STI testing, and illicit drug use among gay men in Australia.

Status: In 2008, 7251 surveys were completed in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth. Ongoing analysis and reporting occurred in 2008.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin, Andrew Grulich

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

Funding: State and Territory Health Departments

■ Group sex study

A study to investigate the motivations and circumstances of group sex behaviour among gay men, particularly those behaviours that may contribute to HIV transmission.

Status: In 2008, the study was extended to Victoria and Queensland. In total, 994 men completed the study questionnaire and sixteen men were interviewed in depth. Analysis and reporting commenced.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage

Collaborators: The University of Sydney; AIDS Council of New South Wales

Funding: NSW Health Department; Victorian AIDS Council; Queensland Association of Healthy Communities.

■ The PASH (Pleasure and Sexual Health) Study: understandings of risk among gay men

A study of beliefs and attitudes about risks and consequences of HIV infection in Australian gay men.

Status: During 2008, funding was obtained to conduct the study in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia. Preliminary interview schedules and questionnaire development commenced.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Jack Bradley, Pol McCann

Collaborators: Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society; Curtin University; National Centre in HIV Social Research; State AIDS Councils, State PLWHA organisations, and State Health Departments.

Funding: Victorian Department of Human Services; NSW Health Department; Western Australian Health Department.

HEPP staff

(left to right)

Mary Poynten
Marina van Leeuwen
Andrew Grulich
Neil Franklin
Rebecca Guy
Louise Causer
Basil Donovan
Melanie Middleton
Jeff Jin
Ali Ayoub
Jack Bradley
Garrett Prestage
Pol McCann
(Absent)
Christine Harcourt
Ann McDonald



■ HIV prevalence among gay men in Melbourne

The aim of the HIV prevalence study is to estimate the prevalence of HIV and unrecognised HIV infection among gay men in Melbourne.

Status: During 2008, 746 gay men were recruited from venues including gay bars and clubs, sex on premises venues and sexual health clinics, and risk factor data and oral fluid collected. Oral fluid HIV testing was validated using Australian specimens.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Rebecca Guy
Collaborators: Burnett Institute; Victorian AIDS Council; National Serology Reference Laboratory.

Funding: Victorian Department of Human Services.

■ Examination of reasons for divergent trends in HIV around Australia

A collaborative series of studies examining whether differences in HIV incidence, HIV testing, sexual risk behaviour and other factors might explain diverging trends in HIV notification around Australia

Status: In 2008, analysis and reporting of trend data from a series of studies (including surveillance data, the periodic surveys, the Health in Men Study) was conducted.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Anne McDonald, Melanie Middleton, John Kaldor, Jeff Jin

Collaborators: State and Territory Health Departments, National Centre in HIV Social Research, Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society; AIDS Council of New South Wales.

Funding: NSW Health Department

■ Young women's health study

A pilot longitudinal study of the health of young women in Cambodia who report

exchange of sex for money.

Status: Follow up is now complete.

Sites: 1

Enrolled/target: 160/100

Personnel: John Kaldor

Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs; Combined Women's Development Association; University of California, San Francisco

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

■ Clinical development program to evaluate the safety and acceptability of the candidate vaginal microbicide SPL7013 (VMDC)

A series of studies under the VivaGel™ Microbicide Development Consortium (VMDC) 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.

Status: This study is complete and the report has been submitted for publication.

Sites: Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
Enrolled/target: 37/36

Personnel: Mary Poynten, Matthew Law, Lisa Maher, Iona Millwood, Handan Wand, John Kaldor

Collaborators: Starpharma Pty Limited; Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health; Melbourne Sexual Health Centre; Thai Red Cross AIDS Research 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 HIV-negative and HIV-positive homosexual men.

Status: Analyses and reporting were completed.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Marina van Leeuwen

Collaborators: UNSW Cancer research Centre; 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: Analysis was ongoing and preliminary reporting occurred.

Personnel: Marina van Leeuwen

Collaborators: UNSW Cancer Research Centre; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; AHOD investigators (see *Biostatistics and Databases Program*)

■ International pooled analysis of immune risk factors for lymphoma

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

Status: All twelve member studies sent data on a pooled total of 12,982 cases and 16,441 controls, and results on auto-immune disease as a risk factor for non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) were reported. Analyses on the association between atopic disease, birth order, and infectious conditions and NHL risk were ongoing, and analyses on auto-immune disease and hepatitis C infection were reported.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Michael Falster



Collaborators: UNSW Cancer Research Centre; 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 Australia

■ 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: Analysis of risk factors for specific cancers continued. Reporting occurred for risk factors for lip cancer.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Matthew Law, Marina van Leeuwen

Collaborators: UNSW Cancer Research Centre; Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA); University of Otago; Westmead Hospital

Funding: NSW Cancer Council

■ Cancer in primary immune deficiency

A project to describe the incidence of malignancies in people with primary (congenital) immune deficiencies and to compare this with the incidence of malignancy in people with HIV/AIDS and in those with organ transplants.

Status: Ethics approvals were obtained, and linkage with the National Cancer Statistics clearing house occurred.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Matthew Law, Marina van Leeuwen

Collaborator: UNSW Cancer Research Centre; Australian Primary Immunodeficiency Disease Register, The University of Sydney

Funding: NHMRC fellowship

■ Positive Health Study

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

Status: During 1998-2007, 766 HIV positive men were enrolled in the study, and active follow up ceased in 2007. In 2008, data analysis and reporting continued.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

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

■ Incidence and prevalence of chlamydia and prevalence of lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) serovars in the Positive Health and Health in Men (HIM) studies

A substudy of the Positive Health study to determine whether some study participants may be infected with chlamydia serovars L1-L3, the causative organism of LGV.

Status: Specimens which tested positive for rectal chlamydia were stored and tested for LGV.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Basil Donovan, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin, David Templeton

Collaborators: Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne; Melbourne Sexual Health Centre; National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS

Funding: NHMRC

Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

2008 was an exciting year for the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program (VHCRP). The primary analysis from the Tenofovir in HIV/HBV Coinfection (TICO) study, the first VHCRP randomised clinical trial to complete follow-up, was accepted for publication in *Hepatology*, with two subsequent papers accepted in *Hepatology* (viral kinetics) and *Journal of Infectious Diseases* (immune markers of hepatic flare). The CHARLOT study completed follow-up of patients recruited in Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Mexico, Argentina and Canada, with the primary analysis presentation planned for the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) conference in April 2009. In addition the program has been making preparations to take over the clinical database from Roche and the specimen repository from South Eastern Area Laboratory Service (SEALS). The Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC) study neared completion, with follow-up to be completed in February 2009. ATAHC is the largest study to date that examines acute and newly acquired hepatitis C therapeutic strategies among a largely injecting drug user study population. A revised resubmission to the NIH for a further five years' funding will be

submitted in March 2009.

2008 saw significant work on the UNSW Strategic Research Grant-funded Hepatitis C Virus Vaccine Initiative. The program component of the initiative is to establish an HCV incident case cohort, to examine the natural history of acute HCV and determine rates and predictors of viral clearance. VHCRP received additional funding from the Commonwealth and NSW Health Departments to establish national and NSW-based projects to enhance hepatitis C treatment uptake and outcomes among people receiving opiate pharmacotherapy (ETHOS). Six hepatitis assessment and treatment clinics have been established within existing drug and alcohol clinics across NSW. An NHMRC Partnership Grant was submitted to expand and extend the ETHOS project activity, including development of a large ETHOS cohort study. 2008 brought an NHMRC Program Grant (2009-2013) and Cancer Council STREP Grant (2008-2012). The success and strength of the program was also acknowledged through the promotion to UNSW Professor of Greg Dore. The appointment of a former VHCRP PhD student, Rosie Thein as lecturer following a period of post-doctoral study in Toronto was a further highlight.

■ 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 completed November 2007.

Sites: 20 sites

Enrolled/target: 168/240

Personnel: Barbara Yeung, Pip Marks, Brian Acraman, Patrick McGrath, Gail Matthews, John Kaldor, Greg Dore

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; Kirketon 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 (CHARLOT)

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: Follow-up completed June 2008.

Sites: 51 (33 Australia, 3 New Zealand, 5 Canada, 3 Thailand, 4 Argentina, 3 Mexico)

Enrolled/target: 896 (702 Australia, 29 New Zealand, 165 internationally)/816

Personnel: Jacinta Perram, Natalie Espinosa, Ineke Shaw, Alexa Gillman, Oscar-Hazel Donaldson, Pip Marks, Gail Matthews, Jennifer Moore, Greg Dore

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

Funding: Roche Products Pty Ltd

■ UNSW Hepatitis C Virus Vaccine Initiative: Natural history and clinical trials

The UNSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative is a collaborative program of research which aims to establish a comprehensive community, clinical and laboratory framework for candidate hepatitis C vaccine evaluation. The natural history and clinical trials arm will establish a hepatitis C incident case cohort (HITS-i), with subjects drawn from prison- (HITS-p) and community- (HITS-c) based hepatitis C seronegative cohorts, and from St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. HITS-i will examine the time-course and immunovirological predictors of hepatitis C clearance. Hepatitis C modelling studies will examine the impact of potential hepatitis C vaccines at a population level based on various scenarios of efficacy and uptake.

Status: HITS-i study in development.

Personnel: Deborah Adrian, Greg Dore, Pip Marks, Natalie Espinosa, Rosie Thein.

Collaborators: AIDS Council of New South Wales; Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League; Hepatitis Australia; Hepatitis C Council of NSW; Inflammatory Diseases Research Unit, School of Medical Studies, UNSW; Kirketon Road Centre; National Centre in HIV Social Research; National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre; NSW Community Restorative Centre; NSW Users and AIDS Association; School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, UNSW

Funding: UNSW Strategic Research Grant

■ Enhancing Treatment of Hepatitis C in Opiate Substitution Settings (ETHOS)

A series of research projects designed to examine client- and practitioner-based barriers to hepatitis C treatment and treatment uptake and outcomes within opiate pharmacotherapy settings: qualitative and quantitative surveys of barriers to hepatitis C treatment among

opiate pharmacotherapy clients; qualitative and quantitative surveys of barriers to hepatitis C treatment among opiate pharmacotherapy prescribers and allied health care professionals; collaborative cohort of opiate pharmacotherapy clients being assessed for hepatitis C treatment (ETHOS cohort).

Status: Ethics approval pending

Target (ETHOS cohort): 300

Personnel: Marianne Jauncey, Jason Grebely, Greg Dore, Alexa Gillman, Pip Marks, Rosie Thein

Collaborators: Drug and Alcohol Services, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital; Faculty of Medicine, The University of Sydney; National Centre in HIV Social Research

Funding: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; NSW Health Department

■ Liver Disease and HIV/HBV Coinfection in the era of HAART (COLD)

A prospective cohort of people with HIV/hepatitis B co-infection 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: Recruitment of 150 individuals completed in Australia and the US in 2004-2006. Cohort expanded to include 47 individuals from Thailand in 2008.

Enrolled/target: 197/200

Sites: 5 (3 Australia, 1 United States, 1 Thailand)

Personnel: Gail Matthews, Amanda Erratt, Pip Marks

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 and Australia

This project undertakes estimates and projections of hepatitis B-related liver disease burden including liver cancer in Australia and Vietnam.

Status: Completed (PhD submitted)

Personnel: Van Thi Thuy Nguyen (PhD student)

Collaborator: School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

VIRAL HEPATITIS CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK

AUSTRALIAN SITES

Each site listed below has recruited and followed at least one subject in a VHCRP research protocol during 2007.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Canberra Hospital

Site principal: Geoff Farrell

Site co-ordinator: Anne Blunn

NEW SOUTH WALES

East Sydney Doctors

Site principal: David Baker

Site co-ordinators: Robyn Vale, Claire Johnson

Albion Street Centre

Site principal: George Marinos

Site co-ordinators: Jason Gao, Shona Fletcher

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital

Site principal: Chris Meredith

Site co-ordinator: Sandra Bluncoski

Concord Hospital



Site principal: Alice Lee
Site co-ordinator: Vivienne Schiavone

Holdsworth House General Practice

Site principal: Mark Bloch
Site co-ordinator: Shikha Agrawal

Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principal: Greg Dore
Site co-ordinators: Rebecca Hickey, Zoe Potgieter, Dianne How Chow

John Hunter Hospital

Site principals: Jon Watson, Brian Hughes
Site co-ordinators: Tracey Jones, Nadine Leembruggen

Kirketon Road Centre

Site principal: Ingrid van Beek
Site co-ordinator: Anna Doab

Lismore Liver Clinic

Site principal: Mark Cornwell
Site co-ordinator: Wendy Evans

Liverpool Hospital

Site principal: Miriam Levy
Site co-ordinator: Anne Glass

Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic

Site principal: John Quin
Site co-ordinator: Pat Walker

Nepean Hospital

Site principals: Martin Weltman, Nghi Phung
Site co-ordinator: Vince Fragomeli

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Site principals: Geoff McCaughan, Paul Haber
Site co-ordinator: Sue Mason

Taylor Square Private Clinic

Site principal: Neil Bodsworth

Site co-ordinator: Isabel Prone

Waratah Clinic, St George Hospital

Site principal: John Freiman
Site co-ordinators: Suzanne Polis, Robyn Dever

Westmead Hospital

Site principal: Jacob George
Site co-ordinators: Jasmin Canete, Seng Kee Teo

Wollongong Hospital

Site principal: Jenny McDonald
Site co-ordinator: Pat Bindley

QUEENSLAND

Greenslopes Hospital

Site principal: Darrell Crawford
Site co-ordinator: Julie Roggeveen

Nambour Hospital

Site principal: Don Walker
Site co-ordinator: Bronwyn Rynne

Princess Alexandra Hospital

Site principal: Darrell Crawford
Site co-ordinators: Fiona Giddens, Julie Roggeveen

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Site principal: Barbara Leggett
Site co-ordinator: Deb D'Arcy

Townsville Hospital

Site principal: John Masson
Site co-ordinator: Sharon Cooke

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Flinders Medical Centre

Site principals: John Ring, Alex Rodgers
Site co-ordinator: Rosalie Altus

Royal Adelaide Hospital

Site principals: Hugh Harley, David Shaw
Site co-ordinators: Megan Phelps,

Catherine Ferguson

VICTORIA

Austin Hospital

Site principal: Peter Angus
Site co-ordinators: Lisa Thompson, Brenda Morales

Box Hill Hospital

Site principal: Peter Gibson
Site co-ordinators: Sarah Chivers, Caroline Day

Frankston Hospital

Site principal: David Badov
Site co-ordinator: Rita Coffey

Geelong Hospital

Site principal: Damian Dowling
Site co-ordinator: Margaret Wardrop

HealthWorks (referral site)

Site principal: Fran Branwell

Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health

Site principal: Margaret Hellard
Site co-ordinators: Oanh Nguyen, Sally von Bibra, Clare Robertson

Monash Medical Centre

Site principal: Bill Sievert
Site co-ordinators: Sherryne Warner, Patricia Anderson

Royal Melbourne Hospital

Site principal: Joe Sasadeusz
Site co-ordinators: Jacqui Brown, Joanne Patterson

St Vincent's Hospital

Site principal: Paul Desmond
Site co-ordinators: Nicole Prendergast

The Alfred Hospital

Site principals: Margaret Hellard, Sharon



VHCRC staff

(left to right)

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Erikson

Waikato Hospital

Site principal: Frank Weilert
Site co-ordinator: Sherryl Hayett

Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

During 2008 work continued on the Indigenous Resilience Project, with data collection for the participatory action research project in Townsville finalised and the production of a training manual and site report. During 2008, a group of young Aboriginal men were recruited and trained through Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service to conduct participatory action research under the mentorship of an Aboriginal men's group. Marlene Thompson and Dr Julie Mooney-Somers attended the International Steering Committee meeting for this project in Toronto in November. Also in 2008, Jenny Iversen and her team successfully conducted the 15th annual Australian NSP Survey, recruiting more than 2000 participants and collecting the first Australian data on re-use and cleaning of injecting equipment. Data from the Australian NSP survey were also used to parameterise a mathematical model examining the impact of NSPs on HCV. NHMRC Training Fellows Dr Jo Kimber and Dr Peter Higgs continued to work on their post-doctoral projects during 2008 and postgraduate students Heidi Coupland and Allison Salmon submitted their PhD theses in December. Several new projects commenced during 2008. Following ten months of fieldwork, recruitment commenced for a new community-based cohort of HCV uninfected people who inject drugs. The cohort is part

of a program of preparedness for clinical trials of candidate hepatitis C vaccines being conducted under the UNSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative. During 2008, consultation with affected communities and key stakeholders as part of the Initiative continued in collaboration with the National Centre for HIV Social Research. 2008 also saw the initiation of the Hepatitis B Acceptability and Vaccine Incentives Trial (HAVIT), a two-arm randomised clinical trial examining the efficacy of financial incentives in increasing hepatitis B immunisation completion in IDUs. Recruitment for the trial commenced at the Kirketon Road Centre in September 2008 and will expand to Redfern Drug Health Service in 2009. Other new projects in 2008 included a study of hepatitis C seroconversion coordinated by Dr Rachel Deacon, the 2008 NSW NSP Periodic Survey and a collaborative study of Culture and HIV Prevention in Cambodia funded by the National Institutes of Health. During 2008 VHEPP staff were also involved in the preparation of a report to DoHA examining the effectiveness hepatitis C prevention interventions. During 2008 VHEPP staff submitted 33 papers for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals, 16 of which were published, with a further eight in press and nine under review.

■ Australian Needle and Syringe Program Survey

Annual cross-sectional surveys are conducted at selected needle and syringe programs (NSPs) throughout Australia during a one to two week period in October. All clients attending participating NSP sites during the survey period are invited to complete a self-administered questionnaire, and to provide a capillary 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 data and prepares surveillance reports and papers for publication. In 2008 52 NSP sites and 2270 respondents participated in the survey which

included a one-off module that asked respondents to identify their use, re-use and cleaning of a range of items used for injecting in the month prior to survey completion.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Jenny Iversen, Rachel Deacon, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; NSP services involved in HIV and hepatitis C surveillance; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs Australia (ANEX); Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL); Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice, National Drug Research Institute

Funding: Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

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

A collaborative project between Australia, Canada and New Zealand to examine resilience to blood-borne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in Indigenous communities. With a focus on adolescents and young adults in urban settings, the Australian component of the study seeks to identify factors that protect against acquisition of BBV/STI and promote access to prevention and treatment, and provide capacity building opportunities for Indigenous researchers and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Marlene Thompson, Julie

Mooney-Somers, Lisa Maher, John Kaldor
Collaborators: Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Service Ltd; The Aboriginal Medical Service Coop Ltd, Redfern; Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, Perth; 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); National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC); Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC).

■ NSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative

The NSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative is a collaborative program of research which aims to establish a comprehensive community, clinical and laboratory framework for candidate hepatitis C vaccine evaluation. The Social Epidemiology and

Prevention Studies arm aims to consult with affected communities and key stakeholders; establish a community-based cohort of people who inject drugs; determine hepatitis C incidence; identify factors associated with acquisition of, or protection from, hepatitis C infection; assess levels of follow-up and factors associated with retention; and identify attitudes towards research and willingness to participate in candidate hepatitis C vaccine trials.

Status: Formative qualitative data collection completed. Cohort screening and recruitment commenced

Personnel: Jarliene Enriquez, Aylza Donald, Anna Bates, Anh Pham, Len Liao, Bethany White, Greg Dore, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: AIDS Council of New South Wales; Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League; Hepatitis Australia; Hepatitis C Council of NSW; Inflammatory Diseases Research Unit, School of Medical Studies, UNSW; Kirketon Road Centre; National Centre in HIV Social Research; National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre; NSW Community Restorative Centre; NSW Users and AIDS Association; SEALS, School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, UNSW; Sydney South West Area Health Service.

Funding: UNSW Strategic Research Fund.

■ Hepatitis B Acceptability and Vaccine Incentives Trial (HAVIT)

This study seeks to determine the efficacy of incentive payments in increasing hepatitis B vaccine completion among injecting drug users (IDU). Using a two-arm randomised controlled trial design, a 3-dose accelerated HBV schedule (0, 7, and 21 days) will be offered to eligible IDUs allocated to either an incentive payment or standard of care condition. Participants allocated to the incentive payment condition will receive a \$30

incentive payment after each dose of the vaccine. Secondary objectives are to (i) Determine the cost effectiveness of incentive payments relative to standard care as a method of improving vaccine-induced immunity as measured at three months and rates of successful series completion; (ii) Identify the correlates of immunity; (iii) Assess the acceptability of vaccines, including HBV vaccines, barriers to immunisation uptake and willingness to participate in vaccine trials; and (iv) Document hepatitis B-related knowledge in this group.

Status: Screening and recruitment commenced in September 2008.

Personnel: Kathy Barnes, Brian Acraman, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR); University of New South Wales (UNSW); Kirketon Road Centre (KRC); National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC); Sydney South West Area Health Service, Redfern Drug Health Service

Funding: NHMRC Project Grant.

■ How do long term injecting drug users avoid exposure to hepatitis C infection?

Using an existing cohort of injecting drug users, this study seeks to investigate the behavioural, social, environmental and economic factors that distinguish between people with and without hepatitis C exposure. It will identify, from the narratives of HCV unexposed injectors, strategies that may assist in developing interventions for injectors to avoid HCV transmission. A series of up to 3 interviews will be conducted with long term injectors using a life history approach. In particular, the results of this study will lead to recommendations and strategies to contribute to the strengthening of capacity of health services, drug user



organisations and drug users to respond to the HCV epidemic.

Status: Series of interviews with long term HCV uninfected injectors (n=20) has commenced

Personnel: Peter Higgs, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: National Development and Research Institutes, New York, London School Hygiene Tropical Medicine, University of London; The Centre for Population Health, The Burnet Institute

Funding: NHMRC Training Fellowship; UNSW Faculty of Medicine Small Grant Scheme.

■ Prevention and management of hepatitis C infection among Indo-Chinese injecting drug users

Ethnographic research exploring Indo-Chinese injecting drug users' explanatory models of hepatitis C prevention and management, and their influence on help-seeking behaviour and service utilisation. The study also includes a trial of a brief intervention (consisting of culturally tailored information about hepatitis C treatment and referral to a tertiary liver clinic) to identify barriers and facilitators of treatment access and uptake in this group.

Status: Completed

Personnel: Heidi Coupland, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: Cambodian-Australian Welfare Council of NSW; Vietnamese Community in Australia; Lao Workers' Network; Open Family; NSW Users and AIDS Association; Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service

Funding: NSW Health Department; NHMRC Post-Graduate Research Scholarship; Faculty of Medicine, UNSW.

■ Culture and HIV Prevention in Cambodia

This study assesses two cultural measures

particular to Asian cultures, "harmonious control" and "fatalism" and their association with HIV infection and HIV related risk behaviour and preventive behavior, including adherence to a preventive vaccine regimen, in a highly affected and highly marginalized population of young high-risk women working in the sex and entertainment industry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Phase 1 consists of a formative qualitative phase to assess the priori socio-cultural constructs of harmonious control and fatalism, risk behaviors, and attitudes toward biomedical prevention technologies. Phase 2 consists of a prospective observational study with clinical and serological assessments for HIV and other STIs, risk behaviours and measurement of adherence to a multidose preventive HPV vaccine series.

Status: HREC and IRB approvals received.

Personnel: John Kaldor, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: University of California San Francisco, NCHADS, Cambodian Women's Development Association.

Funding: National Institutes of Health.

■ Hepatitis C Seroconversion: Using qualitative research to enhance surveillance

This study is designed to improve the existing surveillance and contribute to prevention of hepatitis C in NSW, by improving mechanisms for identifying cases of newly-diagnosed hepatitis C infection and conducting a targeted qualitative study of seroconverters. This will be delivered by; (i) consulting with NSW Health, area public health units, laboratories and high case-load doctors to determine acceptable liaison and referral pathways for recruitment; (ii) piloting the recruitment methodology and interview on a small sample of seroconverters; (iii) using the refined

methodology to conduct a targeted study of seroconverters; and (iv) developing a methodology for an ongoing program of enhanced surveillance of HCV in NSW.

Status: Pilot of recruitment methodology and interview schedule complete and recruitment ongoing.

Personnel: Rachel Deacon, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research, SEALS

Funding: NSW Health Department.

■ 2008 NSW NSP Periodic Survey

This project aims to collect basic demographic and drug use data of all NSW Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) clients during a two week census period. The survey will provide data on NSP client populations for individual services and Area Health Services, as well as a comprehensive snapshot of the overall NSW NSP client population in order to inform the planning, development and delivery of NSP services in NSW.

Status: Completed

Personnel: Rachel Deacon, Jenny Iversen, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: NSW Health Department

Funding: NSW Health Department.

■ 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 implications for public health. Conducted in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, the study utilises ethnographic and epidemiological research methods and techniques to access psychostimulant users in a range of settings.

Status: Data collection finalised; analyses and integrative modelling ongoing

VHEPP staff

(left to right)

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Julie Mooney-Somers
Bethany White
Brian Acraman
Jenny Iversen
Rachel McCleave
(Absent)
Peter Higgs
Marlene Thompson

HITS-c team

(left to right)

Jarliene Enriquez
Aylza Donald
Len Liao
Anna Bates
Bethany White
(Absent)
Anna Doab



Personnel: Susan Hudson (PhD student),
Lisa Maher

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

Funding: NHMRC Project Grant.

■ **Examination of injecting drug use life
course and estimating prevalence and
health consequences of a dynamic
population**

This project examines longitudinal and
health surveillance datasets of injecting
drug users from the UK and Australia
taking into account periods of injecting and
non-injecting. This will allow for more valid
projections of injecting drug use health
consequences and associated health
impacts and costs of interventions.

Status: Analysis of Edinburgh Addiction
Cohort data set ongoing

Personnel: Jo Kimber, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: University of Bristol; MRC
Biostatistics Unit, Cambridge; Muirhouse
Medical Group, Edinburgh; London School
of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Funding: NHMRC (Sidney Sax) Training
Fellowship.

Sexual Health Program

The Sexual Health Program undertakes research and surveillance designed to inform strategies to reduce the impact of sexually transmissible infections (STIs) and HIV, and to conduct trials to directly reduce the impact of STIs. During 2008, close collaborations were developed with the Aboriginal Health, Biostatistics and Database, and HIV Epidemiology and

Prevention Programs at NCHECR, and many external groups. The program had leading roles in developing new national surveillance networks for genital chlamydia, genital warts, and other STIs, as well as planning to implement large randomised controlled trials in STI prevention. In 2008, the Sexual Health Program, led by Professor Basil Donovan, undertook the following key projects:

■ Australian Collaboration for Enhanced Chlamydia Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS)

Chlamydia is the most commonly notified disease in Australia and is an important cause of pelvic inflammatory disease and tubal infertility in women. Chlamydia notifications have been increasing for over a decade. However, the basis of the increase is not well understood. The ACCESS program will determine chlamydia testing and positivity rates in priority populations nationally as well as establishing an ongoing surveillance system. Populations of interest include young heterosexuals, men who have sex with men, sex workers, pregnant women, and Indigenous people. The program involves national collaborative networks of selected services including sexual health clinics, antenatal clinics, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, family planning clinics, general practices and laboratories.

Status: Ethics, protocol development, site recruitment, development of data collection tools.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, John Kaldor, Rebecca Guy, Neil Franklin, James Ward, Andrew Grulich.

Collaborators: Burnet Institute, National Perinatal Statistics Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, National Serological Reference Laboratory, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia (SH&FPA), Key Centre for Women's Health and Society, Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne, School of Population Health/University of Melbourne, Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH), National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, eight family planning clinics, 21 general practices, eight antenatal clinics, 21 five sexual health

clinics, eight Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and eight laboratories across Australia.

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

■ Long-term surveillance for genital warts through Australian sexual health services:

A national program of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination of Australian teenage girls and young women requires systems that can provide long-term surveillance for trends in HPV-related diseases. Genital warts should only be prevented by quadrivalent vaccine that also covers HPV types 6 and 11. We intend to establish a system of enhanced sentinel surveillance for genital warts in ten larger sexual health clinics.

Status: Ethics, protocol development, site recruitment, development of data collection tools.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich, Rebecca Guy, Neil Franklin.

Collaborators: Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, School of Population Health/University of Melbourne, CSL Ltd, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, ten sexual health clinics across Australia.

Funding: CSL Ltd.

■ A trial of chemoprophylaxis to prevent syphilis in men who have sex with men with HIV infection

A syphilis epidemic has recently re-emerged among MSM in Australia, particularly among those with HIV infection, and may be contributing to a resurgence of HIV infection in this population.

Conventional control methods to curb the re-emergence of syphilis in MSM have not been successful. This trial will compare the

incidence of syphilis in men who have sex with men with HIV infection treated with 100mg of doxycycline once daily with those receiving placebo. The study will employ a randomised, double-blind placebo design. Men who have sex with men with HIV infection will be recruited through designated research sites over an 18 month period.

Status: Protocol development.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, John Kaldor, Sean Emery, Rebecca Guy, Fraser Drummond, Kathy Petoumenos, Andrew Grulich.

Collaborators: Clinics in Australia, San Francisco, United Kingdom, Germany, South America, Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention & Control Services, Department of Public Health, City and County of San Francisco, University of California.

Funding: STI Clinical Trials Group (NIH) grant (pending)/internal.

■ The effect of the law on the health and welfare of sex workers:

Hostile legal and policing environments have the potential to adversely affect the health and welfare of sex workers. However, this hypothesis has never been investigated. This study aims to determine if legal attempts at prohibition of sex work (Western Australia), regulation through licensing (Victoria) or decriminalisation (New South Wales) are associated with differing health and welfare outcomes for sex workers. The study involves legal research, key informant interviews questionnaires with sex workers, and testing sex workers for STIs at their work-sites.

Status: Data collection completed, analysis underway.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Christine Harcourt, Handan Wand, John Kaldor.

Collaborators: Faculty of Law, UNSW, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne, Fremantle Hospital Sexual Health Service, SWOP (Sydney), Magenta (Perth), RhED (Melbourne), Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne.

Funding: NHMRC project grant.

■ Status reports on the female sex industry (WA and NSW):

The health and welfare of Australian sex workers has only been studied sporadically over recent decades. This study is designed to review all of the data available on the health and welfare of sex workers in WA and NSW; and use these data to develop timely reports with recommendations for actions by state governments.

Status: Consultation with stake-holders ongoing. Reports in preparation.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Chris Harcourt, Dana Paquette, Handan Wand, John Kaldor.

Collaborators: Faculty of Law UNSW, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre/School of Population Health, University of Melbourne, Fremantle Sexual Health Centre, Sydney

Sexual Health Centre, SWOP/ACON

Funding: Health Departments of WA and NSW.

■ Sexual Health and Attitudes of Australian Prisoners (SHHAP) study

Little is known about the sexual behaviour, including sexual assault, of Australian prisoners. In addition, the consequences of introducing condoms and dental dams into prisons are unknown. This study is designed to qualify and quantify the sexual behaviour of male and female prisoners in all New South Wales and Queensland prisons. It also aims to assess the effects of NSW prisons introducing condoms and dental dams in 1997. This study involves computer-assisted telephone interviews with prisoners and key informant interviews.

Status: Data collection completed. Several reports in preparation.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Karen Schneider.
Collaborators: NSW Justice Health, School of Public Health and Community Medicine UNSW, NSW Department of Corrective Services, National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University.

Funding: NHMRC project, NSW Health Department, NSW Department of Corrective Services, Queensland Department of Corrective Services, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW.

■ Chlamydia Incidence and Re-infection Study (CIRIS)

Chlamydia incidence and re-infection rates have never been studied in Australian women. We aim to determine the incidence of chlamydia in a cohort of young women who initially screen negative, along with determining the re-infection rate of women who initially screen positive, in order to inform future population screening programs. This study involves the establishment of a cohort of chlamydia-negative women attending a range of primary health care services.

Status: Ethics, protocol development, data collection to conclude in 2009.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, John Kaldor.

Collaborators: School of Population Health and Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne, Canberra Sexual Health Centre, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne.

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

■ A longitudinal study of bacterial vaginosis and Mycoplasma genitalium in young Australian women

Little is known about the epidemiology and natural history of bacterial vaginosis (BV) and nothing is known about *M genitalium* (MG) infection in Australian women. We seek to determine the prevalence, incidence

and persistence of BV and MG in a general population of Australian women using the cohort established by the CIRIS study.

Status: Ethics, protocol development, data collection to conclude in 2009.

Personnel: Basil Donovan.

Collaborators: School of Population Health, University of Melbourne, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne.

Funding: NHMRC project.

■ Surveillance of lymphogranuloma venereum types of Chlamydia trachomatis among men who have sex with men

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) is caused by *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT) serovars L1-L31. These serovars display tropism for the lymphatic system and are clinically much more severe than other chlamydia serovars. Since 2004, there has been a resurgence of LGV proctitis affecting predominantly men who have sex with men with HIV infection in the United Kingdom, Western Europe and the USA. The pattern of infection in Australia has not yet been described. The prevalence, clinical spectrum and risk factors of LGV among men who have sex with men attending the Melbourne and Sydney Sexual Health Centres, and the HIM/pH cohorts will be described.

Status: Data collection.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich.

Collaborators: Microbiology Department, Royal Women's Hospital, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Sydney Sexual Health Centre.

Funding: NHMRC project.

■ The molecular epidemiology of gonorrhoea in Sydney

Gonorrhoea was re-established as an endemic STI among MSM in Sydney in the late 1990s. This study aims to determine the origin of the *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* strains circulating in Sydney among MSM and other populations in Sydney and to correlate these data with phenotypic and genotypic evidence of antibiotic resistance, clinical presentation, and epidemiological data. In addition, blood-free culture media are being evaluated for their utility in diagnosis and genotyping studies of *N gonorrhoeae*. Sequential isolates from the Sydney Sexual Health Centre are being assessed.

Status: Genotyping (NG-MAST) of isolates completed. Further protocol design underway.

Personnel: Rashmi Fotedar, Rebecca Guy, Basil Donovan.

Collaborators: WHO Collaborating Laboratory, Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney Hospital.

Funding: Medical Advances without Animals (MAWA) PhD Scholarship.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program

NCHECR has a long-held interest in the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In October 2007, the NCHECR Executive Committee approved the development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program under the aegis of the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program. During 2008, ATSIP became an independent program under James Ward.

ATSIP will work collaboratively across sectors to address the unacceptable disparity in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the disciplines of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne viruses.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program has four main areas of activity:

- **Research:** to conduct culturally appropriate scientific and ethical research in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the areas of STIs, HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne viruses (BBVs).
- **Surveillance;** to support existing surveillance activities and identify innovative new areas of surveillance that will benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- **Capacity building:** to work with existing health services in enhancing capacity of

systems and workforce in the areas of sexual health and BBV service delivery, research and surveillance.

- **Information dissemination** through the development of a comprehensive clearinghouse of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual health initiatives including surveillance and research.
- **ATSIP** was in its establishment phase during 2008. Nonetheless, in this period ATSIP has achieved reasonable success, as listed below.

The main focus of the work in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program has been to identify research programs, seeking funding, establishing networks and collaborations in the area of sexually transmitted infections and blood borne viruses with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Recent program achievements include the development and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and the publication of the first and second Bloodborne Viral and Sexually Transmissible Infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Surveillance Reports.

James Ward, Head of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program, has been involved in the application of all of the projects listed below.

■ A randomised trial to control sexually transmitted infections in remote Aboriginal communities

This project will trial strategies for attaining clinical best practice in sexual health with an overall objective of reducing the high rates of sexually transmitted infection in remote Aboriginal communities in central and northern Australia. The trial will take place in 21 communities, of which seven will be randomly assigned in each of the three years of the trial. This trial will determine whether strengthening primary health services can reduce the level of these infections.

Status: Commenced stage 1 – community consultation, February 2009. Expected stage 1 completion June 2010

Personnel: John Kaldor, Rebecca Guy, Lisa Maher, Basil Donovan, Matthew Law

Collaborators: Menzies School of Health Research; University of South Australia;



Head of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program, James Ward and Head of Sexual Health Program, Basil Donovan

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress;
Northern Territory Department of Health
and Families; Aboriginal Medical Services
Alliance Northern Territory
Funding: NHMRC Project Grant

■ NSW Aboriginal Health Research Program

Development of an Aboriginal health research program within NSW Aboriginal communities. This grant includes a trial aimed at enhancing clinical practice to reduce STIs in urban and regional Aboriginal primary health care settings in NSW, a general practice survey and a study of HCV treatment outcomes with Aboriginal patients.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: James Ward, John Kaldor

Funding: NSW Health

■ Evaluation and monitoring of six Commonwealth funded STI Youth Demonstration Projects

NCHECR personnel are working with a team from the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare to develop an evaluation framework for six demonstration youth STI projects nationally (two in the Northern Territory, three in NSW and one in Victoria).

Funding: AIHW

Collaborations on STI, HIV and viral hepatitis projects

■ HIV Challenges Project Qualitative Research Project

The purpose of this project is to conduct a series of interviews with both male and female Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people living with HIV/AIDS. This project will provide benchmark data and insight into some of the challenges that face Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander people living with HIV/AIDS, with particular emphasis on late presentation, pathways to treatment, access to health services, complications with other illnesses and the social impact of living with HIV.

Personnel: James Ward

Collaborators: P Delaney, C Newman.

Funding: Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

■ Design, modelling and evaluation of a chlamydia testing pilot program in general practice

The primary aims of this project are to assess the feasibility, acceptability and cost-effectiveness of an organised program for chlamydia testing in general practice. The secondary aim this project is to increase testing and awareness of chlamydia in the Australian population.

Funding: Department of Health and Ageing

■ STI Modelling Grant

This grant will use mathematical models to assess the impact of interventions to reduce sexually transmitted infections in Australia. The aims of this project will be to develop dynamic mathematical models to describe the transmission of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis in Australian populations and further our understanding of their epidemiology. These will then be used to assess the impact of interventions and the cost effectiveness on the incidence and prevalence of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis in Australian populations. This project has a specific component addressing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations.

Personnel: J Hocking, D Regan, D Wilson, D Philp, A Smith, AE Grulich, J Ward.

Funding: NHMRC Project Grants

■ Australian Collaboration for Enhanced Chlamydia Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS)

Chlamydia is the most commonly notified disease in Australia and is an important cause of pelvic inflammatory disease and tubal infertility in women. Chlamydia notifications have been increasing for over a decade. However, the basis of the increase is not well understood. The ACCESS program will determine chlamydia testing and positivity rates in priority populations nationally as well as establishing an ongoing surveillance system. Populations of interest include young heterosexuals, men who have sex with men, sex workers, pregnant women, and Indigenous people. The program involves national collaborative networks.

Status: Ethics, protocol development, site recruitment, development of data collection tools.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, John Kaldor, Rebecca Guy, Neil Franklin, James Ward, Andrew Grulich.

Collaborators: Burnet Institute, National Perinatal Statistics Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, National Serological Reference Laboratory, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia (SH&FPA), Key Centre for Women's Health and Society, Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne, School of Population Health/University of Melbourne, Bettering the Evaluation and Care of Health (BEACH), National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, eight family planning clinics, 21 general practices, eight antenatal clinics, five sexual health clinics, eight Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and eight laboratories.

Funding: Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA).

■ Increasing completeness of 'Aboriginality' in infectious diseases data through record linkage – a feasibility study

The aim of this project is to improve availability and validity of epidemiological data on notifiable diseases in Aboriginal people in NSW so that incidence and prevalence of these diseases can be more accurately estimated. The objective of this project is to link records from the Notifiable Diseases Database (NDD) with other routinely collected population health databases to prepare a de-identified 'snapshot' dataset, with improved completeness of 'Aboriginality'.

Personnel: James Ward

Collaborators: H Corner, M Bartlett, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW

Funding: NSW Health

■ Development and trial of key performance indicators for sexually transmitted infection control in clinical settings with high bacterial prevalence

A review of the literature has revealed a lack of performance indicators relevant to settings with a high prevalence of bacterial STI, such as in the Northern Territory (NT). This project aims to identify, develop, trial and endorse a core set of key performance indicators (KPI) relevant to STI control in the NT. This will improve monitoring of STI control programs allowing comparison between regions and services.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: James Ward, John Kaldor

Collaborators: Menzies School of Health Research; Northern Territory Department of Health and Families

■ Pelvic Inflammatory Disease in the Primary Health Care Setting: An Investigation of Clinical Management.

A case note audit will be undertaken to review current clinical practice in relation to the management of women of reproductive age who present to remote community clinics in Central Australia with signs and symptoms of pelvic inflammatory disease and/or urinary tract infection. Secondly, a staff questionnaire will investigate the perceived barriers and facilitators to implementing recommended guidelines for the management of PID. This two fold approach will provide health services with quality data that can inform what improvements are required in the care that women are currently receiving when presenting with signs and symptoms of PID.

Status: Ongoing, expected completion end of 2009
Personnel: James Ward, John Kaldor
Collaborators: Menzies School of Health Research; La Trobe University, J Knox, J Boyle.

Studies pending grant applications in 2008

■ NHMRC Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE)

Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health: Blood-borne viral and sexually transmitted infections. This proposed new CCRE will bring together the leading Australian institution dedicated to clinical research on sexually transmitted and blood borne viral infections, and the peak organisation for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. Working with nominated Aboriginal community-controlled health services, the centre will conduct innovative research that will identify new approaches to diagnosing and managing these infections while at the same time developing improved clinical guidelines and research capacity within the sector.

Status: In planning stages pending funding

Personnel: John Kaldor, James Ward, Basil Donovan, Greg Dore

Collaborators: National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation; Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW; Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia.

■ NHMRC Program Grant

This program grant will use the methods of epidemiology, clinical research and microbiology to identify strategies to control STIs and mitigate their consequences, with a particular focus on population groups at increased risk of STIs. The findings will be applicable to STIs that are of major importance both in Australia and internationally. This study will enable collaborations between primary health care services in remote communities of Australia and researchers.

Status: In planning stages pending funding

Personnel: John Kaldor, Andrew Grulich, Mathew Law

Collaborators: The Royal Women's Hospital; Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

■ Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant

The first Australian study assessing knowledge, risk behaviours and health service access in relation to sexually transmissible infections and blood-borne viruses of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 16 to 30 years.

Status: In planning stages pending funding

Personnel: James Ward, John Kaldor

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW; La Trobe University; National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

■ NHMRC Partnership Project

This project will use existing data sets to follow up a large cohort of prisoners and assess a range of health outcomes that will inform policies to improve prisoner health both nationally and internationally. It will use data linkage to measure impacts of opioid substitution treatment, hepatitis C, and cancer for prisoners.

Status: Planning stages commenced 2008

Personnel: James Ward, Andrew Grulich, Azar Karimina

Collaborators: National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW; National Drug Research Institute; Justice Health

Biostatistics and Databases Program

During 2008, the Biostatistics and Databases Program continued its wide ranging activities. Cross-program biostatistical and database support was again a focus, with analyses of the STEAL and ALTAIR studies (see *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program*), and web based data bases for the PINT and CORAL studies. New, secure Oracle databases for NCHECR's national HIV and AIDS surveillance databases was also a continued focus. Clinical observational cohorts continued to be a major research area in the program with the Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD), the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database, the TREAT Asia Paediatric Observational Database, the TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance and the Australia Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study all continuing to recruit and follow-up patients. Two new Linkage studies were begun, linking HIV-infected patients from AHOD, and HCV notifications in New South Wales, to hospitalisation data to provide population based data on rates of hospitalisations.

The Program had much success in

mathematical modelling during 2008. A number of research grants were awarded, including an ARC Linkage grant for modelling and cost-effectiveness analyses associated with HPV vaccination, Commonwealth grant for cost-effectiveness analysis of the return on investment of needle and syringe programs for reducing incidence, morbidity and mortality associated with viral transmissions, and grants were awarded to a consortium including members of the Program to carry out modelling of STI transmission in Australian populations during 2009. An important output in 2008 was publication, and wide dissemination, of a report that investigated disparate trends in HIV diagnoses in Australia among men who have sex with men, with increasing trends in Victoria and Queensland, but flat HIV diagnoses in New South Wales. The models suggested that these trends could not be explained simply by differing trends in unsafe sex, and suggested a much greater role for co-infection with another sexually transmissible infection as a co-factor than had previously been thought.

■ 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: 2504 patients continued to be followed up during 2008.

Personnel: Sadaf Marashi-Pour, Kathleen Falster, Kathy Petoumenos, Matthew Law

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

Funding: Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) via a US National Institutes of Health grant through the International Epidemiologic Databases Evaluating AIDS collaboration; consortium of pharmaceutical companies.

■ 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 more than 33,000 patients. Australia contributes 706 patients from the Australian HIV Observational Database. Follow up continued through 2008.

Personnel: Sadaf Marashi Pour, Kathy Petoumenos, Matthew Law

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 (EMEA)

■ Data from the highly specialised drugs program

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

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Kathy Petoumenos
Collaborator: Highly Specialised Drugs Program, Special Access and Co-ordination 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 17 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 2008, baseline and retrospective data from some 4,200 patients from 17 sites were aggregated. It is expected that follow up will continue for at least a further three years.

Personnel: Jialun Zhou, Rebecca Oyomopito, Julian Elliott, Preeyaporn Srasuebku, Matthew Law, David Cooper
Collaborators: Network of 17 clinical sites at countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region
Funding: American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) via a US National Institutes of Health grant through the International Epidemiologic Databases Evaluating AIDS collaboration

■ TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme (TAQAS)

To ensure capacity in HIV resistance testing in the Asia-Pacific region, a quality assurance scheme was implemented. Twice a year, HIV-infected blood samples are distributed to laboratories around the region, with returned HIV resistance test results compared to a consensus result.

Status: Two sets of blood samples were circulated in March and October to up to 17 laboratories. A one-day workshop evaluated results in Bangkok in October.

Personnel: Jialun Zhou, Rebecca Oyomopito, Matthew Law
Collaborators: Network of 17 laboratories; National Reference Laboratory, Melbourne; Stanford University
Funding: American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)

■ TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance (TASER)

There are two studies: First, a surveillance study (TASER-S) examining rates of transmitted HIV-resistance in newly diagnosed HIV-infected subjects not previously treated with antiretroviral drugs. Second, a monitoring study (TASER-M) assessing rates of developing HIV-resistance in patients starting antiretroviral treatments.

Status: Around 600 patients were recruited to TASER-M and had baseline data transferred to NCHECR during 2008. Recruitment will continue during 2009 and

2010 with a view to over 2000 patients being followed.

Personnel: Rebecca Oyomopito, Jialun Zhou, Matthew Law
Collaborators: Network of up to 8 sites initially
Funding: American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) via a grant from the government of the Netherlands

■ Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS)

In collaboration with the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program, ACHOS is a study of chronically infected hepatitis C patients, with observational follow-up for data on rates of treatment and outcomes following treatment.

Status: Some 800 patients were recruited to the study in 2008, and had data entered through the web-based database systems. Recruitment is planned to continue in 2009, with follow-up until at least mid-2010.

Personnel: Heather Gidding, Janaki Amin, Matthew Law, Greg Dore
Collaborators: Network of up to 30 sites around Australia
Funding: State and Territory Health Departments

■ TREAT Asia Paediatric HIV Observational Database (TAPHOD)

Observational cohort study of patients with HIV at 11 sites throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Demographic, clinical and treatment data are aggregated twice each year via electronic data transfer.

Status: Data from over 2,100 patients from 11 sites were aggregated in late 2008, with initial analyses planned. Further recruitment is planned for 2009, and follow-up for at least three years.

Personnel: Azar Kariminia, Janaki Amin, Matthew Law
Collaborators: Network of 8 sites initially throughout 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 2008, members of the Program actively contributed to, or analysed data from, the STEAL, ALTAIR, PINT and CORAL studies (see *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program*) as well as the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program's ATAC study and the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program's LASH and kidney transplant linkage studies. Members of the Program also contributed to national surveillance activities, including back-projection analyses of HIV incidence.
Personnel: Noorul Absar, Janaki Amin,

Rossitza Chevkenova, John Murray, Rebecca Oyomopito, Kathy Petoumenos, Preeyaporn Srasuebku, Handan Wand, Jialun Zhou
Collaborators: Other Programs at NCHECR
Funding: Project-specific grants

■ Mathematical modelling of HIV transmission in men who have sex with men by State in Australia

Mathematical and statistical models were used to assess the extent to which differing trends in HIV diagnoses among MSM, with increasing trends in Victoria and Queensland but broadly flat rates in NSW, corresponded to true differences in HIV incidence. The mathematical models were used to assess which behavioural and treatment factors might be associated with trends in HIV diagnoses. The findings were widely disseminated to national stakeholders through the distribution of a report, numerous oral presentations, and the publication of 2 scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals.
Status: Completed.

Personnel: David Wilson, Alexander Hoare, David Regan, Handan Wand, Matthew Law
Funding: NHMRC, Australian Research Council

■ Evaluating and predicting the epidemiological impact of health policies for reducing HIV in Melanesian and South-East Asian populations

This project involves collating epidemiological data and developing and analysing mathematical models to address the primary question: 'What intervention strategies and policies will be most effective and feasible in reducing the impact of the HIV epidemic in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Cambodia?'

The following sub-questions are addressed:
(i) What are the key behavioural drivers contributing to new HIV infections?
(ii) What impact will interventions such as targeted antiretroviral treatment, early diagnosis, ABC sexual behaviour campaigns, and needle syringe programs have on HIV epidemics?

Status: Collaborative relationships have been formed and collection of epidemiological data and development of models is in progress.

Personnel: David Wilson, Alexander Hoare, John Murray, John Kaldor, Matthew Law, Richard Gray, Kelly-Jean Heymer, Amy Kwon
Collaborators: NCHADS (Cambodia), Institute for Medical Research (PNG), University of Indonesia
Funding: AusAID

■ Cost effectiveness and mathematical modelling of needle and syringe programs on viral transmission among injecting drug users in Australia

This project involves the development of dynamic mathematical models of HIV and hepatitis C transmission among Australian injecting drug users and the effectiveness as well as economic benefit of needle and syringe programs that distribute clean injecting equipment. This analysis will be carried out at the national level as well as by each state and territory jurisdiction.

Status: Ongoing.

Personnel: David Wilson, Amy Kwon, Rosie Thein, Jonathan Anderson, Lisa Maher, Greg Dore, John Kaldor, Matthew Law

Collaborators: MACASSH, AFAO, Hepatitis Council, AIVL, NDARC, Australian Liver Association, ASHM, ANEX, Each State and Territory Health Department.

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

■ Mathematical modelling of human papillomavirus transmission

This study involves the design, implementation and analysis of mathematical models for assessing the health-economic impact of Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination, screening and testing policies in Australia.

Status: Modelling framework is at an advanced stage of development. Analyses have been conducted investigating the potential impact of unvaccinated international travellers on the prevalence of genital warts in the local Australian population in the vaccine era. An abstract describing the results from this work has been submitted for publication at the International Papillomavirus Conference in Malmo Sweden in May, 2009.

Personnel: David Regan, Matthew Law, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor

Collaborator: CSL Limited, Victorian

Cytology Service Incorporated, Australian National University, University of Melbourne, La Trobe University

Funding: Australian Research Council, CSL Limited, Victorian Cytology Service Incorporated

■ Mathematical modelling of chlamydia vaccines

This study uses mathematical models that incorporate within-host biology with sexual networks and epidemiology to explore the biological properties of vaccine candidates that will have the greatest epidemiological impact in reducing chlamydial incidence and clinical morbidities.

Status: Analysis completed, manuscript submitted and recently accepted for publication in the Journal of Infectious Diseases.

Personnel: Richard Gray, David Wilson

Collaborator: Queensland University of Technology

Funding: Australian Research Council

■ Mathematical modelling of the impact of assumptions regarding immunity on chlamydia transmission

This study aims to use a mathematical model of chlamydia transmission, which incorporates recurrent cycles of infection, to investigate the impact of various assumptions regarding acquired immunity and susceptibility to infection at different levels of screening and treatment.

Status: Model development and implementation is complete. Analysis of results is ongoing.

Personnel: David Regan, David Wilson

Collaborators: University of Melbourne, University of Arkansas

■ Modelling the effectiveness of coverage and frequency of syphilis testing in Australian men who have sex with men

This project develops mathematical models calibrated to Australian men who have sex with men and simulates the likely epidemiological effect of intervention strategies surrounding targeted screening and treatment for syphilis.

Status: Ongoing.

Personnel: Richard Gray, Basil Donovan, John Kaldor, David Wilson

Collaborators: ACON

Funding: Australian Research Council

■ Mathematical modelling of transmitted drug resistance in Thailand

This study uses mathematical transmission models to describe HIV epidemiology among numerous groups at risk of HIV infection in Thailand. It encompasses the Thai treatment plan for antiretroviral therapy and attempts to forecast the emergence of both acquired and transmitted drug resistance.

Status: Models have been analysed, results produced and should be completed in the first quarter of 2009.

Personnel: Alexander Hoare, David Wilson

Collaborator: HIV-NAT

Funding: Australian Research Council

■ Analyses of the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Registry

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

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand

Collaborator: The Australia National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Registry



■ **Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies**

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

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: David Regan

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

■ **Diagnosis of paediatric HIV infection in a resource-limited setting**

In order to develop clinical guidelines for testing children for HIV serostatus at Port Moresby General Hospital, Papua New Guinea, factors associated with testing for HIV serostatus and factors associated with positivity amongst those tested are investigated using retrospective and prospective methods.

Status: Retrospective study completed. Recruitment for prospective study completed in October 2008. Final data analysis ongoing. Final report February 2009.

Personnel: Wari Allison, John Kaldor, Handan Wand

Collaborator: Department of Paediatrics, Port Moresby General Hospital, Papua New Guinea

■ **Diagnosis of tuberculosis in HIV infected and HIV uninfected children in Papua New Guinea with a T-cell based assay: a prospective cohort study**

This study is designed to (1) investigate the performance of the QuantiFERON-TB Gold

assay with TST in the diagnosis of active TB disease and latent TB infection in children in a high TB prevalence hospital setting; and (2) compare the QuantiFERON-TB Gold assay to TST in the diagnosis of active TB disease or latent TB infection in HIV infected children and to evaluate the correlation of the QuantiFERON-TB Gold assay with clinical outcomes in children commenced on TB treatment

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Wari Allison, John Kaldor, Handan Wand

Collaborator: Department of Paediatrics, Port Moresby General Hospital, Papua New Guinea, Centre for International Child Health, Melbourne

Funding: Tibotec Research and Education in HIV/AIDS for Resource-Poor Countries (REACH) Grant 2008

■ **Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD) network NEW SOUTH WALES**

407 Doctors

Site principal: David Baker

Site co-ordinator: Robyn Vale

Bligh Street Clinic

Site principal: Miriam Gotowski

Site co-ordinators: Sharon Taylor, Lydia Stuart-Hill

Blue Mountains Sexual Health and HIV Clinic

Site principal: Eva Jackson

Holden Street Clinic

Site principal: Debbie Allen

Holdsworth House General Practice

Site principal: Mark Bloch

Site co-ordinators: Teo Franic, Shikha Agrawal

Illawarra Sexual Health

Site principal: Katherine Brown

Site co-ordinator: Nina Skobalj

Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principals: David Cooper, Andrew Carr

Site co-ordinators: Mark Lacey, Karl Hesse

Lismore Sexual Health and AIDS Services (SHAIDS)

Site principal: David Smith

Site co-ordinator: Cherie Mincham

Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Catherine O'Connor

Site co-ordinator: Felicia Robinson

Macquarie Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: 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: Lynne Wray

Site co-ordinator: Heng Lu

Taylor Square Private Clinic

Site principal: Robert Finlayson

Site co-ordinator: Isabel Prone

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Communicable Disease Centre, Royal Darwin Hospital

Site principal: Anuja Kulatunga

Site co-ordinator: Peter Knibbs

QUEENSLAND

AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health



BDP staff

(left to right)

David Wilson
Preeyaporn Srasuebkul
Julian Zhou
Courtney Bendall
Matthew Law
Janaki Amin
Richard Gray
Kathy Petoumenos
Absar Noorul
Handan Wand
Heather Gidding
David Regan
Rossitza Chevkenova
(Absent)
Azar Kariminia
Rebecca Oyomopito
Sadaf Marashi Pour
John Murray

Site principal: Mark Kelly
Site co-ordinators: Paul Negus, Henry Magon

Blackall Terrace Specialist Centre

Site principal: David Sowden
Site co-ordinator: Alan Walker

Gladstone Road Medical Centre

Site principal: David Orth
Site co-ordinator: David Youds

Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic

Site principal: John Chuah
Site co-ordinators: Denise Lester, Wendy Fankhauser, Bridget Dickson

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

Site principal: Darren Russell
Site co-ordinator: Christine Remington

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Care and Prevention Programme, Adelaide
University**

Site principal: William Donohue
Site co-ordinator: Andrew Lohmeyer

VICTORIA

Carlton Clinic

Site principal: Jonathan Anderson
Site co-ordinator: Kaye Lowe

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Tim Read
Site co-ordinator: Julie Silvers

Monash Medical Centre

Site principal: Ian Woolley

Prahran Market Clinic

Site principal: Norman Roth
Site co-ordinator: John Nicolson

The Alfred Hospital

Site principals: Ann Mijch, Jennifer Hoy
Site co-ordinators: Melissa Bryant, Kerrie Watson

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

Site principal: Simon Mallal
Site co-ordinators: Claire Forsdyke, Sachin Bulgannawar

Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

During 2008, the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program (IVPP) moved to level 9 of the Lowy Packer Building in Liverpool Street. The new accommodation includes a purpose-built PC3 laboratory, PC2 and open-plan laboratories, cryopreservation rooms and separate write-up areas and meeting rooms. The move from Centre for Immunology was completed in December. The space is highly functional and provides room to expand the laboratory components of NCHECR.

Importantly, this move allowed the whole of the IVPP, both laboratory and clinical research components, to be housed together for the first time. While planning the logistics of moving sensitive equipment requiring biological containment, the IVPP played a critical role in the successful initiation and recruitment of the PINT study and continued to act as the Australian co-ordinating laboratory for the SPARTAC, STEP, ESPRIT, and ALTAIR (also see *Therapeutic Vaccine and Research Program*) studies. The laboratory continued to perform well in the external quality assurance

program for PBMC storage run by the Immunovirology Research Network. Pathogenesis work relating to antigen-specific CD4 T-cell function continued to bear fruit with the granting of a full patent for a methodology for the identification of antigen specific T cells, and the granting of a provisional patent for a methodology for identifying antigen specific T regulatory cells. Substantial advances were made in defining methodologies for defining T and B cell subsets in macaques, in preparation for pathogenesis studies at primary infection which will be run in parallel with human studies. Work was successfully completed on the large contract for the conduct of immunogenicity assays for a phase II trial of a novel flu vaccine.

An NHMRC Project Grant entitled *Delineation of establishment and maintenance of the T-cell reservoirs of HIV-1 infection* commenced in 2008. This work will complement the siRNA work and the work conducted as part of the PINT study which considers the effect of integrase inhibitors and viral reservoirs.

Clinical trials and cohort studies

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

A systematic mechanism to follow up the PHAEDRA and Core01 cohorts in Sydney and Melbourne with acute and early HIV-1 infection.

Status: 143 patients were enrolled in this extension study by Dec 2008.

Personnel: Pat Grey, Linda Gelgor, Ansari Shaik, David Cooper, John Kaldor, Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House General Practice; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Robert McFarlane, East Sydney Doctors; Dr B.K. Tee, The Centre Clinic; Norman Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; Phillip Cunningham, John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; The Alfred Hospital; Tim Read, Melbourne Sexual Health; Sydney Sexual Health; John Murray, School of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, UNSW
Funding: NHMRC Program Grant

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

SPARTAC (short pulse antiretroviral treatment at seroconversion) 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: Enrolment ceased in June 2007 by which time 37 patients had been screened. 31 patients continue to be followed up in 2008

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Pat Grey, Ansari Shaik

Collaborators: Medical Research Council (UK); Jonathon Weber, Sarah Fidler, Imperial College; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House Medical Practice; Robert McFarlane, East Sydney Doctors; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Mark Kelly, AIDS Medical Unit; Norman Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; Dr BK Tee, The Centre Clinic; Jonathan Anderson, Carlton Clinic; Philip Cunningham, Kate McGhie, Julie Yeung, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Funding: Wellcome Trust

■ PINT

This study is described as part of the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program (see page 6).

■ Australian Long-Term Non-progressor Study

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

Status: Of the 110 people recruited into the cohort as long-term non-progressors, twenty-five percent remained sustained non-progressors, with a median duration of infection in this subgroup of 20 years (range 9-23 years). The most recent CD4 count was above 350/µl, and median viral load was below 5000 copies/µl.

Personnel: Linda Gelgor, Melanie Middleton, Anthony Kelleher, John Kaldor, David Cooper

Collaborators: Long-Term Non-progressor Study Group, including clinical sites in Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne; Kat Marks, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

■ 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: Michelle Bailey

Collaborators: Kate Merlin, Julie Yeung, Maria Piperias, Bertha Fasdni, 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 6-10 colour multiparameter flow cytometry. Intensive assays were performed as part of the phase 1 trial of P04112 and PINT studies

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), Michelle Bailey, Chansavath Phetsouphanh, Yin Xu, Celine Yang, Anthony Kelleher

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: Continued analysis of samples from PHAEDRA and the long-term non-progressor cohorts. Intensive assays were performed as part of the phase 1 trial of P04112, PINT and a large contract to assess the immunogenicity of a flu vaccine was completed.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), David van Bockel (PhD student), Yin Xu, Chansavath Phetsouphanh, Celine Yan, Yin Xu, Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: John Zaunders, 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, Kersten Koelsch, Claudia Mische (practicum student)

Collaborators: Philip Cunningham, Kazuo Suzuki, Leon McNally, Alexander Carrera, 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. More than 20 genotypes were performed on acute seroconverters.

Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Anthony Kelleher, Linda Gelgor

Collaborators: Philip Cunningham, Kazuo Suzuki, Alexander Carrera, 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 on detuned assays, and comparisons were made between this assay and a BED assay on a large subset of these. Efforts were made to adapt dried blood spots for nucleic acid testing.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: Philip Cunningham, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Sara Evans, Leahena Leas, Celine Yang, Jane Cornwall, 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 non-progressors

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 (LTNP) cohort, and samples collected from the PHAEDRA cohort.

Status: T-cell receptor repertoire was

defined on a range of HLA-B27+ LTNP, analysis is ongoing.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, David van Bockel (PhD student), Linda Gelgor

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, Vanessa Venturi, Centre for Vascular Research, UNSW, John Murray, School of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, UNSW

Funding: US National Institutes of Health; NHMRC

■ MicroRNAs and Long-term non-progression

The reasons for long-term non-progression are unclear. MicroRNAs are a newly described RNA species derived from non-coding DNA that regulate protein synthesis by interfering with translation. Their role in B and T cell maturation and differentiation, and their role in regulating HIV replication is only just starting to be understood. Their expression in vivo in HIV infection is not described. The expression of microRNAs in T cell subsets in healthy controls, long term non-progressors and rapid progressors is being compared.

Status: Patterns of expression of microRNAs in the three described groups have been elucidated. In vitro experiments to determine biological significance of these patterns are in progress.

Personnel: Sanjay Swaminathan (PhD student), Anthony Kelleher

Collaborator: Kazuo Suzuki, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Warren Kaplan, Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Funding: 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; to design and assess delivery constructs for these siRNAs; and to define the pathways by which dsRNAs targeting the promoter regions of HIV-1 induce TGS.

Status: Constructs applicable for use in SIV-infection were developed and transferred into plasmid delivery vehicles. These were assessed in vitro. These were incorporated into retroviral delivery vectors. Epigenetic changes induced by dsRNAs targeting HIV-LTR were defined. The role of ago1 in this process was explored

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Nigel McCarthy, Heidi Lim (PhD student), Sanjay Swaminathan (PhD student)

Collaborator: Kazuo Suzuki, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Takaomi Ishida, Makoto Ymagami, Toshiki Watanebe, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo

Funding: 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. These studies have been extended to include the cell biology of the IL-7 receptor modulation.

Status: Studies of IL-7 receptor on malignant B cells in lymphomas and leukaemias completed. Studies exploring the cellular processing of IL-7 receptor after binding its ligand were completed.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Sarah Sasson (PhD student)



IVPP staff

(left to right)

Nigel McCarthy
Philip Cunningham
Linda Gelgor
Kersten Koelsch
Patricia Grey
Anthony Kelleher
Nabila Seddiki
Lucy Watchirs-Smith
Chansavath Phetsouphanh
Lydia Jauncey
Mee Ling Munier
Ansari Shaik
Susanna Ip
(Absent)
Michelle Bailey
Yin Xu

Collaborators: John Zaunders, Sandy Smith, Sam Milliken, John Moore, Keith Stanley, Natasha Foster, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Funding: NHMRC

■ Definition of T regulatory subsets

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

Status: Novel assay developed and accepted as a provisional patent. Assay development was completed, and was used for the sorting of functional subsets for *in vitro* suppression assays and epigenetic studies of the granzyme B gene. The use of the assay was extended to non-human primates in therapeutic vaccine trials. Assays were commenced in Hepatitis C cohorts.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Anthony Kelleher, Sarah Sasson (PhD student), Kai Brown (MB BS Student), Chansavath Phetsouphanh

Collaborators: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Stephen Kent, Rosemarie Mason, Robert de Rose, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne; Sudha Rao, Australian National University, Andrew Lloyd, Elizabeth Keoshkerian, UNSW
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: Priming assays were conducted on the primary infection patients who control

virus and those who do not. A full patent was granted for a methodology for a simplified T-cell assay and negotiations for development of the assay were continued with biotech companies.

Personnel: Mee Ling Munier (PhD student), Michelle Bailey, Nabila Seddiki Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Stephen Kent, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne
Funding: NHMRC

■ B cell subsets, neutralising antibodies and auto-antibodies at primary HIV-1 Infection

Studies of overlap between neutralising antibodies and auto-antibodies at primary infection and the subsets of B cells producing these responses.

Status: Characterisation of the B cell subsets responding to HIV-1 during primary infection was commenced in 2007. Analysis of the carriage of neutralizing assays for HIV-1 and anticariolin antibodies in >300 primary infection patients was completed in 2008. Methods for the delineation of Follicular T helper cells and B cell subsets in parallel in humans and macaques were extensively explored.

Personnel: Chris Weatherall (PhD student), Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Damian Purcell, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne; Stuart Tangye, Immunology and Inflammation Program, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Stephen Kent, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne
Funding: NHMRC

■ Immunopathogenesis of immune reconstitution disease

Studies of the immunopathogenesis of immune reconstitution disease (IRD) based on the samples studied *ex vivo* from patients suffering this disease.

Status: A study exploring the causes of this dysregulation, with particular focus on the role of T regulatory cells, studies commenced in 2006, and were formalised to recruit all patient commencing CART late in the disease with a natural history study call PiRIS in 2008.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Anthony Kelleher, Chansavath Phetsouphanh, Sarah Pett

Collaborator: Debbie Marriott, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Funding: NHMRC

■ Viral reservoirs

Currently available CART commenced in chronic disease makes minimal impact on viral reservoirs. The site, size and components of these reservoirs is poorly understood. The impact of integrase inhibitors on these reservoirs is not understood.

Status: Assays to quantify the DNA species of HIV-1: total DNA, integrated DNA and episomal DNA, were established in the laboratory and validation of the assays commenced. These assays will be used in PINT and in samples from natural history studies including PHEADRA.

Personnel: Kersten Koelsch, Michelle Bailey, Kristin McBride (PhD student), Claudia Mische (practicum student)

Collaborators: John Zaunders, Kat Marks, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; John Murray, School of Mathematics, UNSW



Laboratory-based students

(left to right)

Heidi Lim
Kristin McBride
Sanjay Swaminathan
Chris Weatherall
Mee Ling Munier
(Absent)
Sarah Sasson

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 2008.

NEW SOUTH WALES

East Sydney Doctors

Site principal: David Baker

Site co-ordinator: Robyn Vale

AIDS Research Initiative

Site principal: Cassy Workman

Site co-ordinators: Vanessa Rees, Sarah Baker

Burwood Road General Practice

Site principal: Nicholas Doong

Site co-ordinator: Jeff Hudson

Holdsworth House General Practice

Site principal: Mark Bloch

Site co-ordinators: Shikha Agrawal, Kate Beileiter

Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principal: David Cooper

Site co-ordinators: Richard Norris, Mark Rollason

Sydney Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Anna McNulty

Site co-ordinator: Bronwyn Bourke

Taylor Square Private Clinic

Site principal: Robert Finlayson

Site co-ordinator: Sophie Dinning

VICTORIA

Carlton Clinic

Site principal: Jonathan Anderson

Site co-ordinator: Paul Cortissos

Clinical Research Section, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital

Site principal: Jennifer Hoy

Site co-ordinator: Janine Roney

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Tim Read

Site co-ordinators: Julie Silvers, Helen Kent

Prahran Market Clinic

Site principal: Norman Roth

Site co-ordinator: Helen Wood

The Centre Clinic

Site principal: Nicholas Medland

Site co-ordinator: Helen Wood

QUEENSLAND

AIDS Medical Unit

Site principal: Mark Kelly

Site co-ordinator: Peita-Lee Ambrose

Gladstone Road Medical Centre

Site principal: David Orth

Site co-ordinator: David Youds

The following people are staff members of the Immunovirology Research Laboratory of St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research (AMR), which is collocated with the IVPP laboratory. They work closely with NCHECR on many of the projects described in this section.

Philip Cunningham (chief operating officer, AMR)

Bertha Fsadni

Kat Marks

Kate Merlin

Maria Piperias

Kazuo Suzuki

Celine Yan

Julie Yeung

John Zaunders

Clinical and epidemiological research in the Asia-Pacific region

Thailand

The HIV 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. The collaboration enrolled its first subject in 1996. HIV-NAT studies are numbered consecutively and HIV-NAT 098 is the most recent. Of the 98 studies conducted at HIV-NAT since 1996, 59 were active in 2007; eleven were paediatric. HIV-NAT's mission statement covers three broad areas: clinical research, access to quality HIV care and training. To these can be added community outreach programs which were expanded in 2007. HIV-NAT paediatricians are particularly active in promoting care in the community for children with HIV, not just with medicine but also with financial and psycho-social support for families living with HIV. With donations from within Thailand and from abroad, HIV-NAT supports schooling, and activities to boost self-confidence, reduce stigma and help children with HIV live normal lives. Efforts to improve access to appropriate and affordable antiretrovirals (ARVs) were focussed on bioequivalence studies of generic ARVs and dose reduction studies to improve tolerability in a Thai population. In collaboration with the Government Pharmaceutical Organization of Thailand, the HIV-NAT pharmacokinetic laboratory assessed the bioequivalence of two generic protease inhibitors in healthy non-HIV infected volunteers. A combined analysis of five studies of low dose stavudine resulted in the World Health Organization recommending that the dose of this drug be reduced to 30mg bd. Two of the five studies in the analysis were conducted at HIV-NAT. There are 14 sites in the HIV-NAT clinical trials network; six in Bangkok, seven in regional Thailand and two in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This report lists the projects in which NCHECR personnel play a substantive role. Chris Duncombe and Stephen Kerr are responsible for NCHECR's contribution to all studies listed below. The local study co-ordinator is also named within each project.

■ 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.

Site: HIV-NAT

Enrolled: 800

HIV-NAT study co-ordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe, Stephen Kerr
Collaborator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Funding: HIV-NAT; Thai Ministry of Public Health; Merck & Co Inc; Roche Thailand Limited

■ HIV-NAT 006 (Amendment 2)

A study of adherence and risk behaviour in patients with HIV infection receiving antiretroviral therapy.

Status: Recruitment opened November 2007, and is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT

Enrolled/target: 400/800

HIV-NAT study co-ordinator: Adam Honeybrook (Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery, Independent Learning Project student)

Personnel: Chris Duncombe, Stephen Kerr
Funding: HIV-NAT; UNSW

■ HIV-NAT 023

Virological and clinical anti-hepatitis B efficacy of tenofovir and emtricitabine in antiretroviral-naïve patients with HIV/hepatitis B co-infection.

Status: Recruitment opened December 2004, and is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT

Enrolled/target: 24/24 and completed 48 weeks of follow up; analysis in progress

HIV-NAT study co-ordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe, Stephen Kerr
Collaborator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Funding: Gilead Sciences; Thai Ministry of Public Health

■ 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 co-ordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe

Collaborator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Funding: Roche Laboratories Inc; Thai Ministry of Public Health

■ 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 co-ordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe

Funding: Thai Ministry of Public Health

■ PREDICT and PREDICT substudies

Antiretroviral (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%), are included in this study. They are randomised to one of two arms: Immediate ARV therapy (ARV initiated on Day 0 of study), or deferred ARV therapy (ARV initiated when CD4% is less than 15%).

There are three substudies. The first is a Neurodevelopment substudy that looks at the influence of HIV disease and antiretroviral treatment on neurodevelopment. The second is a T cell substudy that looks at the whether T cell subsets might predict progression of HIV disease. The third is a micronutrient substudy looking at the influence of trace elements on immunological and virological response, and neurocognition.

Status: Recruitment opened March 2006.

Sites: 8 (6 Thailand, 2 Cambodia)

Enrolled/target: 300/300

HIV-NAT co-ordinator: Thanyawee Puthanakit

Personnel: Chris Duncombe, Stephen Kerr, Matthew Law

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

■ HIV-NAT 044

A pilot study of the pharmacokinetics, and safety of ritonavir-boosted indinavir 600/100mg BD combined with nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors in antiretroviral-naïve HIV/tuberculosis co-infected patients receiving rifampicin containing anti-tuberculosis therapy.

Status: Recruitment closed June 2007, and the study is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT

Enrolled/target: 20/20

HIV-NAT study co-ordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe

Funding: HIV-NAT; Merck Sharp & Dohme; Ministry of Public Health

■ HIV-NAT 060

A phase III randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial to investigate the efficacy, tolerability and safety of TMC125 as part of an ART including TMC114/RTV and an investigator-selected OBR in HIV-1 infected subjects with limited to no treatment options.

Status: Recruitment closed February 2007, and the study is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT

Target: 2/10 (8 screen failures)

Personnel: Chris Duncombe (study co-ordinator)

Collaborator: Kiat Ruxrungtham

Funding: Tibotec Pharmaceuticals

■ HIV-NAT 062

Phase IIb, randomized, active control, partially blinded, dose finding study of

TMC278 in antiretroviral-naïve subjects.

Status: Recruitment closed March 2007, and the study is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT

Target: 6/10 (4 screen failures)

Personnel: Chris Duncombe (study co-ordinator)

Collaborator: Kiat Ruxrungtham

Funding: Tibotec Pharmaceuticals

■ HIV-NAT 067 (ARTEMIS)

A randomised, controlled, open-label trial to compare the efficacy, safety and tolerability of TMC114/ritonavir versus lopinavir/ritonavir in treatment-naïve HIV-1 infected subjects.

Status: Recruitment closed January, and the study is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT

Target: 10/10

Personnel: Chris Duncombe (study co-ordinator)

Collaborator: Kiat Ruxrungtham

Funding: Tibotec Pharmaceuticals

■ HIV-NAT 071

Early access to TMC114 in combination with low-dose ritonavir and other antiretrovirals in highly treatment experienced HIV-1 infected patients with limited to no treatment options.

Status: Recruitment closed April 2007, and the study is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT

Enrolled/target: 10/10

Personnel: Chris Duncombe (co-ordinator)

Collaborator: Kiat Ruxrungtham

Funding: Tibotec Pharmaceuticals



Vice-Chancellor of the University of New South Wales, Professor Fred Hilmer, at the opening of HIV-NAT 11th Bangkok Symposium in January 2008

■ HIV-NAT 079 (HIV STAR)

The HIV second-line therapy antiretroviral study in patients who failed NNRTI-based regimens.

Status: Approved by Institutional Review Board.

Site: 10 HIV-NAT

Target: 500

HIV-NAT study co-ordinator: Torsak Bunupuradah

Personnel: Stephen Kerr

Collaborators: Jintanat Ananworanich, Torsak Bunupuradah, Kiat Ruxrungtham, Bernard Hirschel, HIV-NAT and 10 sites in Thailand

Funding: The National Health Security Office, Thailand; The Swiss HIV Cohort Study

■ HIV-NAT 082

Predictors and outcome assessment of adherence to antiretroviral therapy in Thailand, as a resource constrained setting in Asia.

Status: This project is completed and analysis is ongoing.

Site: 3 Thailand

Enrolled/target: 150/150

Personnel: Stephen Kerr (study co-ordinator), Chris Duncombe

Collaborators: Kiat Ruxrungtham, Praphan Phanuphak, Anchalee Avihingsanon, Ploenchai Chetchotisakd, Opass Putcharoen, Maneerat Layton

Funding: UNSW

■ HIV-NAT 084 (POTENT Study)

A prospective randomized, open-labelled, multi-centre trial comparing the safety and efficacy of ritonavir-boosted tipranavir, (TPV/r) to that of darunavir (DRV/r) in three-class (NRTI, NNRTI, and PI) treatment-experienced patients with resistance to more than one PI.

Status: Recruitment opened in December 2007, and is ongoing.

Site: 3 Thailand

Enrolled/target: 15/20

Personnel: Stephen Kerr, Chris Duncombe

Collaborator: Atchriya Hemachandra

Funding: Boehringer Ingelheim

■ HIV-NAT 087

Early Access Program of raltegravir (MK-0518) in combination with an optimized background antiretroviral therapy in highly treatment experienced HIV-1 infected patients with limited to no treatment options.

Status: Recruitment opened in November 2007, and is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT

Enrolled/target: 12/20

Personnel: Stephen Kerr, Chris Duncombe

Collaborator: Atchriya Hemachandra

Funding: Merck & Co Inc

■ SEARCH 003

Comparing the use of d4T-based regimen as lead-in for the first 6 months versus AZT-based and TDF-based first line regimens

Status: Enrolment commenced April 2008. 40/150 patients have been enrolled.

Expected to finish end of 2011.

Personnel: Stephen Kerr

Collaborators: Jintanat Ananworanich, Nittaya Phanuphak, Cecilia Shikuma, Praphan Phanuphak, Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre, Queen Savang Vadhana Memorial Hospital

Funding: NIH, pharmaceutical companies

■ Impact of Pharmacogenomics on Antiretroviral Drugs (Atazanavir and Efavirenz) Concentration and Treatment Response in HIV-infected Adults

Pharmacogenetic differences dictate treatment responses to a range of drugs. The importance of these difference in making dosage adjustments to maximise treatment effect and reduce toxicity is the subject of intensive investigation. The aim of this study is to characterise the polymorphisms amongst the MDR-1 and CYP3A4/CYP3A5 genes in Thai patients and correlate these responses with the pharmacokinetics and toxicity of Efavirenz and Atazanavir.

Status: Project to begin in December 2008

Personnel: Stephen Kerr

Collaborators: Kiat Ruxrungtham, Anchalee Avihingsanon, David Burger, Jintanat Ananworanich, Praphan Phanuphak, Nattiya Hirankarn, Sasiwimol Ubolyam

Financial support: Thailand Research Fund, Global Fund.

■ Drug System Monitoring and Development Program

This is a new project to use existing data bases collecting information on medicines and health related information in different Thai Government Departments including the Thai Food and Drug Administration and the National Health Security Office for monitoring and outcomes research. The aim of this study is to conduct drug utilisation research (regarding access, and rational use of drugs), to monitor ethical practice and good governance, implementation of the National Medicines Policy, and strengthen pharmacovigilance networks.

Status: to begin in January 2009.

Personnel: Stephen Kerr

Collaborators: Niyada Kiatying-Angsulee, Vithaya Kulsonboon, Social Pharmacy Research Unit, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, Thai Food and Drug Administration, Thai National Health Security Office.

Funding: Thai Health Promotion Foundation; WHO

■ Response to Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor (NNRTI)-based antiretroviral regimens in postpartum women who exposed to zidovudine (AZT) and single-dose nevirapine (sd-NVP) or Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy (HAART) during pregnancy from MTCT-Plus programs, Thailand

Nevirapine is frequently used in HAART regimens in resource limited settings in Thailand. In addition, single dose nevirapine or NVP as part of HAART regimens is used for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV. The aim of this study is to compare treatment efficacy of NNRTI-based regimens between postpartum women who received AZT and sd-NVP or HAART during pregnancy for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The data will be drawn from the Observational Cohort study of HIV-infected women who enrolled into the MTCT-Plus programs in Thailand between 1 February 2003 and 31 December 2007.

Status: beginning in November 2008.

Personnel: Stephen Kerr

Collaborators: Thidarat Jumpini, Nittaya Phanuphak, Faculty of Public Health, Mahidol University

Funding: Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre

The following projects are described in other sections of the report:

ALTAIR (see page 6)

STALWART (see page 6)

ESPRIT (see page 8)

Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Program (AE#1) (see page 8)

Clinical development program to evaluate the safety and acceptability of the candidate vaginal microbicide SPL7013 (VMDC) (see page 13)

Cambodia

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. The main purpose of the program is to support the NCHADS Social Health Clinic (SHC) in Phnom Penh as a site for HIV voluntary counselling and testing, care and treatment, training and research, and to provide technical support to the National HIV program.

Access to treatment and care for Cambodians living with HIV/AIDS continued to expand during 2008. At the end of September 2008, there were 50 antiretroviral (ARV) treatment sites in 20 provinces. Paediatric care is provided at 27 sites. At the end of September 2008 30,782 people, including 27,851 adults and 2,931 children were receiving ARV therapy in the national program, which is 93% of the estimated number of people in need.

NCHECR contributed to the national program in a technical capacity, including support for the national training program which in 2008 which delivered six refresher training courses for doctors and counsellors, the regional network continuing education program, provision for clinical training placements at the SHC and support for SHC staff to mentor new provincial HIV clinics. NCHECR and SHC staff in Cambodia also participated in national HIV and STI working groups, and advised on the revision of the Cambodian National Guidelines for opportunistic infections in children, the development of national viral Load testing guidelines, standard operating procedures for the Cambodian quality improvement project in HIV/AIDS continuum of care program and standard operating procedures for syphilis screening among pregnant women in Cambodia.

The SHC staff of 33, included five doctors, seven nurses, a six-member counselling and peer support team, three pharmacists, and a seven-member research and data management team. In 2008 all staff received training in reproductive health and positive prevention, and implemented a framework for routine addressing of issues related to reproductive health, family planning, and positive prevention incorporated into patient management. In February 2008, the SHC was the pilot site for introduction of infant HIV diagnosis using dry blood spot, DNA PCR technology which continues to be performed by the National Institute of Public Health Laboratory.

Clinical research at the SHC included the generation and analysis of observational patient data, contribution to the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD), and commencement of contribution of all paediatric data to the TREAT Asia Paediatric

Observational Database (TApHOD). Patients continued to be enrolled in a prospective clinical cohort. Enrolment in sub studies in depression and genetic markers closed in early 2008, and serum samples were forwarded to the University of Western Australia for genetic analysis. A sub study into immune restoration disease was concluded and data presented at the International AIDS Conference in Mexico City. Enrolment of patients into the PREDICT study closed mid 2008 and now includes 34 children under active follow up at the SHC. The data management team were instrumental in training and mentoring staff and undertook regular visits to the three provincial ARV sites participating in a multi cohort study as part of the AusAID-supported program. This program is helping to inform a National Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program, and NCHECR and local SHC staff have been involved in the development of the operating procedures, and staff training for the CQI program.

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.

The Second Phnom Penh Symposium on HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Treatment was held on 15-16 December, 2008. NCHECR and NCHADS SHC staff were actively involved in the planning and organisation of the symposium, and delivered multiple presentations.

■ Cambodia Treatment Access Program (CTAP)

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

Status: During 2008, 182 people living with HIV/AIDS newly enrolled at the Social Health Clinic, and 260 newly commenced on antiretroviral therapy. Since clinic commencement in 2004 a total of 2266 patients have enrolled and 1435 commenced on ART. At 31 December 2008, 1470 adults and 81 children were actively enrolled at the SHC, including 1169 adults and 59 children on ART, of whom 94% are on first line ART.

In 2008 Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing was performed for 802 people, (including 259 children) 147 of those tested (including 12 children) were diagnosed HIV positive. Infant dry blood spot DNA testing was performed on an additional 25 infants, of whom one tested HIV positive.

NCHADS site co-ordinator: Saphon Vonthanak
Personnel: Sarah Huffam, John Kaldor, David Cooper

Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs; National Institute for Public Health; Phillip Cunningham, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Funding: F Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd

■ Cambodian multi-site antiretroviral treatment cohort study

A prospective cohort study investigating patterns, complications and outcomes of antiretroviral use in Cambodia.

Status: Recruitment opened June 2005, and is ongoing.

Enrolled/target: 800/NA

NCHADS study co-ordinator: Khol Vohith

Personnel: Julian Elliott, Sarah Huffam, Jialun Zhou, John Kaldor, David Cooper

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

Funding: AusAID

The following projects are described in other sections of the report:

Young women's health study (see page 13)

TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database

(TAHOD) (see page 29)

PREDICT (see page 39)

Indonesia

The following project is described under the Surveillance Program:

Monitoring and surveillance of HIV voluntary counselling and testing sites in Indonesia (see page 5)

Papua New Guinea

The following project is described in another section of the report:

Development of HIV surveillance plan for Papua New Guinea (see page 5)

Regional

The following projects are described under the Biostatistics and Databases Program:

TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD) (see page 29)

TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme (TAQAS) (see page 29)

TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance (TASER) (see page 29)

Advisory committees

Scientific Advisory Committee

Don Baxter BA, Dip Lib

Executive Director, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

Terence Campbell AM, MD, PhD, FRACP, FACC (chair)

Senior Associate Dean, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW

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

Stuart Loveday BCom

Vice President, Australian Hepatitis Council, Sydney

Sally Whalen

Program Manager Medical, 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

Bill Whittaker AM

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

OBSERVERS

John Kaldor PhD

NCHECR

Bronwen Turner BA (Convenor)

NCHECR

SURVEILLANCE COMMITTEES

Annual Surveillance Report Advisory Committee

John Kaldor PhD (Chair)

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HIV Educator, Campaign and Resource Development, Gay Men's Education,

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

Lisa Maher PhD

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Ann McDonald BSc, MPH

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Tadgh McMahon

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

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Epidemiologist, Surveillance Systems and Policy Section, Surveillance Branch, Office of Health Protection, Department of Health and Ageing

Cindy Shannon BA, Grad Dip Ed (Tert), MBA, DSocSc

Chair, Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Committee; Professor and Director, Centre for Indigenous Health, The University of Queensland

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

Chief Executive Officer, Hepatitis Australia, Canberra

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Research Fellow, National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW

Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH (Secretary)

NCHECR

National Bloodborne Virus and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee*

John Kaldor PhD (Chair)

NCHECR

Mark Bartlett BSc, Dip Ed, RGN, MPH, Grad Dip App Epi (to April)

Senior Surveillance Officer, Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health

Frances Birrell MPH, MAppEpid, GCSc(Stats) (to December)

Epidemiologist, Communicable Disease Unit, Queensland Health

Barry Combs PhD (to December)

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

Joy Copland MSc, MPH

Manager, Disease Surveillance and Investigation Section, Communicable Disease Control Branch, Department of Health, Adelaide

Maureen Davey (from May)

Specialist Medical Advisor, Population Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Hobart

Tess Davey Grad Dip (HealthCoun), Grad Dip Clin Epi, Cert Nursing

Manager, Surveillance Section, STD Services, Royal Adelaide Hospital

John Daye OAM

Co-convenor, Health, Treatments and Research Portfolio, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

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NCHECR

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

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

Carol El-Hayek BSc MAE (from September)

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

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

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

Catherine Farrell (from July)

Director, BBV and STIs Section, Targeted Prevention Programs Branch, Population Health Division, Department of Health and Ageing

Lisa Hall (from May)

Epidemiologist, Communicable Disease Unit, Queensland Health

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

Epidemiologist, Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Department of Health, Perth

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Nasra Higgins BHLthSc(EnvHlth), Grad Dip Epid & Biostat, MEpid

Surveillance Officer, Epidemiology and Surveillance Program, Communicable Disease Control Unit, Public Health Branch, Department of Human Services, Melbourne

Kellie Kwan

Senior Research Officer, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood Borne Viruses, Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Department of Health, Perth

Annie Madden BA (Gender Studies & Asian Studies), Cert IV Community Work

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

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Medical Adviser, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra

Lisa Maher PhD

NCHECR

Ann McDonald BSc, MPH

NCHECR

Joanne Micallef, BMedSc(Hons), PhD (from June)

BBV and STI Epidemiologist, Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health

Anthony Moore (from January)

Public Health Registrar, Health Protection Service, ACT Health

Jo Murray RN, RM, Grad Dip Nursing

Clinical Nurse Consultant, AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health

Rhonda Owen BSc(Hons), Grad Dip Business, Grad Dip Clin Epid (to March)

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Kate Robinson (from April)

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7th Annual meeting of the InterLymph Consortium, Sydney, 2008 Organising committee (Andrew Grulich, co-convenor)

9th International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection Scientific Committee (HIV9) (David Cooper)

10th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV Organising Committee (David Cooper)

11th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine Organising Committee (David Cooper)

11th IUSTI World Congress, Cape Town, 2009, Scientific Committee (Basil Donovan)

20th Annual Meeting of the International Harm Reduction Association, International Program Advisory Group (Lisa Maher)

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AH&MRC Hepatitis C Reference Group (James Ward)

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Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, *Hepatitis B for Primary Care Providers Monograph* Editorial Committee (Gail Matthews)

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NH&MRC Indigenous Health Review Panel (James Ward)	SAX Institute, Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health (CRIA)H Steering Committee	TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance Steering Committee (Matthew Law)
NHMRC Grant Review Panel 5c (Public Health) (Lisa Maher)	<i>Sexual Health</i> (David Cooper, Editor)	UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Committee, Bachelor of Science (Medicine) Subcommittee (Greg Dore)
NHMRC Indigenous Health Review Panel (James Ward)	<i>Sexual Health</i> Editorial Board (Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)	UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Committee (Anthony Kelleher)
NSW Aboriginal Sexual Health Advisory Committee (James Ward, Chair)	<i>Sexually Transmitted Infection</i> , Elsevier, New Delhi (Basil Donovan, Section Editor)	UNSW Health Data Linkage committee (Matthew Law)
NSW Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting Organising Committee (Fraser Drummond)	<i>Sexually Transmitted Infections</i> Editorial Board (David Cooper)	UNSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative Steering Committee (John Kaldor)
NSW Department of Corrective Services Ethics Committee (John Kaldor)	Sidney Myer Health Scholarship Selection Committee (Peter Higgs)	UNSW Human Research Ethics Advisory Panel: Medical/Community (Greg Dore, Lisa Maher, Mark Boyd)
NSW Health Chopped Liver Reference Group (James Ward)	SPARTAC Trial Steering Committee (David Cooper, John Kaldor, Anthony Kelleher)	UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Research Degree Committee (Lisa Maher)
NSW Health Shared Scientific Advisory Committee (Fraser Drummond expert reviewer)	St Vincent's Hospital Campus Institutional Biosafety Committee (Anthony Kelleher)	UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Research Development Committee (Lisa Maher)
NSW Health Shared Scientific Assessment Committee (Fraser Drummond)	St Vincent's Hospital Campus Research Day Organising committee (Heidi Lim)	Vietnamese Australian Buddhist Assistance Trust (Lisa Maher)
NSW Health Statewide Review of AIDS Funded Services (James Ward)	St Vincent's Hospital Clinical School Teaching Committee (Fraser Drummond)	Workshop series on HIV and Overseas Work Organising Committee (John Kaldor)
NSW STI & HIV Committee (James Ward)	St Vincent's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee (Claire Vajdic, Deputy Chair; Handan Wand)	World Health Organisation Strategic and Technical Advisory Committee for HIV/AIDS (David Cooper)
NSW Hepatitis Committee (James Ward)	St Vincent's Research & Biotechnology Precinct Hub Governance Council (David Cooper)	World Health Organisation/UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Advisory Committee (David Cooper, Chair)
NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hepatitis (MACH) (Lisa Maher, Greg Dore, James Ward)	Steering Committee for NHMRC grant under the International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership (John Kaldor)	World Health Organisation Advisor on surveillance for HIV/AIDS in selected countries of the Asia Pacific region (John Kaldor)
NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections (James Ward)	Sydney HIV Interagency (Garrett Prestage)	World Health Organisation Consultancy on development of HIV surveillance plan for Papua New Guinea (John Kaldor)
NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections, Health Promotion Subcommittee (Andrew Grulich, Chair)	Thai A/E Clade HIV Vaccine Trial Protocol Steering Committee (David Cooper, Sean Emery, Anthony Kelleher, Rebekah Puls)	World Health Organisation Working Group on Incidence Assays for HIV Infection (John Kaldor Co-Chair)
NSW Population and health services research ethics committee (Andrew Grulich, Member)	The Cancer Council NSW Cancer Research Committee (Andrew Grulich, Member)	
ORYGEN Problem Drug Use First Aid Guidelines Panel (Lisa Maher)	The Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drug Study International Steering Committee (Matthew Law)	
Positive Life (NSW) Board Advisory Group (Garrett Prestage, Mark Boyd)	The Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drug Study International Steering Committee (Matthew Law)	
Practical Advances in Treating HIV (PATH II) Steering Committee (Sean Emery, Chair)	The Sax Institute (Andrew Grulich, Member)	
Project Management Group Randomised	Theo Murphy High Flyers Think Tank 2008 –Preventative Health: Science and Technology in prevention and early detection of disease (Anthony Kelleher)	
	TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database	

Staff*

Director's office

Director and Scientia Professor of Medicine

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

Executive Assistant

Janette Button

Research Assistant

Damien Cordery BSc(Hons), MPH, PhD

Manager, Research Communication

Louisa Wright MPH (from November)

Deputy Director's office

Deputy Director and Professor of Epidemiology

John Kaldor PhD

Epidemiology and Prevention Grouping Co-ordinator*

Jennifer Kemp (to November)

Administrative Assistants*

Ali Ayoub BA Vis Com, Grad Dip Couns
Skye McGregor BA, BSc, MA (from August)

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) (to July)

Senior Lecturer

Mark Boyd BA, BM, BS, DCTM&H, MHID, MD, FRACP

*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
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.

Lecturers

Christoph Boesecke MD
Helen Byakwaga MB ChB
Dianne Carey BPharm, MPH
Kate Clezy MB BS, FRACP (part time)
Fraser Drummond MB ChB, MRCA, DA (UK)
Sarah Pett BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), DTM&H, MRCP (UK), FRACP
Rebekah Puls BSc(Hons), PhD

Senior Clinical Project Co-ordinators

Cate Carey RN, BA, MAppSc(Research)
Allison Humphries BSc, MSc(Med), Grad Dip PH

Clinical Project Co-ordinators

Maria Arriaga BSc, MScMed(STD/HIV)
David Courtney-Rodgers
Carlo Dazo BMedSc(Hons)
Hila Haskelberg BSc
Leanne Kearney RN, GradCert INH, PHC (from February)
Enmoore Lin BA/BSc(Hons) PhD (from March)
Simone Jacoby BSc, Dip Nutrition, Adv Dip Bot Med
Claudette Satchell BSc(Hons) (to January)
Nisha Seneviratne BMedSc, BBus

Program Co-ordinator

Margaret Allan BPsych

Data Managers

Kymme Courtney-Vega Dip Sp Th
Wendy Lee
Jose Aurelio Vieira Vulcao BA

Administrative Assistants

Maja Berilazic BEd
Emma Butler BA(Hons), MA (part time)
Rosemary Robson

HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Head and Professor

Andrew Grulich MB BS, MSc, PhD, FAFPHM

Professor of Sexual Health

Basil Donovan MB BS, MD, Dip Ven (London), FACHSHM, FAFPHM, FRCPI (part time)

Senior Lecturers

Garrett Prestage BA(Hons), PhD
Claire Vajdic BOptom, PhD (part time) (to March)

Lecturers

Louise Causer MB BS, MSc, DTM&H (part time)
Marianne Jauncey BMed, Grad Dip App Epi, MPH(Hons), FAFPHM (part time) (to August)
Jeff Jin BMed, MPH, PhD
Pól McCann BA (Hons), PhD (from November)
Iona Millwood BA(Hons), PhD (part time) (to August)
Mary Poynten MB BS, Dip Child Health, MPH(Hons) (part time) (to March)

Post Doctoral Research Fellows

Christine Harcourt BA(Hons), MA(Hons), PhD (part time)
Rebecca Guy BAppSc, MAppEpid, PhD (from May)

Senior Research Officer

Ann McDonald BSc, MPH

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program Manager

James Ward



Director's office

(left to right)

Louisa Wright
Damien Cordery
David Cooper
Janette Button

Clinical Project Co-ordinator

Lina Safro MB BS, BSc(Hons) (part time) (to September)

Data Manager

Neil Franklin BSc(Hons), MPH (from April)

Research Assistants

Troy Combo (from May to November)
Michael Falster BPsych(Hons) (to July)
Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH
Jody O'Connor BHSc, MPH
Marina van Leeuwen BSc(Hons), MPH (part time)

Project Officer

Jack Bradley

Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

Head and Associate Professor

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

Lecturers

Carolyn Day BSc(Hons), PhD (p-time) (to Jan)
Marianne Jauncey BMed, Grad Dip App Epi, MPH(Hons), FAFPHM (part time) (from August)
Gail Matthews MBChB, MRCP (UK), FRACP
Rosey Thein (from October)

Clinical Trials Manager

Pip Marks BSc

Senior Clinical Project Co-ordinator

Jacinta Perram BMedSci, BA (Psychology) (to November)

Clinical Project Co-ordinators

Brian Acraman (to September)
Oscar-Hazel Donaldson BSc(Hons), Dip Ed, RN (to October)
Natalie Espinosa BAppSc, MHSc
Alexa Gillman BSc(Hons)
Ineke Shaw BSc, Grad Cert BioStats
Barbara Yeung RN, BHSc(Nursing), MPH

Project Co-ordinator

Deborah Adrian BSc(Hons) (to August)

Research Assistants

Amanda Erratt ADip (Admin)

Data Manager

Patrick McGrath BA, Dip Ed

Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Moore
Lara Cassar (from September)

Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Head and Associate Professor

Lisa Maher PhD

Lecturer

Libby Topp BSc(Psychol)(Hons), PhD (to January)
Ekrumal Hoque MBBS, MPH(Hons), PhD (from July)

Associate Lecturer

Bethany White BSc, MPH (from July)

Post Doctoral Research Fellow

Peter Higgs PhD, MA, BSW (from April)
Joanne Kimber BSc, PhD

Senior Project Co-ordinator

David Brockman BMed, BA, MPH, RACGP (to May)
Marlene Thompson BSc (from October)

Project Co-ordinators

Heidi Coupland BAppSc, MPH (part time)

Qualitative Research Co-ordinator

Julie Mooney-Somers BSc(Hons), PhD

Clinical Trial Co-ordinator

Kathy Barnes RN (part time)

Research Assistants

Brian Acraman (from September)
Anna Bates BA (from April)
Rachel Deacon BSc, PhD (from February)
Anna Doab RN, MPH (part time)
Aylza Donald BSSc, BA
Jarliene Enriquez
Jenny Iversen BAppSc (part time)

Administrative Assistant

Rachel McCleave BA(Hons), BEd(Prim) (part time) (from April)

Biostatistics and Databases Program

Head and Associate Professor

Matthew Law MA, MSc, PhD

Associate Professor

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

Senior Lecturer

Janaki Amin BSc(Hons), MPH(Hons), PhD (from July)

Lecturers

Janaki Amin BSc(Hons), MPH(Hons), PhD (to July)
Kathy Petoumenos BSc, MA, MPH(Hons), PhD
David Regan BA, BSc(Hons), PhD
Handan Wand MA, MSc, PhD
Jialun Zhou BMed, MPH, PhD

Post Doctoral Research Fellow

David Wilson BInfTech, BAppSc(Hons), PhD

Statisticians

Heather Gidding BAppSc, Grad Dip Epid Biostats, MAppEpid, MPHAA
Kathleen Falster BAppSc, MPH (to January)
Azar Kariminia BSc, MSc, PhD
Sadaf Marashi Pour BSc, MSc (from January)
Rebecca Oyompito BSc, Grad Dip Med Stat
Preeyaporn Srasuebkul BSc, MSc, PhD (from June)

Computer Systems Officers

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

Research Assistants

Richard Gray BSc(Hons)
Kel Heymer BSc (from August)
Amy Kwon BSc (from March)

Administrative Assistant

Courtney Bendall DipBus



Administration

(left to right)

Yvette Toole
Charles Tran
Coralie Kronenberg
Lisa Howard
Bronwen Turner
Brigette Sharp
Rata Joseph

Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Head and Senior Lecturer

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

Lecturers

Linda Gelgor PhD, MSc
Kersten Koelsch MBBS, MD
Nabila Seddiki PhD

Senior Scientist

Nigel McCathy BSc(Hons), MSc

Clinical Project Co-ordinators

Patricia Grey BA, Post Grad Dip App Sci, CNS, Dip (Counselling)
Mee-Ling Munier BSc, Grad Dip Epi, MSc (from October)

Research Assistants

Michelle Bailey BSc(Hons)
Susanna Ip BSc
Chansavath Phetsouphanh BSc, MSc
Celine Yan BMedSc (Pathology) (to September)
Yin Xu MSc (Research), MSc

Data Administrator

Ansari Shaik BA, MBA

Administrative Assistants

Susan Lewis MA (part time) (to April)
Sarah Field BVA (part time) (to March)
Lee Rickwood BA, MCA (from April to August)
Lucy Watchirs-Smith BA (from April)
Lydia Jauncey BA (from October)

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), MIPH, PhD (HIV-NAT, Thailand)

Finance and Administration

Manager

Bronwen Turner BA

Business Manager

Annie Tung MPA

Finance Managers

Gina Lam BA(Hons), EMBA
Patricia Xu BEc, EMBA, CPA

Librarian

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

Human Resources Advisor

Brigitte Sharp BA(Hons)

Computer Systems Officers

Lisa Howard Dip IT
Charles Tran BCompSc

Finance Administrator

Teresa Wong BAcc, CPA

Office Administrator

Yvette Toole

Administrative Assistants

Ian Brodie BEc, Grad Dip Ed, Ass Dip Hlth Sc
May Park Dip Law, Dip Travel & Tourism (to July)
Dhara Kothary (from August)

Receptionist

Rata Joseph

Researchers affiliated to NCHECR

Visiting Professor

Jennifer Hoy MB BS, Grad Dip Epi Bio, FRACP
Head, Clinical Research Unit, Infectious Diseases, The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

Senior Visiting Fellow

Philip Cunningham BAppSc(Med)
Chief of Operations, St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research
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
Nossal Institute for Global Health
University of Melbourne

Julian Elliott MB BS, FRACP
Assistant Head, Clinical Research Infectious Diseases Unit
The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

Richard Hillman BSc, MD, FRCP, FACHSHM
Senior Lecturer, Medicine
Western Clinical School, The University of Sydney
Cathy Pell MB BS, MM
Specialist General Practitioner
Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney
(on secondment to Northern Territory Department of Health and Families)

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

Visiting Post Doctoral Research Fellow

Jason Grebely BSc, PhD

Training or student placements at NCHECR

Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (Honours) student

Kai Brown

Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery Independent Learning Project students

Adam Honeybrook (from May) (at HIV-NAT)
Amy Julian (to March)

Song Yui Lee (from May)
Gerard Moynihan (to March)
Jai Nathani
Hijiri Suzuki

Bachelor of Science (Honours) student

Yuan Gao

Doctor of Philosophy students

Wari Allison BSc(Hons), MB BS
Oliver Distler BSc(Hons), MSc
Kathleen Falster BAppSc, MPH
Heather Gidding BAppSc, Grad Dip Epi, MAE
Kelly Jean Heymer (from August)
Alexander Hoare BSc(Hons)
Susan Hudson BSW, PG Cert Addictions, MSW
Amy Kwon BAdvSc(Hons)
Heidi Lim BSc(Hons)
Mee Ling Munier BSc, Grad Dip Epi, MSc
Kristin McBride BSc, BAnSciM(Hons)
Mary Poynten MB BS, Dip Child Health, MPH(Hons) (from March)
Allison Salmon BPsych, MPH (from September)
Sarah Sasson BA, BSc(Hons)
Preeyaporn Srasuebkal BSc, MSc
Sanjay Swaminathan MB BS, BMedSc
David Templeton MB ChB, Dip Ven, Grad Cert ForensMed, MACLM, FACHSHM
David van Bockel BBiotech(Hons)
Marina van Leeuwen BSc(Hons), MPH
Chris Weatherall MB BS, BMedSc, FRACP

Doctor of Philosophy practicum students

Mohtaram Nematollahi BSc, MSc (Iran University of Medical Sciences, Iran) (from November to December)
Sulaman Yotthanoo BA, MSc (Prince of Songkla University, Thailand) (from April to May)

International training placement

Valeria Colleselli (Innsbruck Medical University, Austria) (September)
Andrea Gonnermann (University of Bremen) (from September)

Master of Applied Epidemiology (Indigenous Health) student

Simon Graham BIS (from March)

Master of Biomedical Science practicum student

Louise Dekker (Vrije University, The Netherlands) (at HIV-NAT)

Master of International Public Health practicum students

Cecilia de Bustos (Vrije University, The Netherlands) (at HIV-NAT)
Sabine Heus (Vrije University, The Netherlands) (at HIV-NAT)

Visiting Post Doctoral Research Fellow

Jason Grebely BSc, PhD

Visiting Fellow

A/Professor Maria Prins
(University of Amsterdam Academic Medical Centre)

Education, training and professional recognition

Students supervised or co-supervised by NCHECR staff

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 Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery (Hons) candidate

Kai Brown

Describing T-cell repertoires amongst antigen-specific T-regulatory cells (Anthony Kelleher, Nabila Seddiki)

Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery awarded (Independent Learning Project supervision)

Gerard Moynihan

Effect of therapy at primary HIV infection on long term outcomes (Anthony Kelleher, Tim Ramacciotti)

Adam Honeybrook

Assessment of risk behaviour in subjects receiving antiretroviral therapy (Stephen Kerr)

Amy Julian

Co-morbidity among clients of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre: A prospective review (Lisa Maher, Allison Salmon)

Song Yui Lee

AIDS and identity: A cross cultural perspective (Garrett Prestage)

Jai Nathani

Qualitative accounts of needle and syringe cleaning techniques among people who inject drugs in Sydney, Australia (Lisa Maher)

Hijiri Suzuki

Pegylated interferon and ribavirin therapy outcomes among a HIV/Hepatitis C co-infected clinic population. (Greg Dore, Gail Matthews)

Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery (Option Learning Contract in HIV Clinical Research)

Ruvimbo Bangure; An insight into HIV

clinical research; March to May (Mark Boyd)

Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) awarded (Empirical Research Project supervision)

Brian Skepper (The University of Western Sydney)

Men's subjective experience of consenting to undesired sexual activity in long term heterosexual relationships (Julie Mooney-Somers)

Bachelor of Science (Hons) awarded

Yuan Gao

Characterisation of CD4+ T-cell subset containing integrated HIV-1 DNA (Anthony Kelleher)

Masters of Public Health by research

Anna Farr (UNSW)

Public health surveillance and evaluation of the HIV epidemic in the Philippines (David Wilson)

Doctor of Medicine candidate

Sarah Pett

Aspects of HIV-1 treatment: An exploration of the positive and negative physiological aspects of host-directed treatments for HIV-1 infection (David Cooper, Sean Emery, Anthony Kelleher)

Doctor of Philosophy awarded

Peter Higgs (Monash University)

Exploring risk: A study of ethnic Vietnamese heroin users (Lisa Maher)

Karina Razali

Estimates and projections of HIV and hepatitis C virus in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region (Matthew Law, John Kaldor)

Preeyaporn Srasuebkul

Evaluating CD4 cell count and HIV viral load monitoring strategies in patients commencing antiretroviral treatment (Matthew Law)

Doctor of Philosophy candidates

Jonathan Anderson

The role of economic evaluation in decision-

making about HIV (David Cooper, Sean Emery, Kathy Petoumenos)

Wari Allison

Diagnosis and treatment of paediatric HIV infection in a resource limited setting (John Kaldor, Matthew Law)

David van Bockel

Comparison within long term non-progressors of T-cell factors contributing to control of viral infection (Anthony Kelleher)

Michael Burke

Factors influencing participation in prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV programs in Tanzania, East Africa (John Kaldor)

Helen Byakwaga

Antiretroviral therapy and the management of HIV/AIDS (Sean Emery, David Cooper, Mark Boyd)

Alexandra Calmy

Prevention and management of long term toxicities of antiretroviral treatment (David Cooper, Matthew Law)

Dianne Carey

Optimising therapeutic outcomes in HIV-infected subjects (Sean Emery)

Heidi Coupland

Prevention and management of hepatitis C infection among Indo-Chinese injecting drug users (Lisa Maher)

Oliver Distler

Molecular and cellular mechanisms for HIV protease inhibitor associated hyperlipidaemia (David Cooper, Anthony Kelleher)

Julian Elliott

Expanded use of antiretroviral therapy in resource-limited settings (John Kaldor, David Cooper)

Jacqueline Flynn (Monash University)

The stimulation and maintenance of T-cell responses in acute hepatitis C infection (Greg Dore)

Rashmi Fotedar

The molecular epidemiology of gonorrhoea in Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Kathleen Falster

Treatment experience and long term

morbidity and mortality outcomes among a cohort of HIV-infected patients in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region in the era of combination antiretroviral treatment (Matthew Law, Basil Donovan)

Heather Gidding

HCV epidemiology, treatment and outcomes in Australia (Matthew Law, Greg Dore, Janaki Amin)

Rachel Green (Curtin University of Technology)

An ethnographic study of psychostimulant drug use and related harms among young people in Perth (Lisa Maher)

Rebecca Guy

The use of routine HIV testing data as a basis for planning and evaluating public health interventions (Andrew Grulich)

Kelly Jean Heymer

Using modelling to evaluate drivers and predict trajectories of HIV and STI epidemics in South East Asia and Australasia (David Wilson, Matthew Law)

Alexander Hoare

Modelling HIV/AIDS epidemics in S-E Asia (David Wilson, Matthew Law)

Jeff Hudson (The University of Sydney)

Fluid sexuality: Married men who have sex with men (Garrett Prestage)

Susan Hudson

Exploring the experiences of street-based sex workers who inject psychostimulants (Lisa Maher)

Amy Kwon

Mathematical modelling of viral epidemics among injecting drug users in the Asia-Pacific region (David Wilson, Rosie Thein)

Stephen Lambert (The University of Queensland)

A study of *Chlamydia trachomatis* in the Australian Defence Force (Basil Donovan)

Heidi Lim

Effect of nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors on apidocyte mitochondrial function (Anthony Kelleher, Kazuo Suzuki)

Gail Matthews

Therapeutic strategies in HIV/viral hepatitis coinfection (Greg Dore, David Cooper)

Kristin McBride

Characterising viral reservoirs (David Cooper, Kersten Koelsch, Anthony Kelleher)

Ann Mijch (Monash University)

Measuring and managing HIV virological failure (John Kaldor)

Mee Ling Munier

CD4 T-cells in primary HIV infection (Anthony Kelleher, John Zaunders)

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)

Rebecca Oyomopito

HIV-1 drug resistance in treatment-naïve and combination antiretroviral therapy exposed patients in Asia (Matthew Law, Anthony Kelleher)

Mary Poynten

Biological and behavioural methods of prevention of HIV transmission (Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor, Jeff Jin)

Karina Razali

Estimates and projections of HIV and hepatitis C virus in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region (Matthew Law, John Kaldor)

Allison Salmon

Evaluation of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (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, John Zaunders)

Sanjay Swaminathan

Transcriptional silencing of HIV by siRNA (Anthony Kelleher, Kazuo Suzuki)

David Templeton

Interventions to reduce HIV transmission in homosexual men (Andrew Grulich, Basil Donovan)

Marina van Leeuwen

The epidemiology of cancer in people with acquired and iatrogenic immune deficiency (Claire Vajdic, Andrew Grulich)

Henry Zheng

Walking interventions to prevent CHD in Australia: quantifying effect size, dose-response and cost savings. (Janaki Amin)

Chris Weatherall

Characterisation of B-lymphocyte responses in primary HIV infection-neutralising antibodies and immune tolerance (Anthony Kelleher, David Cooper)

Doctor of Public Health candidate

Catherine O'Connor (The University of Sydney)

The sexual health of ethnic communities in the inner western suburbs of Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Master of Applied Epidemiology (Indigenous Health) candidate awarded

Simon Graham (Australian National University)

(John Kaldor)

Master of International Public Health awarded (practicum supervision)

Cecilia de Bustos (Vrije University, The Netherlands)

Efficacy and safety of two different doses of zidovudine as part of combination antiretroviral therapy, compared to a stavudine-containing regimen as control (Chris Duncombe)

Sabine Heus (Vrije University, The Netherlands)

Pharmacokinetics of baby dose ritonavir in combination with different protease inhibitors in different dose regimens in Thai HIV-1 infected patients (Chris Duncombe)

Master of Public Health by research awarded

Arunthia Zaidi Urni

Assessment of stigma, discrimination and violence associated with the disclosure of HIV positive serostatus: Service providers' perspective (Garrett Prestage)

Infectious Diseases Fellow

Dr Benjawan Nantiyakul

Clinical progression after highly-active antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected Thai patients with CD4 cell counts 200-250 cells/mm³ compared to CD4 cell counts <200 cells/mm³ and >250 cells/mm³ (Stephen Kerr)

Course co-ordination

Case studies in epidemiology, Master of Public Health, The University of New South Wales (Andrew Grulich)

Current Research and Translational Research Issues in Basic, Clinical and Prevention Science, IAS Education Programme, Sydney (Rebekah Puls)

HIV/AIDS: Australian and International Responses, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney (Garrett Prestage, Kathy Petoumenos, Janaki Amin)

Rational Drug Use, Graduate Programme in Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (Stephen Kerr)

Professional reading and critical appraisal in the pharmaceutical sciences,

Department of Pharmacy Practice, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen (Stephen Kerr)

Registrars' Trainee Seminar Series, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Teaching

Advanced HIV Infection, Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney (Dianne Carey, Anthony Kelleher)

An epidemiological approach to the critical appraisal of clinical evidence, short courses to the pharmaceutical industry, Sydney (Andrew Grulich)

An introduction to HIV/AIDS 3rd year Immunology 1 Course, BABS, UNSW (Anthony Kelleher)

An introduction to the primary immunodeficiencies, 3rd year Immunology 1 Course, BABS, UNSW (Anthony Kelleher)

An update on Long-Term Non-Progressors NCHCR Trial Network Site Coordinators Meeting, Perth (Anthony Kelleher)

Analyses using Stata version 10 statistical software, HIV-NAT and Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre (Stephen Kerr)

Basic Physicians Training Course, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney (Greg Dore, Gail Matthews)

Biostatistics, study design and data management training day. HIV-NAT and Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre (Stephen Kerr)

Case studies in epidemiology, Master of Public Health, The University of New South Wales (Andrew Grulich)

Clinical tutorials for FRACP candidates at St

Vincent's Hospital (Anthony Kelleher)

Communicable Disease Control, Master of Medicine (Infection and Immunity) Course, The University of Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Descriptive Statistics, School of Safety Science, UNSW, Sydney (Kathy Petoumenos)

Designing and conducting clinical trials, NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre: Event reporting and Special considerations; international/multicentre research (Sean Emery)

Empirical Research Methods, Year 4 Psychology, The University of Western Sydney (Julie Mooney-Somers)

Examiner Trial Exam for FRACP candidates, St Vincent's Hospital (Anthony Kelleher)

Global Perspectives on HIV/AIDS, Master of Health/Master of International Public Health, University of Queensland, Brisbane (John Kaldor)

Hepatitis B for Pharmacotherapy Practitioners, Concord, Sydney (Gail Matthews)

Hepatitis B Treatment and Management, Sexual Health Society of Queensland, Brisbane (Gail Matthews)

HIV Clinical Care Meeting for General Practitioners, Canberra (Sarah Pett)

HIV GP Study Meeting, Sydney (Gail Matthews)

HIV Medicine Interactive Session (St Vincent's Hospital), Year 6 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (David Cooper)

HIV S100 Prescribers Course, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Sarah Pett, Felix Drummond)

HIV S100 Prescribers Update, Canberra (Sarah Pett)

HIV/AIDS: Australian and International Responses, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney ((Mark Boyd, Greg Dore, Andrew Grulich, Anthony Kelleher, Gail Matthews,

Garrett Prestage, Rebekah Puls, Chris Weatherall)

Immunology 1, Bachelor of Science, UNSW, Sydney (Anthony Kelleher)

Immunology 2, Bachelor of Science, UNSW, Sydney (Anthony Kelleher)

Immunology 2, MICR, bachelor of Sciences, UNSW, Sydney (Nabila Seddiki)

Immunology 3, Bachelor of Science, UNSW, Sydney (Anthony Kelleher)

Immunopathogenesis of HIV-1 infection, 3rd year Immunology 2 Course, BABS, UNSW (Anthony Kelleher)

In service training for nursing and ancillary staff, Clinical Service Unit, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney (Anthony Kelleher)

Indonesia-Australia Specialised Training Project in Drug Prevention in Australia, Sydney (John Kaldor)

Introduction to Infectious Disease Modelling Workshop, the Papua New Guinea Institute for Medical Research, Port Moresby and Goroka (David Wilson, Richard Gray, John Murray)

Introductory Course in Hepatitis C for Pharmacotherapy Practitioners, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Greg Dore)

Introductory Program to HIV and Viral Hepatitis, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney (Greg Dore)

Lessons from Long Term Non-Progressor and Elite controllers Australasian Society for HIV Medicine GP Study Group Meeting (Anthony Kelleher)

Marking AUM assignments – Faculty of Medicine, BScMedHon & Undergrad Phase 3, UNSW (Anthony Kelleher)

Membership Course, The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Students

(left to right)

Mary Poynten

Kel Heymer

Amy Kwon

Marina van Leeuwen

Preeyaporn Srasuebkul

Alexander Hoare



National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs Social Health Clinic Staff Training Program, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (Sarah Huffam)

Nursing Course in Advanced Hepatitis C, Australasian Society of HIV Medicine, Sydney (Gail Matthews)

One Day Course in Hepatitis C Medicine, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Greg Dore, Gail Matthews)

Patient Counselling, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok (Stephen Kerr)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Epidemiology: an Overview, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (John Kaldor)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Infection Control, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (Dianne Carey)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Sexual Health and Venereology, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (Janaki Amin, Basil Donovan, Dianne Carey, Greg Dore, Andrew Grulich)

Professional reading and critical appraisal in the pharmaceutical sciences, Department of Pharmacy Practice, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen (Stephen Kerr)

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, John Kaldor)

Public Health Surveillance and Evaluation, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Regional Training Program, Sydney (John Kaldor)

Rational Drug Use, Graduate Programme in Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (Stephen Kerr)

Rational Drug Use, Postgraduate Programme in Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok (Stephen Kerr)

Registrars' Trainee Seminar Series, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Sexual Health Medicine 2, Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney (David Regan)

Short Course in Hepatitis C Medicine, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Greg Dore, Gail Matthews)

Short Course in HIV Infection Laboratory

Diagnosis and Monitoring, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Anthony Kelleher)

Short Course in HIV Medicine for Community Representatives, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Fraser Drummond)

Short Course in HIV Medicine for Community Workers and Volunteers, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Felix Drummond)

Short Course in HIV Medicine for Pharmaceutical Representatives, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Felix Drummond)

Short Course in Science of HIV and the Principles and Practice of Testing, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Anthony Kelleher)

Short Course in Viral Hepatitis, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Libby Topp)

The Primary Immunodeficiencies, 3rd year Immunology 2 Course, BABS, UNSW (Anthony Kelleher)

TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD) Cancer Training, Hanoi, Vietnam (Andrew Grulich)

Tutoring

Clinical Attachment, Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Clinical Teaching (St Vincent's Clinical School), Phase 1 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (Fraser Drummond)

Clinical training for physicians and nurses from Myanmar, HIV-NAT, Bangkok, Thailand (Chris Duncombe)

Clinical tutoring of 3rd year Medicine students, UNSW (Chris Weatherall)

Critical Appraisal and Professional Reading, Bachelor of Pharmacy, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand (Stephen Kerr)

Patient Counseling, Bachelor of Pharmacy, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (Stephen Kerr)

Registrars' Trainee Seminar Series, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Undergraduate Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney (Louisa Wright)

Promotions

Greg Dore, Sean Emery and Lisa Maher: Professors (from January 2009)

Rebecca Guy and Janaki Amin: Senior Lecturers

David Cooper: appointed Director of the St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research (AMR)

The Sir William Upjohn Gold Medal

David Cooper: The Sir William Upjohn Gold Medal 2008 (joint recipient) for services to medicine in Australia for 2008 (Council of The University of Melbourne)

NHMRC awards

John Kaldor: NHMRC Principal Research Fellowship

Andrew Grulich and Lisa Maher: NHMRC Senior Research Fellowships

Basil Donovan: NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship

David Wilson: NHMRC Career Development Award

Dean's Award for Outstanding Achievement (UNSW Faculty of Medicine)

David Cooper

Dean's List awards

Wari Allison, Kai Brown, Alex Hoare and Sarah Sasson

Other awards

David Cooper: Honorary Lifetime Membership of the International AIDS Society

David Wilson: NSW Young Tall Poppy Science Award, Australian Institute of Policy and Science

Palanee Ammaranond: Excellent Doctoral Thesis Award (Medical) from the National Research Council of Thailand

Kel Heymer: Best student oral presentation, Australian New Zealand Industrial and Applied Mathematics Meeting

Sanjay Swaminathan: Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia Kanematsu/Kitamura Award for Pathology and the Pfizer Prize in Medicine

Australasian Society of HIV Medicine Conference awards

Rachel Deacon: Best oral presentation in the education, public health, prevention and policy stream

Heidi Coupland: Best oral presentation in the community program stream; the undergraduate and junior researcher award

Collaborating organisations

National

Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs (ANEX), Melbourne

Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Sydney

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Primary Immunodeficiency Register, Sydney

Australia and New Zealand Cardiothoracic Transplant Registry, Sydney

Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA), Adelaide

Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Registry, Brisbane

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 Gonococcal Surveillance Program, Sydney

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 Paediatric Surveillance Unit and its contributors, Sydney

Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Melbourne

Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Sydney

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne

Communicable Diseases Network Australia, Canberra

Federal Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

Hepatitis Australia, Canberra

Immunovirology Research Network (IVRN), UNSW, Sydney

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, Canberra

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

Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners, Sydney

Therapeutic Goods Administration, Canberra

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Advisory Committee, Canberra

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Corrective Services, Canberra

ACT Health

Canberra Sexual Health Clinic, Canberra Hospital

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

Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services Inc

New South Wales

East Sydney Doctors, Sydney

Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW

Aboriginal Medical Service Coop Ltd, Sydney

AIDS Council of NSW (ACON), Sydney, Lismore, Newcastle, Penrith, Port Macquarie and Wollongong

AIDS Research Initiative, Sydney

Albion Street Centre, Sydney

Albury Community Health Centre, Albury

Area Health Public Health Units, NSW Health, Sydney

Area Health Services, NSW Health, Sydney

Bankstown Hospital, Sydney

Bigge Park Medical Centre, Sydney

Blacktown Needle and Syringe Program Services, Sydney

Bligh Street Clinic, Tamworth

Blue Mountains Sexual Health Clinic, Katoomba

Bone Density Unit, Sydney Menopause Centre, Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney

Burwood Road General Practice, Sydney

Cambodian-Australian Welfare Council of NSW, Sydney

Centre for Addiction Medicine, Westmead Hospital

Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice, Justice Health, NSW Health Department, Sydney

Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Centre for Research in Criminal Justice, NSW Justice Health

Centre for Transplant and Renal Research, Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Sydney

Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney

Coffs Harbour Sexual Health Clinic

Dubbo Sexual Health Centre, Dubbo

East Sydney Doctors, Sydney

First Step Program, Port Kembla and Nowra

Forster/Tuncurry Sexual Health

Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney

Gateway Opioid Treatment Service Clinic, Nepean Hospital

General Medical Practice, Coffs Harbour

Harm Minimisation Program, Newcastle

Health ConneXions, Sydney

Hepatitis C Council of NSW, Sydney

Holden Street Clinic, Gosford

Holdsworth House Medical Practice, Sydney and Byron Bay

Hunter New England Sexual Health Service
 Illawarra Sexual Health, Port Kembla
 Immunology and Microbiology Department,
 The University of Newcastle, Newcastle
 Indo-Chinese Outreach Network (ICON), Sydney
 John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle
 Justice Health, NSW Health Department, Sydney
 K2 Health Service, Sydney
 Kellyclose Mt Druitt Needle and Syringe
 Program Services, Sydney
 Kirketon Road Centre, Sydney
 Kite Street Community Health Centre, Orange
 Lao Workers' Network, Lao Community
 Advancement Co-op, Sydney
 Liverpool Hospital, Sydney
 Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic, Sydney
 Manly Sexual Health Clinic
 Mt Druitt Luxford Rd Sexual Health Clinic
 Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C
 Service, Sydney
 Needle and Syringe Program, Gosford and
 Long Jetty
 Nepean Hospital, Sydney
 Nepean Sexual Health Clinic
 Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Services, Newcastle
 North Coast Area Health Service, Harm
 Reduction Services
 North Coast Radiology, Lismore
 Northern Rivers Health Service, Lismore
 NSW Centre for Health Record Linkage, Sydney
 NSW Department of Corrective Services
 NSW Health Department, Sydney
 NSW Health Department, AIDS and Infectious
 Disease Branch, Sydney
 NSW State Reference Laboratory for
 HIV/AIDS, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
 NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA),
 Sydney
 Open Family, Sydney
 Orange Sexual Health Clinic
 Parramatta Needle and Syringe Program
 Services, Sydney
 Parramatta Sexual Health Centre, Sydney
 Positive Life NSW (formerly PLWHA NSW)
 Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney
 Princess Alexandra Sexual Health (PASH),
 Lismore & Tweed Heads Sexual Health Service
 Rankin Court Treatment Centre, Sydney
 Rankin Court Methadone Stabilisation Clinic,
 Sydney
 Resource and Education Program for
 Injecting Drug Users (REPIDU), Sydney
 Responsive User Services in Health (RUSH),
 Sydney

Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney
 Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) Sexual
 Health Clinic, Sydney
 RPAH Clinic 36 Outreach Clinic, Sydney
 Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney
 Sax Institute, Sydney
 School of Medical Sciences, UNSW, Sydney
 School of Public Health and Community
 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney
 Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP),
 Sydney
 Sexual Health and Infectious Diseases
 Service (SHAIDS), Lismore
 Sexually Transmitted Infections Research
 Centre, Westmead Hospital, Sydney
 Shape Clinic, Sydney
 South Court Primary Care Needle and
 Syringe Program, Sydney
 South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area
 Health Service, NSW Health Department,
 Sydney
 St George Hospital, Sydney
 St George Hospital Needle and Syringe
 Program, Sydney
 St George Hospital Short Street Sexual
 Health Clinic
 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 South West Area Health Service, NSW
 Health Department, Sydney
 SydPath, Sydney
 Tamworth Bligh Street Clinic
 Taree Manning Clinic
 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 Vietnamese Community in Australia
 NSW Chapter, Sydney
 UNSW Cancer Research Centre, integrated
 cancer research group
 WAYS Youth Clinic Bondi
 Westmead Hospital, Sydney
 Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical
 Research, Sydney
 Wollongong Hospital, Wollongong

Northern Territory

Aboriginal Medical Service Alliance Northern
 Territory
 AIDS/STI Program, Disease Control,
 Department of Health and Community
 Services, Darwin
 Alice Springs Hospital
 Alice Springs Harm Reduction Program, Alice
 Springs
 Alice Springs Sexual Health Service
 Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
 Communicable Disease Centre, Royal Darwin
 Hospital, Darwin
 Darwin Harm Reduction Program, Darwin
 Darwin Sexual Health Service
 Menzies School of Health Research
 Northern Territory Correctional Services
 Department of Justice, Darwin
 Northern Territory Department of Health and
 Families
 Palmerston Needle and Syringe Program,
 Palmerston
 Royal Darwin Hospital

Queensland

Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health
 Council
 AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health,
 Brisbane
 Biala Alcohol and Drug Services, Brisbane
 Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, Brisbane
 Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns
 Cairns Base Hospital NSP Services, Cairns
 Cairns Sexual Health Service, Cairns Base
 Hospital, Cairns
 Clinic 87, Sunshine Coast-Wide Bay Health
 Service District, Nambour
 Communicable Disease Unit, Queensland
 Health, Brisbane
 Department of Corrective Services, Brisbane
 Dolls House Sexual Health Clinic Cairns
 Gladstone Road Medical Centre, Brisbane
 Gold Coast Hospital, Southport
 Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, Miami
 Greenslopes Private Hospital, Brisbane
 Kobi House, Toowoomba
 Mackay Sexual Health Clinic
 Mount Isa Sexual Health Clinic
 Nambour General Hospital, Nambour
 Palm Island Sexual Health Clinic
 Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane
 Queensland Association for Healthy

Communities (QAHC), Brisbane, Cairns, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Townsville

Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC), The University of Queensland, Brisbane

Queensland Diagnostic Imaging, Brisbane

Queensland Health, Brisbane

Queensland Injectors Health Network (QulHN), Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast

Queensland Medical Laboratory (QML), Brisbane

Queensland Positive People, Brisbane

Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brisbane

Sexual Health Service, Toowoomba Base Hospital, Toowoomba

Southcoast Radiology, Southport

Sunshine Coast and Cooloola HIV/Sexual Health Service, Nambour

Townsville Sexual Health Service

Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services Ltd, Townsville

Townsville ATODS

Townsville Hospital, Townsville

Townsville Health Services

West Moreton Sexual Health Service, Brisbane

South Australia

Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia

AIDS Council of South Australia (ACSA), Adelaide

Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA), Adelaide

The Care and Prevention Program, Adelaide University, Adelaide

Clinic 275, Adelaide

Communicable Disease Control Branch, SA Health

Flinders Clinical Trials Pharmacy, Adelaide

Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide

Government of South Australia, Department of Health

Harm Minimisation Program, Hindmarsh Centre, Adelaide

Infectious Diseases Laboratories, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide

Nunukuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc, Adelaide

Radiology South Australia, Calvary Hospital, Adelaide

Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide

Royal Adelaide Hospital Clinic 275

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Services, Internal Medicine Service, Royal

Adelaide Hospital

South Australian Health Department

South Australian Voice for Intravenous Education (SAVIVE) Noarlunga, Norwood, Parks, Port Adelaide

Shopfront Youth Health and Information Services, Adelaide

South Australian Prison Health Services, Adelaide

The Care and Prevention Program, Adelaide University, Adelaide

Women's and Children's Hospital Adelaide

Tasmania

Clarence Community Health Service, Hobart

Communicable Disease Prevention Unit, The Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania, Hobart

Corrective Services Division, Department of Justice, Hobart

Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania

Royal Hobart Hospital

Salvation Army Launceston, Launceston

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre

Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (TasCAHRD), Hobart and Glenorchy

Victoria

Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs Australia (Anex), Melbourne

Austin Hospital, Melbourne

Barwon Drug and Alcohol Services, Geelong

Box Hill Hospital, Melbourne

CogState Ltd, Melbourne

CSIRO Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong

Deakin Health Economics Unit, Deakin University, Melbourne

Department of Human Services, Victoria

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

Frankston Hospital, Frankston

Geelong Hospital, Geelong

Health Information Exchange, Salvation Army, Melbourne

Inner Space, Melbourne

Key Centre for Women's Health in Society, University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne

Melbourne Pathology, Melbourne

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Melbourne

The Microbiological Diagnostic Unit,

University of Melbourne

Middle Park Clinic, Melbourne

Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne

Monash University, Melbourne

North Richmond Drug Safety Program, Melbourne

Northcote Clinic, Melbourne

Northcote Needle and Syringe Program Services, Melbourne

People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Melbourne

Prahran Market Clinic, Melbourne

Resourcing Health and Education in the Sex Industry (RhED), Melbourne

Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne

Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne

School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne, 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

The Centre for International Child Health (CICH), Melbourne

University of Melbourne

Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre (GMHC), Melbourne

Victorian Cytology Service Inc, Melbourne

Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Melbourne

Western Hospital, Melbourne

Western Australia

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia

Centre for Clinical Immunology and Biomedical Statistics, Perth

Communicable Diseases Control Branch, Department of Health, Perth

Data Linkage Western Australia, Perth

Department of Health, Western Australia

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, Perth

Fremantle Hospital, Perth

Fremantle Hospital Sexual Health Service, Perth

Goldfields Population Health Kalgoorlie

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, Perth

Magenta, Perth

Ministry of Justice, Strategic and Specialist

Services Division, Perth
 National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology
 Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Perth
 Royal Perth Hospital, Perth
 Royal Perth Hospital Sexual Health Clinic
 Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program, Department of Health, Perth
 Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth
 The University of Western Australia, Perth
 Western Australian AIDS Council (WAAC), Perth
 Western Australian Substance Users Association (WASUA), Perth

International

Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam
 Agence Nationale pour la Recherche de SIDA (ANRS), Paris
 AIDS Clinical Centre, International Medical Centre of Japan, Tokyo
 AIDS Malignancy Consortium, Birmingham, USA
 American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), New York
 Angkor Hospital for Children, Siem Reap, Cambodia
 Asia Pacific Neuro AIDS Consortium (APNAC), Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne
 Auckland Hospital, New Zealand
 Aviano Cancer Centre, Aviano, Italy
 Bamrasnaradura Hospital, Bangkok
 Beijing Ditan Hospital, Beijing
 British Columbia Cancer Registry, Vancouver
 Brown University, Providence, USA
 Calgary Regional Health Authority, Canada
 Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, Ottawa
 Canadian Trials Network (CTN), Vancouver
 Catalan Institute of Oncology, Barcelona
 Catedra de Enfermedades Infecciosas, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de la Republica, Montevideo, Uruguay
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta
 Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada, Ottawa
 Centro de Asistencia e Investigacion Clinica de Inmunocomprometidos (CAICI), Rosario, Argentina
 Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London
 Chaing Mai University, Chaing Mai, Thailand
 Chiang Rai Regional Hospital, Chiang Rai, Thailand

Children Hospital No. 1, Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam
 Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing
 Chonburi Regional Hospital, Chonburi, Thailand
 Christchurch Hospital, New Zealand
 Chulalongkorn Hospital, Bangkok
 Cipto Mangunkusumo General Hospital, Jakarta
 Community Research Initiative of New England, Boston
 Concerted Action on Seroconversion to AIDS and Death in Europe (CASCADE) and its contributors, Coordinating Unit, London
 Copenhagen HIV Programme, Hvidovre University Hospital, Copenhagen
 David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles
 Department of HIV/GUM Research, Brighton, UK
 Department of Paediatrics, Port Moresby General Hospital, Papua New Guinea
 Department of Preventative and Social Medicine, University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ
 Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Internal Medicine, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul
 Division of Statistics, School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA
 Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University and Sanglah Hospital, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
 Family Health International, Durham, North Carolina
 Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle
 Fundacion Arriaran, Santiago, Chile
 Fundacion Centro de Estudios Infectologicos (FUNCEI), Clinica La Sagrada Familia, Buenos Aires
 Gemeinschaftspraxis Jessen, Berlin, Germany
 geneOmbio Technologies Pvt Ltd, Pune, India
 German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg
 Hadassah Medical Centre, Jerusalem
 Harvard University, Boston
 HIV Netherlands, Australia, Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT), Bangkok
 Hôpital Saint-Louis, Paris
 Hospital Central, Mendoza, Argentina
 Hospital de Clinicas Jose de San Martin, Buenos Aires
 Hospital de Enfermedades Infecciosas FJ Muniz, Buenos Aires
 Hospital General de Agudos JM Ramos Mejia, Buenos Aires
 Hospital General de Agudos Juan A Fernandez, Buenos Aires

Hospital General de Agudos Teodoro Álvarez, Buenos Aires
 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, Malaysia
 Hospital Likas, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
 Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris
 Hospital Nacional Prof Dr Alejandro Posadas, Buenos Aires
 Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II, Kelantan, Malaysia
 Hospital Rawson, Bajada Pucara, Argentina
 Hospital San Borja-Arriaran, Santiago, Chile
 Hospital Sungai Buloh, Kuala Lumpur
 Hospital Universitario Clementino, Rio de Janeiro
 Imperial College, St Mary's Hospital, London
 Infectologia Hospital Nacional Alejandro Posadas, Haedo, Argentina
 Institute of Infectious Disease, Pune, India
 Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutricion Salvador Zubrián, Mexico City
 Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome
 International AIDS Society, Geneva
 International AIDS Therapy Evaluation Centre, Amsterdam
 International Consortium of Investigators Working on Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Epidemiologic Studies (InterLymph)
 International Medical Center of Japan, Tokyo
 Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
 Joint Clinical Research Centre, Kampala, Uganda
 JW Goethe Universität, Frankfurt
 Kaplan Medical Centre, Rehovot, Israel
 Karolinska Institute, Stockholm
 Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand
 Mahosot Hospital, Vientiane
 Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston
 Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin
 Medical Research Council, Durban, South Africa
 Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit, London
 Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok
 Nagoga Medical Center, Nagoga, Japan
 National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA
 National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention, Beijing, China

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

National Center for Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

National Health Laboratory Services, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA

National Hospital of Pediatrics, Hanoi

National Institute for Public Health, Phnom Penh

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA

National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Hanoi

National Institute of Infectious Disease, Tokyo

National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA

National Pediatric Hospital, Phnom Penh

National Taiwan University, Taipei

National Yang-Ming University, Taipei

New Hope for Cambodian Children, Phnom Penh

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, The National Institute of Research Excellence for Maori Development and Advancement, University of Auckland, NZ

Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford

Osaka National Hospital, Japan

Papua New Guinea Institute for Medical Research, Goroka, Papua New Guinea

Partners AIDS Research Center, Boston

Pediatric Institute, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur

Pediatric Department, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Cambodia

Penang Hospital, Malaysia

Port Moresby General Hospital, Papua New Guinea

Port Moresby General Hospital, Department of Paediatrics, Papua New Guinea

Project PHIDISA, South Africa Military Health Service, Pretoria, South Africa

Providence Health Care, Vancouver

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hong Kong

Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong

Radboud University Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok

Rambam Medical Centre, Haifa, Israel

Research Institute for Health Science, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Manila

Royal Free Hospital, London

Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, UK

Rush University Medical Center, Chicago

Sanpatong Hospital, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Shanghai Municipal Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China

Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok

Srinagarind Hospital, Khon Kaen, Thailand

Stanford University, Stanford, USA

State Key Laboratory of Virology, Wuhan University, China

Surveillance and Risk Assessment Division, Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada, Ottawa

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

Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore

Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Centre, Israel

Thai Red Cross Society, Bangkok

Toronto Hospital, Canada

TREAT Asia, American Foundation for AIDS Research (amFAR), Bangkok, Thailand and New York, USA

UNAIDS, Geneva

University of Malaya Medical Centre, Kuala Lumpur

University of Arkansas, Little Rock, USA

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Francisco

University of California, San Francisco, Vietnam Campus, Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam

University of Indonesia, Kimberley, Indonesia

University of Maryland, Baltimore, USA

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA

University of York, UK

Waikato Hospital, Hamilton NZ

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

Wellington Hospital, Wellington NZ

Wetherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford

World Health Organisation, Geneva

Worldwide Orphans Foundation (WWO), Ho Chi Min City

Wuhan University, Wuhan, China

YRG Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai, India

Pharmaceutical and biomedical industry

Pharmaceutical and biomedical industry

Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd, Sydney

Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd, Sydney

Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd, Sydney

Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals, Melbourne

Cellestis, Melbourne

CSL Limited, Melbourne

Gilead Sciences, Foster City, California

GlaxoSmithKline Australia, Melbourne

Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd, Sydney

Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd, Sydney

Merck Research Laboratories, West Point, USA

Merck Sharp and Dohme, Sydney

Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Emeryville, USA

Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney

Roche Diagnostics Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney

Roche Molecular Systems, Pleasanton, USA

Roche Products Pty Ltd, Sydney

Sanofi-Aventis, Paris, France

Sanofi-Aventis, Sydney

Starpharma Pty Ltd, Melbourne

Tibotec, Mechelen, Belgium

Virax Immunotherapeutics, Melbourne

Funding

All amounts listed are in Australian dollars.

■ Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing core grant

Core allocation to fund NCHECR activities and administration	2,058,137
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■ Additional Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing grants

The Australian Collaboration for Chlamydia Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS) Project	124,081
Increasing access to hepatitis C treatment through opiate dependency settings	155,740
The Cost Effectiveness and Mathematical Modelling of Needle and Syringe Programs on Viral Transmission among Injecting Drug Users in Australia	54,545
Current status of the female sex industry in Western Australia	40,000

■ Other Grants and contracts from public sources

American Foundation for AIDS Research:	
TREAT Asia Studies to Evaluate Resistance (TASER)	129,717
TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme (TAQAS)	176,536
American Foundation for AIDS Research: TREAT Asia Pediatric HIV Observational Database (TApHOD)	194,089
AusAID: Evaluating and predicting the epidemiological impact of health policies for reducing HIV in Melanesian and South-East Asian populations	239,885
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Evaluation of the improving sexual health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth demonstration projects	8,679
Australian Research Council (ARC):	
Allocating scarce HIV/AIDS antiretroviral drugs in resource-constrained countries	40,586
Planning female and male vaccination and cervical screening strategies to achieve optimal prevention of HPV-related disease [Project]	104,400
Australian Society for HIV Medicine: Consortium to Implement AusAID's Regional Capacity Building Program 2007-2011	53,612
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Global Health Program Grant - ENCORE: Evaluation of Novel Concepts in Optimization of Antiretroviral Efficacy	6,383,006
Cancer Institute of NSW: Cancer in people with primary, acquired and iatrogenic immunodeficiency	25,000
European Medicines Evaluation Agency: Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs Study	38,459
Government of Western Australia: Study of risk and HIV among men who have sex with men in Western Australia	28,540
Medical Research Council, UK: SPARTAC Study	111,055
NHMRC:	
International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership Grant	387,688
Practitioner Fellowship for Greg Dore	163,275
Practitioner Fellowship for Tony Kelleher	70,650
Project Grant - Randomised Controlled Trail of Hepatitis B Vaccine Completion in Injecting Drug Users	194,860
Public Health Fellowship for Rebecca Guy	52,312
Public Health Fellowship for Peter Higgs	17,438
Research Fellowship - SPRF - John Kaldor	150,250
Sidney Sax Fellowship - Joanne Kimber	181,442
SiRNA induced TGS of retroviruses	120,286
The Health Impact of Prostitution Laws	110,400
NHMRC — Program Grant Subcontract:	
Curtin University: Improving understanding of psychostimulant-related harms in Australia: An integrated ethno-epidemiological approach	40,047
University of Melbourne: HIV infection - immunology and vaccine design	378,161
University of Sydney: Mathematical Modelling for improved planning of infectious disease control policy	64,000
University of Sydney: Building research capacity for health interventions to improve Aboriginal health	17,639

NSW Health Department: Expert services in HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible diseases"	100,000
Increasing access to HCV treatment in NSW through opiate pharmacotherapy settings - pilot clinics project	130,000
NSW Needle Syringe Program (NSP) Periodic Survey 2008	39,516
Queensland Health: Study of risk factors for HIV seroconversion	11,609
The MAWA Trust: Doctoral Research Scholarship for Dr Rashmi Fotedar	28,125
The Royal Australasian College of Physicians: GSK Scholarship for Virological Research for Dr David Templeton	29,000
University of Minnesota: SILCAAT Study	146,241
US National Institutes of Health:	
Longitudinal cohort of newly acquired HCV infection	204,292
US National Institutes of Health Subcontract:	
American Foundation for AIDS Research: The Asia-Pacific HIV Observational Database (APHOD)	57,587
American Foundation for AIDS Research: TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD)	230,893
Johns Hopkins University: Liver Disease and HIV-HBV Coinfection in the HAART Era	198,695
Social & Scientific Systems: SMART Study	571,014
Thai Red Cross Research Centre: HIV Research Program in Thailand and Cambodia	79,180
University of Minnesota: ESPRIT Study	1,322,111
University of Minnesota: INSIGHT Study	361,845
University of Minnesota: STALWART Study	116,357
Victorian Cytology Service: ARC Linkage Partner: Planning female and male vaccination and cervical screening strategies to achieve optimal prevention of HPV-related disease	4,620
Westmead Hospital, Sydney West Area Health Services - NSW Health~ The epidemiological monitoring of HIV-1 subtypes in Australia	30,649
■ Pharmaceutical industry funding	
Avexa Limited	4,689
Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd	7,264
Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals (Australia)	30,000
Biotron Ltd	8,580
CSL Limited	270,508
CSL Limited (ARC Linkage Partner)	77,525
Gilead Science Inc	3,348,937
Gilead Science Pty Ltd	274,000
GlaxoSmithKline Research And Development (Australia)	10,000
Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd	25,843
Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd	35,009
Medicines Australia Limited	13,000
Merck Sharp & Dohme	636,808
Pfizer Pty Ltd	14,170
Pfizer Inc via Quintiles Pty Ltd	94,187
Quintiles Pty Ltd	52,182
Roche Products Pty Ltd (Australia)	2,048,745
Sanofi-Aventis Australia Pty Ltd	50,000
Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd via Quintiles Pty Ltd	19,944
Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd via PPD Australia Pty Ltd	15,032



Finance staff

(left to right)

Gina Lam
Ian Brodie
Patricia Xu
Teresa Wong
Annie Tung

Research grants

Brown G, Ellard J, Slavin S, Prestage G, Mooney-Somers J, Merriman G. Social Research into Overseas Acquired HIV Among Male Western Australian Residents WA Health. 2008-2009. \$90,081.

Butler T, Kaldor J. From Broome to Berrima: Building Australia wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health and health care delivery. NHMRC Capacity Building Grant. 2009. \$2,315,190.

Cooper DA, Carr A. A multi-centre open label expanded access trial of Maraviroc. Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd. 2008. \$14,560.

Cooper DA, Emery S, Boyd M. ENCORE: Evaluation of Novel Concepts in Optimization of Antiretroviral Efficacy. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. 2008-2011. US\$14,684,137.

Cooper DA, Emery S. International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials (INSIGHT) (ESPRIT project - SCC component) (previously ESPRIT NTCC). National Institute of Health (NIH) - Research Agreement with University of Minnesota. 2008. US\$521,434.

Cooper DA, Emery S. International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials (INSIGHT) (ESPRIT project - ICC component) (previously ESPRIT NTCC). National Institute of Health (NIH) - Research Agreement with University of Minnesota. 2008. US\$121,799.

Cooper DA, Emery S. International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials (INSIGHT) (STALWART project - ICC component) (previous STALWART RCC). National Institute of Health (NIH) - Research Agreement with University of Minnesota. 2008. US\$12,867.

Cooper DA, Emery S. International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials (INSIGHT) (STALWART project - SCC component) (previous STALWART NTCC). National Institute of Health (NIH) - Research Agreement with University of Minnesota. 2008. US\$96,988.

Cooper DA, Anderson J. Taking an economic approach to evaluating HIV programs in Australia. Medicines Australia Limited. 2008. \$10,000.

Cooper DA. A phase 1, Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter Clinical trial to Evaluate the Safety and Immunogenicity of V212/Heat-Treated Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV) Vaccine in Immunocompromised Adults. Merck, Sharp and Dohme Australia Pty Ltd. 2008. \$59,118.

Cooper DA. A Phase II, multicenter, open-label, randomized, parallel group, study of bevirimat in HIV-1 positive patients to evaluate the safety, efficacy, and pharmacokinetics of bevirimat administered as monotherapy for 14 days and as part of an optimized background regimen for up to 24 weeks. Quintiles Pty Ltd. \$32,050.

Cooper DA. Evaluation of BIT225, a novel ant-HIV-1 compound to inhibit transfer of virus from naturally infected monocytes (isolated from HIV-1 seropositive individuals) [closed]. Biotron Ltd. 2008. \$8,580.

Cooper DA/Anderson J. Taking an economic approach to evaluating HIV programs in Australia. Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd. 2008. \$13,000.

Degenhardt L, Burns L, Butler T, Zador D, Indig D, Ward J, Grulich A, Karimina A, Randall D. Using data linkage to measure impacts of opioid substitution treatment, hepatitis C, and cancer for prisoners. NHMRC partnership project grant. 2008 - 2011. \$387,750.

Degenhardt L, Hall, Law M, Butler T, Burns L. Mortality among opioid dependent persons in pharmacotherapy, NSW 1985-2006. NHMRC partnership project grant. 2008 - 2009. \$144,000.

Donovan B, Fairley CK, Grulich AE. Long-term national surveillance for genital warts through Australian sexual health services. CSL Limited. 2008-2010. \$460,116.

Donovan B, Harcourt C, Egger S, Fairley CK, Chen MY, Kaldor JM, Marshall L, Tabrizi S. Current status of the female sex industry in Western Australia. Government of Western Australia - Department of Health. 2008-2009. \$60,500.

Donovan B, Harcourt C, Egger S, Fairley CK, Chen MY, Kaldor JM, Marshall L, O'Connor J, Tabrizi S. Status report on the female sex worker industry in New South Wales. NSW Health. 2008-2009. \$81,081.

Donovan B. The MAWA Trust Doctoral Research Scholarship for Dr Rashmi Fotedar - Defining sexual networks in Sydney using a novel blood-free culture medium for Neisseria Gonorrhoeae. The MAWA Trust. 2008-2010. \$67,500.

Dore G, Kaldor J. Increasing access to HCV treatment in NSW through opiate pharmacotherapy settings - pilot clinics project. NSW Health. 2008. \$130,000.

Dore G, Marks P. Predictors of HCV treatment uptake and clinical trial participation among patients newly referred for HCV infection. Roche Products Pty Ltd. 2008. \$31,500.

Emery S, Carey D. Meta-analysis of lipid profiles with atazanavir therapy in HIV-infected adults. Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia Pty Ltd. 2008. \$34,700.

Emery S, Cooper DA, Humphries A. A Cardiovascular Surrogate Marker Substudy of a Randomised, Open-label Trial to Assess the Safety & Efficacy of Switching to Fixed-Dose Tenofovir-emtricitabine or Abacavir-lamivudine: The STEAL Study Protocol CO-AU-164-0218. Gilead Science Pty Ltd. 2008-2009. \$2 million.

Emery S. SCH - P - 04112; Open label trial to examine the safety and pharmacokinetics of a second generation CCR5 inhibitor in HIV-infected patients not receiving antiretroviral therapy. Schering-Plough Research Institute. 2008-2009. \$208,223.

Emery S. FLASH Quality of Life study. Sanofi-Aventis. 2008. \$50,000.

Emery S, Purcell D, French M, Garsia R, Lewin S. CORAL; Randomized double-blind placebo controlled study to measure the effect of combination antiretroviral therapy intensification with or without passive immunotherapy on CD4+ count in HIV infected individuals with suboptimal CD4 response to therapy despite prolonged virologic suppression. Anadis and Merck Research Laboratories. 2008-2009. \$750,000.

- George J, McGaughan G, Dore G, Liddle C, Strasser S. Epidemiology, prevention and management of liver cancer in NSW: Towards a strategic research partnership. The Cancer Council NSW. 2008-2012. \$1,250,000.
- Griew R, van Beek I, Maher L. Hepatitis C: Building the evidence. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. 2008. \$80,140.
- Grulich A, Templeton D. GSK Scholarship for Virological Research for Dr David Templeton - Investigations of potential preventative measures against sexually transmissible infections in homosexual men. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians. 2008. \$30,000.
- Guy R. 2008 NHMRC Public Health Fellowship/Rebecca Guy: Trials to prevent the transmission and complication of sexually transmitted infections including HIV (TSP). NHMRC. 2008-2011. \$259,000.
- Higgs P. 2008 NHMRC Public Health Fellowship - Peter Higgs - Staying Safe: How do long term injecting drug users avoid hepatitis C infection? (TSP) NHMRC. 2008-2011. \$259,000.
- Higgs P. How do long term injecting drug users avoid exposure to hepatitis C infection? UNSW Faculty of Medicine Post-Doctoral Small Grant Scheme award. 2008. \$9,708.
- Hocking J, Bradshaw, Tabrizi S, Fairley CK, Pirotta M, Donovan B. A longitudinal study of bacterial vaginosis and Mycoplasma genitalium in young Australian women. NHMRC project grant. 2008-2010. \$115,000.
- Kaldor J, Dwyer, S Crowe. The epidemiological monitoring of HIV-1 subtypes in Australia. Westmead Hospital, Sydney West Area Health Services - NSW Health. 2008-2009. \$18,128.
- Kaldor J, Ward J. Evaluation of the improving sexual health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth demonstration projects. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 2008-2011. \$40,000.
- Kaldor J, Ward J. Shared NHMRC Capacity Building Grant - Making a difference: Building research capacity for health interventions to improve Aboriginal health. National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) - Shared Capacity Building Grant with University of Sydney. 2008. \$2,317,125.
- Kaldor JM, Ward J, Rumbold A, Guy R, Donovan B, McDermott R, Maher L, Skov S, Boffa J, Ah Chee D. A randomised trial to control sexually transmitted infections in remote Aboriginal communities. NHMRC project grant. 2008-2012. \$1,746,788.
- Kaldor JM, Vince J, Allison W, Graham S. Diagnosis of tuberculosis in HIV infected and HIV uninfected children in Papua New Guinea with a T-cell based assay: A prospective cohort study. Tibotec reach initiative. 2008. USD\$85,000
- Kaldor J. 2008 NHMRC Research Fellowship – SPRF. NHMRC. 2008. \$147,250.
- Kaldor J, Boyd M. Consortium to Implement AusAID's Regional Capacity Building Program 2007-2011 - workplan development phase. Australian Society for HIV Medicine. 2008. \$53,612.
- Kaldor JM (lead investigator for UNSW, with partners from 8 institutions). HIV Consortium for Capacity Building in Asia and the Pacific. AusAID grant. 2008-2010. \$1,222,389.
- Law M. Expanded recruitment in the Australian HIV Observational Database. Gilead Science Pty Ltd; Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia Pty Ltd) 2008. \$350,000.
- Maher L, Treloar C. Hepatitis C seroconversion study. NSW Health. 2008-2009. \$244,527.
- Maher L, Day CA, Crofts JN, van Beek I, Kaldor JM, Strathdee S. Prevention and Treatment of hepatitis C (PATH). UNSW Goldstar Award. 2008. \$40,000.
- Maher L, van Beek I, Day CA, Topp L, Shanahan M, Kaldor JM. Randomised controlled trial of Hepatitis B Vaccine completion in injecting drug users. NHMRC project grant. 2008-2011. \$446,750.
- Maher L, Iversen J, Deacon R. NSW Needle Syringe Program (NSP) Periodic Survey 2008. NSW Health. 2008. \$39,516.
- Mastro T, Kaldor J et al. Identification and Development of Assays for Acute HIV Infection and Estimation of HIV Incidence in Populations. Gates Foundation Grant. 2009. \$717,574.
- Page-Shafer K, Kaldor JM, Vonthanak S, Phal KS, Maher L, Palefsky J, Nemoto T. Culture and HIV Prevention in Cambodia National Institutes of Health (USA): 2008-2011. USD\$1,068,872.
- Poynten M. NHMRC public health postgraduate scholarship. 2008-2010. \$64,006.
- Prestage G. Study of risk and HIV among men who have sex with men in Western Australia. Government of Western Australia - Department of Health. 2008-2009. \$35,675.
- Prestage G, Jin F, Mr G Brown G. HIV Seroconversion and Pleasure and Sexual Health among gay men in WA. WA Health. 2008. \$27,442.
- Prestage G. Pleasure and Sexual Health. NSW Health. 2008. \$97,114.
- Prestage G, Jin F. HIV Seroconversion among gay men in NSW. NSW Health. 2008. \$37,176.
- Regan D, Philp D, Becker N, Smith A, Grulich A, Conway E, Gertig D, Law M, Hocking J, Stein A, Saville M, Kaldor J. ARC Linkage Project Grant 2008. Planning female and male vaccination and cervical screening strategies to achieve optimal prevention of HPV-related disease. Industry partners CSL LTD and Victorian Cytology Service Inc \$225,519. Australian Research Council (ARC) \$510,942. 2008-2011.
- Ryan J, Power R, Maher L, Allsop S. Development of a National Needle and Syringe Program Strategic Framework. Department of Health and Ageing. 2008. \$99,180.
- Vajdic CM, Grulich AE. Incidence and risk factors for cancer after liver and cardiothoracic transplantation. NHMRC Project Grant. 2008-2010. \$290,500.
- Vallley A, Siba P, Kaldor JM. Male circumcision for HIV prevention among at-risk men and women in Papua New Guinea: Acceptability, epidemiological impact, cost effectiveness and options for implementation. AusAID Australian Development Research Award. 2008-2011. \$699,031.
- van Beek I, Maher L. Hepatitis C: Building the evidence. Department of Health and Ageing. 2008. \$80,140.
- Wilson D, Anderson J, Maher L, Dore G, Kaldor J, Law M. The Return on Investment Research Project: The Cost Effectiveness and Mathematical Modelling of Needle and Syringe Programs on Viral Transmission among Injecting Drug Users in Australia. Department of Health and Ageing. 2008-2009. \$197,130.
- Wilson D, Hoare A, Murray J, Kaldor J, Law M. Evaluating and predicting the epidemiological impact of health policies for reducing HIV in Melanesian and South-East Asian populations. Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). 2008-2011. \$392,443.

Disclosure of financial and other relationships with industry

NCHECR receives financial support for a number of its projects from pharmaceutical companies. In relation to the companies indicated, staff members listed below either served on advisory boards or received individual travel grants, consultancy payments or honoraria during 2008.

No staff member was a personal recipient of a tied or untied grant or had ownership in intellectual property related to any company that funded NCHECR's research program during 2008. Abbreviated forms of the company names have been used for ease of recognition.

David Cooper

Abbott
Avexa
Boehringer-Ingelheim
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Gilead
GlaxoSmithKline
Janssen-Cilag
Johnson & Johnson
Merck
Monogram Sciences
Pfizer
Roche
Virax

Basil Donovan

CSL
GlaxoSmithKline

Greg Dore

Bristol-Myers Squibb
Gilead
Roche
Janssen-Cilag

Andrew Grulich

CSL
GlaxoSmithKline

Anthony Kelleher

Becton Dickenson
Virax

Matthew Law

Johnson & Johnson

Sarah Pett

Boehringer-Ingelheim
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Gilead
GlaxoSmithKline
Janssen-Cilag
Merck
ScheringPlough

David Regan

CSL

Consulting 2008

Advisor on health outcomes in atomic bomb test participants, UK Government, UK (John Kaldor)

Advisor to ASHM program for clinical mentoring the Timor Leste Medical Association HIV Working Group (Sarah Huffam)

AUDIT of T Cell Immunology Research laboratory, and HIV-NAT Diagnostic laboratory, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok (Anthony Kelleher)

Australian Academy of Science, Theo Murphy High Flyers Think Tank-Preventative Health: Science and technology in the prevention and early detection of disease (Anthony Kelleher)

Review of evidence in relation to hepatitis C prevention, Robert Griew Pty Ltd, Sydney (Lisa Maher)

Senior staff specialist in Infectious Diseases, Royal Darwin Hospital (Locum) (Sarah Huffam)

Presentations at conferences and meetings

Conference presentations

■ 11th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine (Bangkok, January)

Cooper DA. New classes of antiretrovirals: the role of Integrase and entry inhibitors.

Emery S. Pros and cons of early ARV therapy.

Dore GJ. Management of HIV/hepatitis C co-infection: a public health priority.

Boyd MA. Sound scientific thinking and successful collaboration in the development of clinical trials. (New Researcher Forum Workshop)

■ Merck & Co. Asia-Pacific Regional HIV Expert Input Forum (Bangkok, January)

Boyd MA. HIV and TB coinfection.

■ 15th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) (Boston, February)

Flynn JK, White P, **Grebely J, Kaldor J, Hellard M, Dore G, Lloyd AR, and French RA.** Immunity to acute hepatitis C and the influence of early therapy.

Audsley J, Sasadeusz J, Mijch A, Baden R, Caro J, Hunter H, **Matthews G, Olender S, Lewin S, Thio C.** The anti-HIV activity of Entecavir: serum HIV RNA decreases and selection of the M184V mutation occurs in both ART-naïve and -experienced HIV/HBV-coinfected individuals.

Brumme Z, Brumme C, Streeck H, Carlson J, Markowitz M, Jessen H, **Kelleher A, John M, Heckerman D, Walker B.** Kinetics of escape within HLA-restricted CTL epitopes in the first year of HIV infection is consistent with early immunodominant CTL response patterns.

Carr A, **Amin J.** Reasons for treatment success with initial ART: an analysis of 22,635 participants in 64 randomized, controlled trials and 14 prospective cohorts.

Crane M, Oliver B, **Matthews G, Avihingsanon A, Price P, Visvanathan K, French M, Dore GJ, Ruxrungtham K, Lewin S.** Immunopathogenesis of hepatic flares

after initiation of ART in HIV/HBV-co-infected individuals.

Jones R, Brown D, Nelson M, Bhagani S, Atkins M, **Danta M, Dusheiko G, Pybus O, Asboe D.** Hepatitis C viremia following sustained virological response to pegylated interferon and Ribavirin in HIV+ men who have sex with men—re-infection or late relapse?

Matthews G, Hellard M, Haber P, Yeung B, Baker D, Lloyd A, Rawlinson W, Sasadeusz J, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ on behalf of the ATAC Study Group. Frequency of RVR and its utility as a predictor of treatment outcome in HIV+ and HIV- individuals with acute hepatitis C.

Pett SL, Emery S, MacRae K, Norris R, McCarthy M, Tendlokar A, Tseng J, Williams K, Cooper DA. Safety and activity of SCH532706, a small molecule chemokine receptor 5 antagonist in HIV-1-infected individuals.

Sabin C, Worm S, Weber R, El-Sadr W, Reiss P, Thiébaud R, DeWit S, **Law M, Phillips A, Lundgren J** and the D:A:D Study Group. Do thymidine analogues, Abacavir, Didanosine and Lamivudine contribute to the risk of myocardial infarction? The D:A:D Study.

van de Laar T, Danta M, Bhagani S, Chaix ML, **Dore GJ, Nelson M, Prins M, Vogel M, White P, Coutinho R** and HIV and Acute HCV Group. HCV spreads among HIV+ men who have sex with men: evidence of separate sexual transmission networks in Europe and Australia.

Weber R, Sabin C, Reiss P, De Wit S, Worm S, **Law M, Dabis F, d'Arminio Monforte A, Fontas E, Lundgren J** and the D:A:D Study Group. Hepatitis virus co-infections and risk of diabetes mellitus and myocardial infarction in HIV-infected persons: The D:A:D Study.

■ Microbicides 2008 (New Delhi, February)

Poynten IM, Millwood I, Falster M, Andresen D, Van Damme L, Kaldor JM. Systematic review of the clinical safety of candidate vaginal microbicides in women.

■ 2nd New Zealand Viral Hepatitis Conference (Whakatane, NZ February/March)

Dore GJ. Public health strategies for hepatitis C.

Dore GJ. Advances in hepatitis C therapy: Pegylated interferon.

■ 2008 Canadian Digestive Diseases Week and 4th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (Montreal, Canada, February/March)

Grebely J, Genoway KA, Raffa JD, Dhadwal G, Rajan T, Showler G, Kalousek K, Duncan F, Tyndall MW, Fraser C, Conway B, Fischer B. Barriers to treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection among illicit drug users.

■ 43rd Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (Milan, April)

Matthews GV, Hellard M, Haber P, Yeung B, Marks P, Sasadeusz J, Baker D, McCaughan G, White P, Rawlinson W, Lloyd A, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ. Frequency of RVR and its utility as a predictor of treatment outcome in individuals treated within the Australian trial in acute hepatitis C (ATAHC).

Crawford DHG, Roberts S, Weltman M, Cheng WSC, Sievert W, McCaughan G, Desmond P, Alston AW, DePamphilis J, **Marks P, Dore GJ.** Baseline factors associated with rapid and early virological responses in HCV genotype 1 patients treated with induction dosing of pegylated interferon: the CHARLOT study.

■ 19th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-related Harm (Barcelona, May)

Doab A, Topp L, Day C, Maher L. Injecting drug users' (IDUs) perceptions, knowledge, and willingness to participate in clinical trials related to hepatitis C treatment and prevention.

Dwyer R, Power R, Topp L, **Maher L, Lloyd B, Najman J, Conroy A, Kemp R, Walsh N, Aitken C.** Prevalence and associations of non-viral injecting-related injuries and diseases among Australian injecting drug users: Findings from the IRID Project.

Higgs P, Aitken C, Maher L, Hellard M. Hepatitis C sero-conversion in a cohort of injectors in Melbourne.

Maher L, Dore G, Treloar C, Rawlinson W, White P, Dolan K, Zekry A, Madden A, Loveday S, Kaldor JM, Lloyd A. (on behalf of the UNSW HCV Vaccine Initiative). Preparedness for candidate HCV vaccine trials in people who inject drugs: Challenges and opportunities.

Moore D, Green R, **Hudson SL**, Jenkinson R, Siokou C, Dray A, Dietze P, **Maher L**, Bammer G, Perez P. Psychostimulant use and related harms amongst young Australians: Developing an integrated ethno-epidemiology.

Salmon AM, Amin J, van Beek I, Kaldor JM, Maher L. Impact of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) on ambulance attendances at opioid overdoses.

■ Population Health Congress (Brisbane, July)

Aitken C, Dwyer R, Topp L, Lloyd B, Najman J Conroy A, Kemp R, Walsh N, **Maher L**, Power R. Non-viral injecting-related injuries and diseases among Australian injecting drug users.

Deitze P, Moore D, Green R, **Hudson SL**, Jenkinson R, Siokou C (on behalf of the Ethno-Epidemiology Worksgroup). Psychostimulant use and related harms amongst young Australians: An integrated ethno-epidemiology.

Higgs P, Yohannes K, Hellard M, Maher L. Deliberate and unintended tactics to reduce HIV transmission among ethnic Vietnamese heroin injectors.

■ The Australian Society for Microbiology Annual Scientific Meeting (Melbourne, July)

Dore GJ. Epidemiology of hepatitis C in Australia.

■ Sydney Cancer Conference (Sydney, July)

Grulich AE. The immune system, infection, and the prevention of cancer: Insights from immune deficient cohorts.

■ XVII International AIDS Conference (Mexico City, August)

Allison W, Wright E, Schaefer M, Lal L, Law M, Smith J, Kaldor JM. A survey of paediatric diagnostic, treatment and support services for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection in the Asia Pacific region.

Asmuth D, Goodrich J, **Cooper DA**, Haubrich R, Rajcic N, Valdez H, Hirschel B, Mayer H. CD4+ cell restoration after 48 weeks in the

maraviroc (MVC) treatment-experienced (TE) trials MOTIVATE 1 and 2.

Bun V, Pouy S, Chel S, Toeung PD, Eng L, Kheiv S, **Huffam S, Saphonn V, Kaldor JM, Cooper DA, Mean CV.** Women presenting to an HIV clinic in Phnom Penh; pregnancy and HIV stage.

Burke M, Kippax S, Rajabu M, Crawford J, **Kaldor JM.** Masculinity and media in prevention of mother to child transmission programs in rural Tanzania.

Calmy A, Norris R, Fux C, Vallier N, Samaras K, Hesse K, Hirschel B, **Cooper DA, Carr A.** Osteopenia and proximal renal tubular disease are independently associated with tenofovir therapy.

Elliott JH, Khol V, Sarun S, Chin S, Chan D, Chel S, Huffam S, Oelrichs R, Pouy S, Hun C, Teng K, Teng H, Saphonn V, Kaldor JM, Cooper DA, French M, Mean CV. Investigation of the pathogenesis and diagnosis of tuberculosis-associated immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome and antiretroviral therapy-associated tuberculosis using skin testing and a whole blood interferon- release assay.

Elliott JH, Saphonn V, Kaouen C, Phal S, Mam S, Zhou J, Cooper DA, Mean CV, Kaldor JM. Government health facilities with high activity and support from clinical mentors are associated with rapid antiretroviral therapy site and patient initiation.

Higgs P, Kefle Y, Hellard M, **Maher L.** Self-limiting HIV outbreak among ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users in Australia: a qualitative study.

Honeybrook A, Duncombe C, Kerr S, Avihingsanon A, Ruxrungtham K, Phanuphak P, Kaldor JM. Adherence and risk behaviour in patients with HIV infection receiving antiretroviral therapy.

Jin F, Prestage GP, Imrie JC, Zablotska I, Donovan B, Templeton DJ, Mindel A, Cunningham A, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) as a risk factor for HIV infection.

Jin F, Prestage GP, Zablotska I, Imrie JC, Crawford J, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. The role of risk reduction behaviours in HIV acquisition in gay men.

Keo S, Kien SP, Neth SS, Saphonn V, Stein E, **Kaldor JM, Mean CV, Page-Shafer K.** Community and public health collaboration on HIV research in Phnom Penh, Cambodia: the Young Women's Health study.

Land S, Cunningham P, **Zhou J, Frost K, Katzenstein D, Kantor R, DeLong A, Sayer**

D, Smith J, Dax E, **Law M.** The TREATAsia Laboratory Network. A quality assessment scheme to standardize the outcome of HIV genotypic resistance testing in a group of Asian laboratories.

Lundgren J, Neuhaus J, Babiker A, **Cooper DA, Duprez D, El-Sadr W, Emery S, Gordin F, Kowalska J, Phillips A, Prineas R, Reiss P, Sabin C, Tracy R, Weber R, Grund B, Neaton J, SMART/INSIGHT and D:A:D Study Groups.** Use of nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors and risk of myocardial infarction in HIV-infected patients enrolled in the SMART study.

Mall S, **Cooper DA, Mantell J, Moodley J, Morroni C, Myer L, Exner T, Zweigenthal V, Hoffman S, Cloete K, Jennings K, Stein Z.** Policymakers' views about the integration of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS care in the public health sector in Cape Town, South Africa.

Mantell JE, **Cooper DA, Moodley J, Morroni C, Myer L, Exner TM, Taylor T, Zweigenthal V, Hoffman S, Cloete K, Jennings K, Stein Z.** Toward improved reproductive health choices and health care delivery for HIV-infected men and women in developing countries with generalised HIV epidemics.

McDonald A, Cunningham P, Kelleher A, Kaldor JM. Trends in incident HIV infection in Sydney, Australia, 1998 – 2006.

Neth SS, Saphonn V, Kien SP, Keo S, Stein E, **Kaldor JM, Mean CV, Page-Shafer K.** Amphetamine-type substance use and HIV infection among young women in the sex and entertainment industry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Oyomopito R, Lee MP, Phanuphak P, Lim PL, Ditangco R, Zhou J, Li PCK. Measures of country and site resourcing predict virologic suppression, immunologic response and disease progression in the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD).

Page-Shafer K., Saphonn V, Kien SP, Neth SS, Keo S, Stein E, Mean CV, **Kaldor JM.** High incidence of HIV infection among young women in the sex and entertainment industry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Parkhill N, **Prestage G.** Illicit drug use, intensive sex partying and HIV: what we know, what we have done and what we need to do.

Poynten IM, Millwood I, Falster M, Andresen D, Van Damme L, Kaldor JM. A systematic review of the clinical safety of candidate vaginal microbicides in women.

Prestage G, Hudson J, Down I, Corrigan N, McInnes D, Bradley J, Grulich AE. Gay men who engage in group sex are at increased

risk of HIV infection and onward transmission: data from the Three Or More study.

Prestage G, Jin F, Kippax S, Zablotska I, Imrie J, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Illicit drug use and risk of HIV seroconversion among gay men in Sydney: data from the HIM cohort.

Streeck, Jolin HJ, Alter G, Meier A, Yassine-Diab B, Little S, **Kelleher A**, Routy J-P, Rosenberg E, Sekaly R-P, Hecht F, Walker B, Altfeld M. Inter-epitope interference modulate HIV-1-specific CD8+ T cell immunodominance patterns in primary infection.

Zablotska-Manos I, Crawford J, Imrie J, **Prestage G, Jin F, Grulich AE, Kippax S.** Increasing prevalence of unprotected anal intercourse with serodiscordant casual partners among HIV-negative and positive gay men in Sydney, Australia: no evidence of 'bug chasing'.

Zaidi Urmi A, **Prestage G, Bunde-Birouste A.** Assessment of stigma, discrimination and violence associated with the disclosure of HIV positive status: service providers' perspective.

■ XXII International Congress of The Transplantation Society (Sydney, August)

Grulich AE. Rates of HPV-related cancers are increased in renal transplant recipients and return to low levels on cessation of immune suppression.

van Leeuwen MT, Grulich AE, Webster AC, McDonald SP, McCredie MRE, Stewart JH, Amin J, Kaldor JM, Chapman JR, Vajdic CM. Risk for non-Hodgkin lymphoma following renal transplantation is associated with currency of receipt of immunosuppression and reverts to normal on cessation.

van Leeuwen MT, Grulich AE, Webster AC, McDonald SP, McCredie MRE, Stewart JH, Amin J, Kaldor JM, Chapman JR, Vajdic CM. Currency of receipt of immunosuppressive agents and other risk factors for lip cancer following renal transplantation.

■ The New Zealand Sexual Health Society Conference (Dunedin, NZ, August)

Grulich AE. Antiretrovirals for HIV prevention: Post-exposure prophylaxis and pre-exposure prophylaxis.

■ 20th Annual Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Conference (Perth, September)

Allison WE, Cunningham P, Hawkins C, Kiromat M, Vince J, Kaldor JM. Use of dry blood spots (DBS) to aid human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) diagnosis in

children in the absence of local nucleic acid testing laboratory capacity.

Anderson JS, Carter R, Cooper DA. A critical analysis of the quality and transferability of economic evaluations of HIV interventions for Australian decision-making.

Anderson J. Cost-effectiveness of circumcision for the prevention of HIV in gay men in Australia.

Anderson J. Measuring quality of life for economic evaluation in HIV.

Brew B. Neurodegeneration and ageing in the HAART era.

Bruce E, Fairley C, **Kaldor JM**, Keogh L, Master A, Rooney PJ, Panu M, Sapuri M. Periodic presumptive treatment (PPT) of common curable sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among female sex workers in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea: measuring STI incidence and PPT effects.

Byakwaga H, Petoumenos K, Zhang F, Ananworanich J on behalf of TAHOD. HIV disease progression in HIV-1 patients initiating combination antiretroviral therapy with advanced disease in the Asia-pacific region: results from the TREAT Asia HIV observational database (TAHOD).

Carey C. Determination of the underlying cause of death in three multicenter international HIV clinical trials.

Carey DL, Baker D, Petoumenos K, Chuah J, Rogers G, Watson J, Cooper DA, Emery S, Carr A for the FLASH Investigators. Poly-L-lactic acid for HIV-1 facial lipoatrophy: 48-week follow-up.

Cooper DA. Introduction, Ian Thompson memorial session: Clinical ARV

Cooper DA. New policies for clinical and operations research in resource limited settings

Coupland H, Levy M, Day C, Maher L. Increasing hepatitis C treatment uptake by injecting drug users from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds: Outcomes of a pilot study of Indochinese injectors.

Deacon R, Iversen J, Mason R, Maher L. Results from the 2008 periodic survey of NSW needle and syringe program attendees.

Donovan B. Sex work in a decriminalised and unlicensed environment: a 15 year prevalence and incidence study of sexually transmitted infections in sex workers in Sydney, Australia.

Donovan B. "It's only a cold sore, love...."

Donovan B, O'Connor JL, Harcourt C, Egger S, Wand H, Chen MY, Tabrizi S, Marshall L, Kaldor JM, Fairley CK. The Law and Sexworker Health (LASH) project.

Drummond FM, Hoy J, Emery S, Cooper DA and the SMART Study Group. Elevated levels of interleukin-6 and D-dimer are associated with an increased risk of death in patients with HIV.

Egger S, **Petoumenos K**, Kamarulzaman A, Hoy J, Sungkanuparph S, Chuah J, **Falster K, Zhou J, Law MG**, on behalf of the Asia Pacific HIV Observational Database (APHOD). Predictors of long-term changes in mean CD4 cell counts amongst HIV infected patients from the Asia-Pacific region during active combination antiretroviral therapy.

Gelgor L. Update of the Australian long-term non-progressor (LTNP) cohort:

Gold J, **Guy R, García Calleja JM, Kaldor JM** on behalf of the WHO Working Group on HIV Incidence Assays. Sensitivity and Specificity of HIV incidence assays: a systematic review.

Gray RT, Beagley K, Timms P, Donovan B, Wilson DP. The potential impact of a vaccine on chlamydia epidemiology and morbidity.

Grebely J, Raffa JD, Lai C, Kraiden M, Dore GJ, Shannon K, Kerr T, Tyndall MW. High mortality associated with HIV infection among illicit drug users in the HAART era.

Grey P, Srasuebkul P, Finlayson R, Workman C, McFarlane R, Bloch M, Medland N, Roth N, Anderson J, Hoy J, Read T, Petoumenos K, Kelleher A. Patient characteristics and predictors of time to commence antiretroviral treatment in a prospective cohort identified at primary HIV infection (PHI) (the PHAEDRA collaborative cohort)

Grulich AE. HIV, cancer, and immune deficiency.

Guy R, Gold J, García Calleja JM, Kaldor JM on behalf of the WHO Working Group on HIV Incidence Assays. The accuracy of HIV incidence assays in estimating the population rate of new infections: a systematic review.

Harcourt C, O'Connor J, Egger S, Chen M, Fairley C, Kaldor JM, Donovan B. Health promotion for female sex workers under three different legal regimes.

Higgs P, Aitken C, Hellard M, Maher L. Avoiding hepatitis C infection despite long term injecting: behavioural, social or immunological?

Hoare A, Kerr S, Wilson DP. Modelling the emergence of drug-resistant HIV in Bangkok.

Hoy JF, Drummond FM, Emery S, Cooper

DA and the SMART Study Group. Re-initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in the CD4 cell-guided care interruption group in the SMART study lowers risk of opportunistic disease or death.

Humphries A. Cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk in the STEAL study cohort.

Imrie J, **Prestage GP**, Pitts M. The feasibility of a national gay men's internet-based cohort and prospective behavioural surveillance platform in Australia -what are the issues?

Jin F, Crawford J, **Prestage GP**, Zablotska I, Imrie JC, **Kaldor JM**, **Gulich AE**. Risk reduction patterns of unprotected anal intercourse: relative risk for HIV acquisition in the health in men (HIM) study

Jin F, **Prestage GP**, Mao L, Imrie JC, Kippax SC, **Kaldor JM**, **Gulich AE**. Sexual partners' age as a risk factor for HIV seroconversion in the health in men (HIM) study.

Jin F, **Bradley J**, Slavin S, Ellard J, **Gulich A**, **Prestage G**. Renewing the seroconversion study.

Jin F, **Prestage GP**, **Dore GJ**, Zablotska I, Rawston P, Kippax SC, **Kaldor JM**, **Gulich AE**. Prevalence, incidence and risk factors for hepatitis C in HIV negative and HIV positive homosexual men.

Kaldor JM. Hot topics/top papers 2008

Kelleher A. What do T-cell responses mean: a post-STEP perspective.

Kerr SJ, Avihingsanon A, Puchcharoen O, Chetchotisakd P, **Duncombe C**, Teeratakulpisarn S, Phanuphak N, Ruxrungtham K, **Cooper DA**, Phanuphak P. Assessing adherence in Thai patients taking HAART.

Kong FYS, **Guy R**, Boyle D J, Hocking JS, Merritt T, Britt H, Lau P, Pirota MV, Heal C, Brett T, **Kaldor JM**, **Donovan B**, Hellard ME. Chlamydia testing rates in general practices across Australia: the Australian Collaboration for Chlamydia Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS).

Kwon AJS, **Iverson J**, **Maher L**, **Law MG**, **Wilson DP**. Continued increases in syringe distribution are required to restrain viral transmissions among injecting drug users in Australia: results from a modelling study.

Londish GJ, **Templeton DJ**, **Regan D**, **Kaldor JM**, **Murray JM**. Small population health benefits on HIV by circumcising men who have sex with men.

Matthews GV, Avihingsanon A, Lewin SR, Sasadeusz J, Thio CL, Bowden S, Ayres A,

Locarnini SL, Ruxrungtham K, **Dore GJ**. Tenofovir based HAART is associated with high rates of HBVDNA suppression and HBeag seroconversion in Thai HIV-HBV coinfecting patients.

Matthews G. HIV/hepatitis B co-infection.

Middleton M, **McDonald A**, **Jauncey M**, **Gulich A**, **Kaldor JM**. Who gets AIDS in the HAART era? Opinions from people with AIDS and their doctors.

McDonald A. Trends in newly acquired HIV infection in Australia, 1994-2007.

McDonald A, **Jauncey M**, **Middleton M**, **Gulich A**, **Kaldor JM**. Who gets AIDS in the HAART era? A survey of doctors who diagnosed AIDS in NSW in 2003-2005.

Middleton MG, **Guy RJ**, **Gulich AE**, **Donovan BJ**, **McDonald AM**, **Kaldor JM**. Recent trends in infectious syphilis in men who have sex with men.

Murray JM, **Kelleher AD**. A faster decrease in CD4+ t cell counts after HIV infection for older individuals contributes to levels of immunosuppression at HIV diagnosis.

O'Connor JL, **Harcourt C**, **Wand H**, **Egger S**, **Fairley CK**, **Kaldor JM**, **Marshall L**, **Bates JL**, **Donovan B**. The sex industry in Perth before decriminalisation.

O'Connor MB, O'Connor C, Saunders JA, Sheehan C, Murphy E, Horgan M, Carr A, **Cooper DA**. A comparative study of human immunodeficiency virus antibody positive patients in Ireland and Australia.

Oyomopito R, Lee MP, Phanuphak P, Lim PL, Ditangco R, **Zhou J**, Li PCK. Measures of country and site resourcing predict virologic suppression, immunologic response and disease progression in the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD).

Pett SL, Zaunders J, Bailey M, **Murray J**, **Cooper DA**, MacRae K, **Emery S**, **Kelleher A**. Changes in circulating CCR5+ T-cells and antigen-specific CD4+ T-cells during monotherapy with a small molecule CCR5 antagonist SCH532706, compared with combination antiretroviral therapy (cART).

Pett SL. Initiation of combination antiretroviral therapy in adults with HIV-1-infection, what CD4 threshold to use - overview of clinical trial data 2008.

Poynten IM, **Jin FY**, **Prestage G**, Mao L, Kippax S, **Kaldor JM**, **Gulich AE**. Non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis against HIV (NPEP) and subsequent HIV infection in homosexual men: final data from the HIM cohort.

Prestage G, **Jin F**, Imrie J, Zablotska I, Kippax S, **Kaldor JM**, **Gulich AE**. Illicit drug use and risk of HIV seroconversion among gay men in Sydney: data from the HIM cohort

Prestage G, Hudson J, **Bradley J**, Corrigan N, Down I, **Gulich A**, McInnes D. Gay men who engage in group sex are at increased risk of HIV infection and onward transmission: data from the Three or More Study.

Prestage G, Kippax S, **Jin F**, Frankland A, Imrie J, **Gulich A**, Zablotska I. Age and sexual behaviour among gay men in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane.

Prestage G. An overview of risk and behaviour in older gay men.

Read T, Mallon P, Mijch A, Goodall R, Hudson F, **Wand H**, **Carey D**, **Emery S** on behalf of the INITIO Co-ordinating Committee. Efavirenz plasma concentrations in patients stopping therapy after at least one month due to neuropsychiatric disturbances: an INITIO substudy.

Reddy SM, Center RJ, Suzuki K, Gray L, Gorry PR, **Kelleher A**, Purcell DFJ. Molecular cloning and characterisation of envelope from HIV-1 pre-seroconversion strains.

Regan DR, **Law MG**, Philip DJ, Hocking JS. Should we be vaccinating boys as well as girls with the HPV vaccine?

Rotty J, **Clezy K**, Hoy J, **van Leeuwen M**, **Gulich AE**. Incidence and characteristics of HIV-associated lymphoma in the era of HAART at four major Australian treatment centres.

Ryder N, McNulty AM, **Jin F**, **Gulich AE**, **Donovan B**. Trends in first episode anogenital herpes due to HSV-1, 1992-2007.

Seddiki N, Brown K, Phetsouphanh C, **Cooper DA**, Zaunders J, **Kelleher A**. Identification of human antigen-specific regulatory T-cells, phenotyping and functional analysis.

Seddiki N, Phetsouphanh C, Brown K, Zaunders Z, **Cooper DA**, **Kelleher A**. Regulatory T-cell abnormalities are associated with aberrant CD4+ T-cell responses in patients with immune inflammatory syndrome (IRIS).

Seneviratne N, **Lin E**, Wentworth D, **Courtney-Rodgers D**, **Carey C**, **Pett SL**, **Kearney L**, French M, Finlayson R, **Cooper DA**, **Emery S** for the ESPRIT Research Group. ESPRIT (Evaluation of Subcutaneous

Proleukin® in a Randomised International Trial): Factors associated with ongoing cycling with recombinant interleukin-2 (rIL-2).

Templeton D, Jin F, Mao L, Prestage GP, Donovan B, Imrie J, Kippax SC, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Reduced risk of HIV seroconversion among circumcised homosexual men who report a preference for the insertive role in anal intercourse.

Templeton DJ, Jin F, McNally LP, Imrie JCG, Prestage GP, Donovan B, Kippax SC, Cunningham PH, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Pharyngeal gonorrhoea and chlamydia in the community-based HIM cohort of homosexual men in Sydney, Australia.

van Leeuwen MT, Vajdic CM, Middleton MG, McDonald AM, Law MG, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Cancer and HIV in Australia: a comparison across early and late HAART periods.

Walker J, Fairley CK, Bradshaw C, Chen M, Tabrizi S, **Donovan B, Kaldor JM**, McNamee K, Urban E, Walker S, Currie M, Birden H, Bowden F, Garland S, Gunn J, Pirota M, Gurrin L, Veerakathy H, Hocking J. The prevalence of chlamydia and *Mycoplasma genitalium* in a cohort of Australian young women.

Wand H, Yan P, Wilson D, McDonald A, Middleton M, Kaldor JM, Law MG. Increasing HIV transmission through male homosexual and heterosexual contact in Australia: results from an extended back-projection approach.

Ward J, McDonald A, Middleton M, Kaldor JM. How is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population faring in the Australian HIV epidemic? An analysis of data from 1993-2007.

Ward J. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities: future policy response.

Ward J. Epidemiology of STIs in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

Ward J, McDonald A, Middleton M, Kaldor JM. STI rates in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: 2002-2006.

Ward J, Hull P, Solar S, Bryant J, Worth H. The first survey of sexual health and blood borne virus knowledge, risk behaviours and health service utilisation of young Aboriginal people in NSW aged 16-30 - preliminary findings and innovations in data collection.

Wilson DP, Hoare A, Regan DG, Law MG. Importance of promoting HIV testing for preventing secondary transmissions: modelling the Australian HIV epidemic among men who have sex with men.

Wilson DP, Coplan PM, Wainberg MA, Blower SM. The paradoxical effects of using antiretroviral-based microbicides to control HIV epidemics

Wilson DP, Law MG, Grulich AE, Cooper DA, Kaldor JM. Relation between HIV viral load and infectiousness.

Wilson DP, Gray R, Drummond FM, Corrigan N, Prestage G, Donovan B, Kaldor JM. Modelling optimal syphilis screening programs for men who have sex with men.

Wilson DP. Cost-effectiveness of male circumcision in Australia for MSM.

Zablotska IB, Imrie J, Bourne C, **Grulich A, Frankland A, Prestage G.** Improvements in sexual health testing among gay men in Sydney, Australia, 2003-2007.

Zablotska IB, Imrie J, **Prestage G, Frankland A, Grulich A, Kippax S.** Current care and support needs of HIV-positive gay men: what factors limit access to available services?

Zaunders J, Bailey M, **Munier ML, Seddiki N, Kim M, Pett S, Emery S, Cunningham AL, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD.** Persistence of high levels of HIV antigen-specific CD4+ t cells in untreated chronic infection, detected by a novel flow cytometric assay.

Zhou J. Deferred modification of antiretroviral regimen following treatment failure in Asia: results from the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD).

■ **11th National Immunisation Conference (Gold Coast, September)**
Mahe L, Treloar C, McCann P, Mooney-Somers J (on behalf of the UNSW HCV Vaccine Initiative). Ethical, scientific and logistical issues in relation to candidate HCV vaccine trials in people who inject drugs.

Mahe L, Barnes K, Topp L, Day C (on behalf of the Hepatitis Acceptability and Vaccine Incentives Trail – HAVIT Group). Use of incentives to increase vaccination uptake and completion in injecting drug users.

■ **Australian Sexual Health Congress (Perth, September)**

Donovan B. It's only a cold sore, Love... (keynote address).

Donovan B. Sex work in a decriminalised and unlicensed environment: a 15-year study in Sydney (invited plenary).

Donovan B. The Law and Sexworker Health (LASH) Project (invited plenary).

Wilson DP. Modelling optimal syphilis screening

programs for men who have sex with men.

■ **11th International Conference on Malignancies in AIDS and Other Acquired Immunodeficiencies (Bethesda, USA, October)**

Grulich AE. Epidemiology of non-AIDS defining cancers in the HAART era: What can we learn from transplant recipients?

■ **6th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference (Brisbane, October)**

Coupland H, Day C, Mahe L. Cultural competence in hepatitis C treatment provision: Promoting engagement with injecting drug users from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Coupland H, Mahe L. Exploring the influence of culture: Beliefs, meanings, marginalisation and resilience in the context of hepatitis C.

Danta M, van de Laar T, Pybus O, Bruisten S, Brown D, Nelson M, Bhagani S, Vogel M, Baumgarten A, Chaix M, Fisher M, Gotz H, **Matthews G, Neifer S, White P, Rawlinson W, Pol S, Rockstroh J, Coutinho R, Dore G, Dusheiko G.** Evidence of a large international HCV transmission network in HIV-positive men who have sex with men (MSM).

Dore GJ. Is the epidemiology of hepatitis C changing in Australia?

Dore GJ. Session co-chair, Epidemiology: viral hepatitis in Australasia - the impact.

Dore GJ. Panel member, Think Tank discussion.

Flynn JK, White P, **Grebely J, Kaldor J, Hellard M, Dore G, Lloyd AR, Ffrench RA.** Immunity to acute hepatitis C and the influence of early therapy.

Grebely J, Matthews GV, White PA, Renkin M, Flynn J, Ffrench R, Kaldor J, Hellard M, Lloyd A and Dore GJ on behalf of the ATAH Study Group. Incidence and risk factors for HCV reinfection and superinfection in individuals treated for acute/early chronic HCV infection.

Higgs P, Moneer S, Aitken C, Bharadwaj M, Mahe L, Hellard M. Misclassification bias in a cohort of hepatitis C negative injectors.

Hellard M, **Grebely J, Matthews G, Haber PS, Petoumenos K, Yeung B, van Beek I, Lloyd A, Kaldor JM, Dore GJ** on behalf of the ATAH Study Group. Impact of illicit drug use on response to therapy during treatment for acute and early chronic HCV infection.

Hellard M, **Matthews GV**, Petoumenos K, **Grebely J**, Haber P, van Beek I, **Marks P**, Lloyd A, **Kaldor J**, **Dore GJ** on behalf of the ATACH Study Group. Factors associated with uptake of treatment for acute and early chronic hepatitis C virus infection.

Jauncey M. The ETHOS Study and the justification for its development and the outcomes expected.

Matthews GV, Hellard M, Haber PS, **Yeung B**, **Marks P**, Rawlinson W, Lloyd A, **Kaldor JM** and **Dore GJ** on behalf of the ATACH Study Group. Frequency of rapid virological response and its utility as a predictor of treatment outcome in individuals treated within the Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC).

Matthews GV, Avihingsanon A, Lewin SR, Sasadeusz J, Thio CL, Bowden S, Ayres A, Locarnini SL, Ruxrungtham K, **Dore GJ**. Tenofovir based HAART is associated with high rates of HBVDNA suppression and HBeag seroconversion in Thai HIV-HBV coinfecting patients.

Maher L, **Dore G**, Treloar C, Rawlinson W, White P, Dolan K, Zekry A, Madden A, Loveday S, **Kaldor J**, Lloyd A (on behalf of the UNSW HCV Vaccine Initiative) Preparedness for candidate hepatitis C vaccine trials in people who inject drugs: challenges and opportunities.

Maher L, **Barnes K**, van Beek I, **Day C**, **Topp L**, Shanahan M, **Wand H** (on behalf of the Hepatitis Acceptability and Vaccine Incentives Trail (HAVIT) Group) Increasing hepatitis B immunisation completion in people who inject drugs: A randomised controlled trial of financial incentives.

Maher L. Invited plenary.

McCann P, Treloar C, Byron P, **Mooney-Somers J**, **Maher L** (on behalf of the UNSW HCV Vaccine Initiative). Concerns of injecting drug users regarding trials of hepatitis C vaccines.

Ward J, **Topp L**, **Combo T**, **Wand H**, **Kaldor JM**, **Maher L**. An analysis of Australian NSP Survey data, Aboriginal and non- Aboriginal participants.

Ward J. A comparison of antibody HCV prevalence and associated risk behaviours in Aboriginal and TSI people and non-Indigenous people who inject drugs and attend needle syringe programs in Australia 1995-2007.

White PA, **Grebely J**, **Matthews GV**, Flynn J, Renkin M, **Kaldor J**, Lloyd A, Hellard M, Ffrench R, **Dore GJ** on behalf of the ATACH Study Group. Natural history of HCV reinfection and superinfection.

■ **11th European Congress, International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) (Athens, November)**

Layton MR, Chadbunchachai S, **Kerr SJ**. Pain management in Thailand: implications for better health.

Layton MR, **Kerr SJ**, Chetchotisakd P. Impact on patient-healthcare provider communication: the HIV/AIDS patients' perspectives.

■ **The 6th Singapore AIDS Conference (Singapore, November)**

Grulich AE. What makes an effective HIV prevention Programme: The Australian experience.

Grulich AE. Advancing the Research Agenda in HIV prevention.

■ **Ninth International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection (Glasgow, November)**

Avihingsanon A, van Der Lugt J, **Kerr S**, Gorowara M, Chanmano S, **Cooper DA**, Phanuphak P, Burger D, Ruxrungtham K. Impact of age on pharmacokinetics of boosted atazanavir 300/100 in Thai HIV-infected patients.

Byakwaga H, **Murray JM**, **Petoumenos K**, **Boyd MA**, **Emery S**, **Mallon PW**, **Cooper DA**. Evolution of CD4+ T-cell count in HIV-1 infected adults receiving antiretroviral therapy with sustained long-term virological suppression.

Cahn P, Altclas J, Martins M, Losso M, Cassetti I, Cox S, **Cooper DA**. 48-week data from Study AVX-201 – a randomised phase IIb study of apricitabine in treatment-experienced patients with M184V and NRTI resistance.

Grulich AE. HIV, immune deficiency and non-AIDS malignancies.

Pett SL, **Zaunders J**, **Bailey M**, **Cooper DA**, **MacRae K**, **Emery S**, **Kelleher A**. Changes in CCR5+ cells and antigen-specific CD4+ T-cells during monotherapy with a CCR5 antagonist SCH532706 compared with combination therapy.

■ **7th Annual American Association for Cancer Research Conference on Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research (Washington, November)**

Grulich AE. Cancer and infection: Lessons from immune deficient populations.

■ **Australasian Professional Society on**

Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference (Sydney, November)

Dore GJ. Enhancing hepatitis C treatment in the alcohol and other drug sector.

Grebely J, **Hellard M**, **Matthews G**, **Haber PS**, **Yeung B**, **Marks P**, **Petoumenos K**, van Beek I, **McCaughan GW**, **White P**, **Ffrench R**, **Rawlinson W**, **Lloyd A**, **Kaldor JM** and **Dore GJ**. Impact of adherence on response to therapy during treatment for acute and early chronic HCV infection.

■ **11th Western Pacific Congress on Chemotherapy and Infectious Diseases (Taipei, Taiwan, November/ December)**

Cooper DA. Recent advances in antiretroviral therapy for HIV infection.

Other oral presentations

■ **15th NSW Scientific Meeting, ASHM (Sydney, February)**

Cooper DA. HIV – new agents for ART.

■ **NIDMA Workshop: Modelling of infectious diseases (Sydney, February)**

Law MG. Design analysis of randomised clinical trials.

■ **HIV, Immunology & Infectious Diseases Unit Journal Club (Sydney, February)**

Cooper DA. New antiretroviral drug classes.

■ **UNSW International Research Workshops (Sydney, February)**

Cooper, DA. Chair, Infection and immunity session.

Kaldor JM. HIV and HCV epidemiology and prevention.

Boyd M. Clinical trials.

■ **Annual Hormone & Women's Health Update (Sydney, February)**

Donovan B. Recent developments in syphilis, gonorrhoea and herpes management (invited plenary).

■ **Northern Territory Sexual Health Programs, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Forum (Alice Springs, February)**

Kaldor JM. Service delivery and research: The difference between research and program monitoring and evaluation.

Kaldor JM. Sexual health program indicators: What do we need to do to reduce STIs? What should we be

monitoring in relation to STI programs?

■ **UNSW International Research Workshop (Sydney, February)**

Kaldor JM. HIV and hepatitis C epidemiology and prevention.

■ **Workshop on HIV and International Work (Canberra, March)**

Kaldor JM. Global and local social HIV and STI epidemiology.

Kaldor JM. Case presentation on health and development.

■ **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Health Promotion Conference (Gold Coast, March)**

Brockman D, Mooney-Somers J (on behalf of the Indigenous Resiliency Project). The Indigenous Resilience Project: The role of resiliency in responding to blood borne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Indigenous communities.

Kaldor JM, Pitts M. Sexual health promotion.

■ **Australian Women's Health Nurses Professional Update (Katoomba, March)**

Donovan B. STI Update (invited plenary).

■ **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sexual Health Promotion Conference (Gold Coast, March)**

Ward J. Keynote Address

■ **12th International Workshop on HIV Observational Databases (Malaga, Spain, March)**

Oyomopito R, Lee MP, Phanuphak P, Lim PL, Ditangco R, Zhou J, Li PCK. Measures of country and site resourcing predict virologic suppression, immunologic response and disease progression in the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD).

Coupland H, Maher L. "Becoming good": Respect and indebtedness in the lived experience of shame stemming from injecting drug use. 10th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, Sydney: March 2008 (oral presentation).

■ **10th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (Sydney, March)**

Hudson SL. Through her eyes: the female ethnographic experience.

McCann P, Treloar C, Mooney-Somers J,

Maher L. Concerns of injecting drug users regarding trials of candidate hepatitis C vaccines.

Mooney-Somers J, Brockman D, Maher L. (on behalf of the Indigenous Resiliency Project). Indigenous young people's resilience to bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections: A participatory action research project.

■ **United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs: Briefing on Women, HIV and Drug Policy (Vienna, March)**

Maher L. Invited speaker.

■ **Canadian Addictions Research Conference (March)**

Maher L. Invited keynote.

■ **Hepatitis Awareness Week Forum (Canberra, April)**

Maher L. Invited speaker: Viral Hepatitis: What's the Evidence?

■ **UNSW Brain Food Conference (Sydney, April)**

Cooper DA. HIV/AIDS in the Developing World—the way forward.

■ **PREDICT Biostatistics and Study Design Training Day (Bangkok, April)**

Law MG. Basics of statistical inference.

Law MG. Issues in interpretation of randomised trials.

■ **Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, HIV GP Study Group (Sydney, April)**

Law MG. Interpreting clinical trial data.

■ **ASHM- meeting on Swiss Federal AIDS Commission Report on HIV Transmission (Sydney, April)**

Boyd MA. Clinical Implications of the 'Swiss Statement'.

■ **NCHSR Everyday Lives Conference (Sydney, April)**

Ward J, Worth H, Bryant J. The first ever NSW survey of young Aboriginal people STIs and BBVs.

■ **CRAIH Aboriginal Health Research Conference (Sydney, April)**

Mooney-Somers J, Brockman D, Maher L. (on behalf of the Indigenous Resiliency Project). Resilience to blood borne and sexually transmitted infections: Developing

participatory action research with young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

■ **Australian Population Health Development Principal Committee, Blood Borne Virus and STIs Subcommittee (Sydney, April)**

Kaldor JM, Wilson D. Overview of syphilis epidemiology.

■ **Repatriation Medical Authority Forum (Canberra, April)**

Kaldor JM. Critical appraisal and causal inference.

■ **Alliance for Microbicide Development 10th Anniversary Meeting (Washington, April)**

Kaldor JM. Pre-clinical and early clinical studies of microbicides: an overview.

■ **15th International Symposium on HIV and Emerging Infectious Diseases (ISHEID) (Toulon, France, May)**

Cooper DA. When may we use integrase inhibitors in antiretroviral strategies.

■ **International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, Thailand Chapter (Bangkok, May)**

Layton MR, Kerr SJ. Management of type 2 diabetes: patients' and physicians' perspectives.

■ **3rd British Association for Sexual Health and HIV/ American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association joint meeting (New York, May)**

Hoare A, Wilson DP, Regan DG, Kaldor JM, Law MG. Mathematical modelling highlights the importance of other STIs in contributing to recent differential increases in HIV notifications across Australian States.

■ **Royal Australian College of Physicians Congress 2008 (Adelaide, May)**

Kaldor JM. Principles and methods of clinical research.

McDonald A, Zurynski Y, Nadew K, Elliot E, Kaldor JM, Ziegler J. Prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission in Australia, 1982–2006.

■ **Infectious Diseases Society of Ireland Inaugural Annual Scientific Meeting (Dublin, June)**

Cooper DA. The antiretroviral drug pipeline:

new drugs and new classes.

■ **University of California San Francisco, Centre for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) Town Hall Seminar Series (San Francisco, June)**

Maher L. Invited speaker.

■ **The Alfred Infectious Diseases Journal Club Seminar (Melbourne, June)**

Law MG. Use of NRTIs and risk of MIs in the D:A:D study.

■ **Identifying Research Opportunities on HIV in the MSM Population in Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, June)**

Grulich AE. Research on the epidemiology and prevention of HIV in Australia.

■ **Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research Annual Workshop (Adelaide, June)**

White PA, Renkin M, Matthews G, Grebely J, Marks P, Hellard M, Lloyd A, Rawlinson W, Kaldor J, Dore GJ for the ATAHc Study Group. Hepatitis C virus reinfection in the Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC).

■ **Hepatitis Australia National Resource Network Workshop (Sydney, June)**

Kaldor JM. Evaluation of health promotion resources.

■ **7th Annual Meeting of the InterLymph Consortium (Sydney, July)**

Grulich AE, Morton L. Do risk factor patterns among non-Hodgkin's lymphoma subtypes provide additional insights into lymphomagenesis?

■ **AIDS Council of NSW, Big Day In (Sydney, July)**

Grulich AE. Highlights of recent research on risk factors for HIV in gay men.

■ **Microbicide and HIV Biomedical Prevention Symposium: Gender and Vulnerability (Sydney, July)**

Causer L. Biomedical Prevention of HIV - Update of Global Research and Challenges of Clinical Trials.

Kaldor JM. Overview of the biomedical prevention modalities.

Kaldor JM. Partnerships in the region.

Kaldor JM. Analysis of progress in Microbicides safety trials.

Maher L. Invited speaker.

Wilson D. Mathematical modelling of microbicides.

■ **Australian Population Health Development Principal Committee, Blood Borne Virus and STIs Subcommittee (Sydney, July)**

Kaldor JM. Survey of sexual risk behaviour in Aboriginal people.

■ **Sexual Health Advisory Group (SHAG) meeting (Darwin, July)**

Kaldor JM. Prevention of sexually transmitted infections in remote Aboriginal communities – Research proposal update.

■ **25th NRL Workshop on Serology (Melbourne, July)**

Donovan B. The saga of George and Mildred: the dangers of herpes serology in the real world (invited plenary).

■ **17th Biennial Conference: Is this the Asian Century? (Melbourne, July)**

Higgs P, Maher L. Voluntary and involuntary engagement with Vietnam: Experiences from ethnic Vietnamese heroin users.

■ **Narrative Network Australia and Victoria University (Melbourne, July)**

Higgs, P. Engaging Vietnam: Personal and cultural stories of ethnic Vietnamese heroin users, Personal Identities – cultural stories.

■ **Sixth Meeting of the European Society for Chlamydia Research (Aarhus, Denmark, July)**

Wilson D. Kinematics of intracellular chlamydiae provide evidence for contact-dependent hypothesis

Wilson D. Animal models – new research directions.

■ **2nd World Conference on Magic Bullets (Nurnberg, Germany, July)**

Wilson D. Overview of HIV modelling.

■ **University of California San Diego, School of Medicine Leadership Seminar Series (San Diego, July)**

Maher L. Invited speaker:

■ **amfAR TREAT Asia LAASER Symposium (Mexico City, August)**

Cooper DA. Keynote presentation: HIV/AIDS in the developing world—enhancing the response.

■ **NCHECR International Clinical Research Network Meeting (Mexico City, August)**

Boyd MA. A randomised trial of second-line combination therapy after first line failure

■ **UNSW Medical Society Inaugural SB Downton Medical Leadership Seminar (Sydney, August)**

Cooper DA. HIV/Aids in the developing World and the role of clinical research
Murray JM, Kelleher AD. A faster decrease in CD4+ T cell counts after HIV infection for older individuals contributes to levels of immunosuppression at HIV diagnosis.

■ **National Centre in HIV Social Research Consortium Workshop (Sydney, August)**

Ward J. Access, Respect, and Partnerships: Making a Difference in Aboriginal Health.

■ **HPV Vaccine Forum (Sydney, August)**

Grulich AE. HPV and other cancers. Garvan Institute

Regan DG. Modelling the impact of vaccination.

■ **NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/STIs Health Promotion Subcommittee Meeting (Sydney, August)**

Causer L. Biomedical prevention of HIV – update of global research and challenges of clinical trials.

■ **Primary Infection Advisory Committee Meeting (Sydney, August)**

Kaldor JM. Syphilis chemoprophylaxis study in HIV positive gay men.

■ **St Vincent's Hospital Research Week (Sydney, September)**

Cooper DA. Research in Asia-Pacific.

■ **NSW Statewide NSP Workers Meeting (Sydney, September)**

Coupland H, Maher L. Indo-Chinese injecting drug users' experiences accessing drug health services.

Deacon R, Iversen J, Mason R, Maher L. Results from the 2008 NSW NSP Periodic Survey.

Mooney-Somers J, Erick W, Scott R, & Maher L. (on behalf of the Indigenous Resiliency Project). Participatory Action Research with Indigenous Young People.

Salmon A, Amin J, van Beek I, Kaldor J, Maher L. Impact of the Sydney medically supervised injected facility on ambulance

attendances at opioid overdoses.

Ward J. Plenary Session.

Wilson D. The impact of NSPs on HIV and HCV transmissions in IDUs in Australia: a model-based analysis.

■ **NCHECR Clinical Trial Network Research Coordinators Meeting (Perth, September)**

Grulich AE. Diverging trends in HIV around Australia: Why?

Boyd MA. Overview of TVRP current and future HIV clinical trial projects.

■ **Consortium for Social and Policy Research on HIV, Hepatitis C, and Related Diseases (Sydney, October)**

Donovan B. The health of Sydney sex workers: a 15-year study (invited plenary).

■ **Royal Perth Hospital Young Investigators Day (Perth, October)**

Grulich AE. Brian Stokes Oration: The immune system, infection and the prevention of cancer: Insights from immune deficient cohorts.

■ **NAPWA- meeting on MSAC submission for the approval of HIV Genotypic Resistance Testing for Medicare rebate (Melbourne, October)**

Boyd MA. The evidence base for resistance testing in the therapeutic management of HIV-infection.

■ **PHI CWG (Melbourne, October)**

Boesecke C. PINT study update and biopsy findings' invited presentation,

■ **10th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV (London, November)**

Cooper DA. Session V moderator co-chair, roundtable: Abacavir and cardiovascular risk: available data and possible mechanisms

■ **22nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for AIDS Research (Osaka, November)**

Cooper DA. New HIV treatment options: CCR5-entry inhibitors.

■ **NACCHO Members Meeting (Broome, November)**

Ward J. Epidemiology of STIs and BBVS at the Crossroads.

■ **VACCHO SH/BBV Forum (Melbourne, November)**

Ward J. Keynote Address: Epidemiology of STIs and BBVS.

■ **SPHCM 6th Annual Research Student Conference (Sydney, November)**

Gidding HF, Topp L, Middleton M, Dore GJ, Robinson K, Maher L, Kaldor JM, Law MG. The epidemiology of hepatitis C in Australia – a review of notifications, treatment uptake, and associated liver transplantations 1997-2006.

■ **AMR Research Seminar (Sydney, November)**

Boesecke C. Are we ready to explore HIV eradication?

■ **National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health 20th Anniversary (Canberra, November)**

Kaldor JM. Recent Successes and Failures in the Biomedical Prevention of HIV Infection.

■ **NCHSR's Chinese Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Visitors (Sydney, December)**

Grulich AE. HIV epidemiology in homosexual men in Australia.

■ **Australian and New Zealand Industrial and Applied Mathematics Conference (Caloundra, December)**

Wilson D. Modelling in the sex industry (invited plenary speaker).

■ **World AIDS Day, Hunter New England Area Health Service (Newcastle, December)**

Kaldor JM. Recent Successes and Failures in the Biomedical Prevention of HIV Infection.

Conference poster presentations

■ **15th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) (Boston, USA, February)**

Cahn P, Altclas J, Martins M, Losso M, Cassetti I, Cox S, Cooper DA and the AVX-201 Study Group. 24-week data from Study AVX-201: a prospective, randomized, double-blind, dose-ranging phase IIb study of Apricitabine in treatment-experienced patients with M184V and NRTI resistance.

Chang J, Sirivichayakul S, Avihingsanon A, Thantivorasit P, Cooper DA, Matthews G, Dore GJ, Ruxrungtham K, Lewin S. HBV-specific T cell responses in HIV-1/HBV-co-

infected individuals increase transiently but are not sustained following 48 weeks of HBV-active ART.

Cooper DA, Bloch M, Humphries A, Amin J, Baker D, Emery S, Carr A on behalf of the STEAL study group. Simplification with fixed-dose tenofovir-emtricitabine or abacavir-lamivudine in adults with suppressed HIV replication (The STEAL study): a randomized, open-label, 96-week, non-inferiority trial.

Cooper DA, Gatell J, Rockstroh J, Katlama C, Yeni P, Lazzarin A, Xu X, Isaacs R, Teppler H, Nguyen BY and the BENCHMRK-1 Study Group. 48-week results from BENCHMRK-1, a phase III study of Raltegravir in patients failing ART with triple-class resistant HIV-1.

DeJesus E, Walmsley S, Cohen C, Cooper DA, Hirschel B, Goodrich J, Valdez H, Heera J, Rajcic N, Mayer H. Fasted lipid changes after administration of Maraviroc or Efavirenz in combination with Zidovudine and Lamivudine for 48 weeks to treatment-naïve HIV-infected patients.

Emery S, Hales G, Birch C, Crowe S, Hoy J, Workman C, Kellerher A, Rinehart A, McKenna P, Law M. CREST-A Randomized Comparison of Genotype and Genotype Plus Virtual Phenotype (VircoGen II)

Matthews G, Hellard M, Haber P, Yeung B, Marks P, Baker, D, McCaughan G, Sasadeusz J, White P, Rawlinson W, Lloyd A, Kaldor J, Dore G for the ATAHC Study Group. Frequency of RVR and its utility as a predictor of treatment outcome in HIV positive and negative individuals with acute hepatitis C.

Sabin CA, Worm SW, Weber R, Reiss P, El-Sadr W, Thiebaut R, De Wit S, Law M, D'Arminio Monforte A, Friis-Møller N, Kirk O, Pradier C, Collins S, Weller I, Phillips AN, Lundgren JD on behalf of the D:A:D study group. Do thymidine analogues, Abacavir, Didanosine and Lamivudine contribute to the risk of myocardial infarction (MI)?

Weber R, Sabin C, Reiss P, De Wit S, Worm S, Law M, Dabid F, d'Arminio Monforte A, Fontas E, Lundgren J. Hepatitis virus co-infections and risk of Diabetes Mellitus (DM) and Myocardial Infarction (MI) in HIV-infected persons: D:A:D study.

Zaunders J, Pett S, Bailey M, Seddiki N, Munier M, Ip S, Kim M, Cunningham A, Cooper DA, Kelleher A. High-level persistence of HIV antigen-specific CD4+ T cells in untreated chronic infection, detected by a novel flow cytometric assay.

■ **Microbicides 2008 (New Delhi, February)**

Holmes W, Maher L, Rosenthal S. Attitudes

of men in an Australian male tolerance study towards microbicide use.

Rosenthal S, Holmes W, **Maher L**. Australian men's experiences during a microbicide male tolerance study.

■ **2008 Canadian Digestive Diseases Week and 4th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver (Montreal, Canada, February)**

Genoway KA, **Grebely J**, Duncan F, Viljoen M, Gallagher L, Elliott D, Khara M, Raffa JD, deVlaming S, Conway B. Treatment uptake and outcomes among injection drug users (IDUs) in a multidisciplinary program for the treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection.

Grebely J, Raffa JD, Lai C, Kraiden M, Fischer B, Kerr T, Tyndall MW. Extremely low uptake of treatment for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in a large community-based cohort of illicit drug users in Vancouver.

Grebely J, Raffa JD, Genoway KA, Showler G, Duncan F, Viljoen M, Khara M, deVlaming S, Fraser C, Conway B. Low rate of hepatitis C virus (HCV) re-infection among injection drug users (IDUs) following sustained virologic response (SVR) after treatment for HCV infection.

■ **American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting (San Diego, April)**

van Leeuwen MT, Vajdic CM, Webster AC, McDonald SP, McCredie MRE, Stewart JH, **Law M**, **Kaldor JM**, Chapman JR, **Gulich AE**. Risk factors for lip cancer following renal transplantation.

■ **43rd Annual Meeting of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (Milan, April)**

Matthews G, Hellard M, Haber P, **Yeung B**, **Marks P**, Baker D, McCaughan G, Sasadeusz J, White P, Rawlinson W, Lloyd A, **Kaldor J**, **Dore G** for the ATAHC Study Group. Frequency of RVR and its utility as a predictor of treatment outcome in individuals treated within the Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC).

■ **19th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug-related Harm (Barcelona, May)**

Coupland H, **Pham A**, **Maher L**. Hepatitis C treatment uptake by Indo-Chinese injecting drug users: Results of a pilot of a brief intervention and facilitated referral to a tertiary liver clinic.

Higgs P, Kefle Y, Hellard M, **Maher L**. Factors influencing a self-limiting HIV

outbreak among ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users in Melbourne, Australia.

Hudson SL, **Maher L**. Lay epidemiology and risk prioritisation among street-based sexworkers who inject psychostimulants.

McCann P, Treloar C, **Mooney-Somers J**, **Maher L**. Concerns of injecting drug users regarding trials of candidate hepatitis C vaccines.

Topp L, **Iversen J**, Day C, **Wand H**, **Kaldor JM**, **Maher L**. Representativeness of injecting drug users who participate in HIV surveillance: Results from Australia's Needle and Syringe Program Survey.

van Beek I, Janssen C, Rodgers C, **Salmon AM**, **Maher L**. The occurrence of injection-related injury and disease among IDUs attending a primary health care setting in Sydney, Australia.

■ **NIDA International Forum (Puerto Rico, June)**

Friedman SR, Valderrama-Zurián JC, Mateu-Gelabert P, Agulló V, Sandoval M, Gómez E, Castellano-Gómez M, Zabransky, Janikova, Rhodes T, Treloar C, **Maher L**. Devolution and the struggle to avoid infections and social harms: Staying Safe in New York City.

Maher L, **Dore G**, Lloyd A (on behalf of the UNSW HCV Vaccine Initiative). Issues and challenges in preparing for candidate hepatitis C virus (HCV) vaccine trials in people who inject drugs.

Maher L. Invited keynote: Staying Safe: Applying qualitative methods to reducing drug-related harms.

■ **Sixth Meeting of the European Society for Chlamydia Research (Aarhus, Denmark, July)**

Wilson DP. Predicting the effectiveness and key characteristics of chlamydia vaccines using a sexual network and transmission model.

■ **XVII International AIDS Conference (Mexico City, August)**

Bun V, Pouv S, Chel S, Toeung P, Eng L, Khiev S, **Huffam S**, Saphonn V, **Kaldor J**, **Cooper DA**, Mean CV. Women presenting to an HIV Clinic in Phnom Penh; Pregnancy and HIV stage.

Elliott JH, Khol V, Sarun S, Chin S, Chan D, Chel S, **Huffam S**, Oelrichs R, Pouv S, Hun C, Teng K, Teng H, Saphonn V, **Kaldor JM**, **Cooper DA**, French MA, Mean CV. Investigation of the pathogenesis and diagnosis of tuberculosis-associated Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome and

antiretroviral therapy-associated tuberculosis using skin testing and a whole blood interferon- γ release assay.

Higgs P, Yohannes K, Hellard M, **Maher L**. Self-limiting HIV outbreak among ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users in Australia: a qualitative study.

Lundgren JD and the SMART/INSIGHT and D:A:D Study Groups (**Law MG** member of study group). Use of nucleos(t)ide reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and risk of myocardial infarction in HIV-infected patients enrolled in the SMART study.

Maher L, **Dore GJ**, Treloar C, Rawlinson W, White P, Dolan K, Zekry A, Madden A, Loveday S, **Kaldor JM**, Lloyd A, UNSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative. Preparing for candidate HCV vaccine trials in people who inject drugs: lessons learned from HIV.

Oyomopito R, Lee MP, Phanuphak P, Lim PL, Ditangco R, **Zhou J**, Li PCK, Kamarulzaman A, on behalf of the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. Measures of country and site resourcing predict virologic suppression, immunologic response and disease progression in the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD).

Ward J, **McDonald AM**, **Middleton M**, **Kaldor JM** for the National BBV and STI Surveillance Committee (**Maher L**: member). The pattern of newly diagnosed HIV infection among Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Australia, 1993-2006.

Zhou J, Li PC, Kumarasamy N, **Boyd M**, Pujari S, on behalf of The TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. Deferred modification of antiretroviral regimen following treatment failure in Asia: results from the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD).

■ **20th Annual Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Conference (Perth, September)**

Allison WE, Kiromat M, Vince J, Cunningham P, **Kaldor JM**. Clinical features associated with HIV infection in children at Port Moresby General Hospital - interim analysis of a prospective study to ascertain predictors of HIV infection.

Arriaga ME, **Puls RL**, **Emery S** for the Altair Study Group. Resistance to antiretroviral drugs in HIV naïve patients recruited into the ALTAIR study.

Coupland H, Day C, **Maher L**. Popular approaches to managing hepatitis C infection among Indochinese injecting drug users: "It's all up to you".

Davies SC, Bloch M, **Haskelberg H, Humphries A** on behalf of the STEAL investigators. Characterisation of participant reaction to abacavir in the STEAL study: a randomized, open-label trial to assess the safety and efficacy of switching to fixed-dose tenofovir-emtricitabine or abacavir-lamivudine.

Haskelberg H, Puls RL, Emery S for the ALTAIR Study Group. Co-ordination of international clinical study – set up, ethics, and local regulations.

Higgs P, Aitken C, Hellard M, Maher L. Avoiding hepatitis C infection despite long term injecting: behavioural, social or immunological?

Kelly M, Davies SC, Woolley I, **Amin J, Jacoby S, Humphries A** on behalf of the STEAL investigators.

Correlates of Renal Function in a Cohort of Stable and Virologically Suppressed HIV Patients on ART Screened for The STEAL Study.

Liddy JC, **Duncombe C, Kerr SJ,** Avihingsanon A, Phanuphak P, **Cooper DA,** Ruxrungtham K, Chapman RS. Time to and predictors of virological suppression in treatment-naïve HIV-infected patients in Thailand commencing a NNRTI- or PI-based regimen.

Nakhaee F, Law M, McDonald A, Black D. Projecting mortality following AIDS in Australia to the end of 2010 using parametric survival models.

Puls RL, Arriaga ME, Satchell C, Dazo C, Haskelberg H, Boesecke C, Drummond F, Srasuebkul P, Emery S for the ALTAIR Study Group. Baseline data from the ALTAIR study: a randomised, open label, 96-week study comparing the safety and efficacy of three different combination antiretroviral regimens as initial therapy for HIV infection.

Roeun M, Pouy S, Phan S, Khem C, Keo S, Song S, Taing S, Eng L, **Huffam S, Saphonn V, Kaldor JM, Cooper DA,** Mean CV. Spouse status at an HIV treatment facility in Cambodia, implications for secondary prevention of HIV transmission.

Srasuebkul P, Lim PL, Lee MP, Kumarasamy N, Zhou J, Law M on behalf of the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. Short-term clinical disease progression in HIV-1-positive patients taking combination antiretroviral therapy: TAHOD results.

■ 6th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference (Brisbane, October)

Gidding HF, Topp L, Middleton M, Dore GJ, Robinson K, **Maher L, Kaldor JM, Law MG.** The epidemiology of hepatitis C in Australia – a review of notifications, treatment uptake, and associated liver transplantations 1997-2006.

Grebely J, Raffa JD, Lai C, Kerr T, Krajden M, Kerr T, Dore GJ, Tyndall MW. Impact of HCV and HIV infections on mortality in a large community-based cohort of inner city residents.

Maher L. Increasing Hepatitis B immunisation completion in people who inject drugs: a randomised controlled trial of financial incentives.

Matthews GV, White PA, Hellard M, Grebely J, Marks P, Yeung B, Kaldor JM, Lloyd A, Danta M, Dore GJ on behalf of the ATAHC Study Group. Evidence of sexual transmission of hepatitis C virus infection among HIV-positive men who have sex with men in the Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC) Study.

Vulcao JAV, Courtney-Vega K, Humphries A, Jacoby S, Haskelberg H, Emery S for the STEAL Study Group. The acceptability of web-based electronic CRF (eCRF) for use in clinical trials.

■ UNSW Indigenous Showcase (Sydney, October)

Mooney-Somers J (on behalf of the Indigenous Resiliency Project). The role of resiliency in responding to blood-borne and sexually transmitted infections in young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

■ 15th International Symposium on Hepatitis C Virus and Related Viruses (Texas, October)

White PA, Grebely J, Matthews GV, Renkin M, Hellard M, Lloyd A, Rawlinson W, Dore GJ. Reinfection and superinfection of Hepatitis C virus.

Flynn J, White P, Grebely J, Hellard M, Kaldor J, Dore G, Lloyd AR, Ffrench RA. Preservation of effector T cell function in treated acute HCV subjects.

■ 59th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Study of Liver Disease. (AASLD). (San Francisco, October/November)

Grebely J, Knight E, Genoway KA, Viljoen M, Khara M, Elliott D, Gallagher L, Storms M, Raffa JD, DeVlaming S, Duncan F, Conway B. Optimizing assessment and treatment for hepatitis C virus infection in illicit drug users: a novel model incorporating multidisciplinary care and peer-support.

Matthews GV, Avihingsanon A, Lewin SR, Sasadeusz J, Thio CL, Bowden S, Ayres A, Locarnini SL, Ruxrungtham K, Dore GJ. Tenofovir based HAART is associated with high rates of HBV DNA suppression and HBeAg seroconversion in Thai HIV-HBV coinfecting patients.

Matthews GV, Grebely J, White P, Renkin M, Marks P, Ffrench R, Rawlinson W, Kaldor JM, Hellard M, Lloyd A, Dore GJ. Incidence and risk factors for HCV superinfection and reinfection in individuals treated within the Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC).

White P, Grebely J, Flynn J, Matthews GV, Renkin M, Yeung B, Rawlinson W, Kaldor JM, Hellard M, Lloyd A, Ffrench R, Dore GJ. Natural history of HCV superinfection and reinfection.

■ Ninth International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection (Glasgow, November)

Petoumenos K, Fontas E, Worm SW, Weber R, De Wit S, Bruyand M, Sabin CA, Reiss P, El-Sadr W, D'Arminio-Monforte A, Friis-Møller N, Lundgren JD, Law M on behalf of the D:A:D study group. Predicting the short term risk of diabetes in HIV infected patients in the D:A:D cohort: The D:A:D study group.

■ Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs: Drug and Alcohol Conference (Sydney, November)

Barnes K, van Beek I, Day C, Topp L, Shanahan M, Wand H, Maher L (on behalf of the Hepatitis Acceptability and Vaccine Incentives Trail (HAVIT) Group). Using financial incentives to increase hepatitis B immunisation completion in injecting drug users: A randomised controlled trial.

Rodgers C, Janssen C, Salmon A, Maher L, van Beek, I. The occurrence of injection-related injury and disease among IDUs attending a primary health care setting.

■ Epidemics: First conference on infectious disease dynamics (Asilomar, USA, December)

Wilson DP. Importance of promoting HIV testing for preventing secondary transmissions: modelling the Australian HIV epidemic among men who have sex with men.

Wilson DP. Assortative homosexual mixing in Australia suggests HIV epidemic may age out.

Publications

Peer reviewed

- Allison WE, Iobuna V, Kalebe V, Kiromat M, Vince J, Schaefer M, **Kaldor J**. Attitudes to HIV testing amongst carers of children admitted to Port Moresby General Hospital, Papua New Guinea. *J Paediatr Child Health* 2008;44:618-621.
- Ananworanich J, Kosalaraksa P, Siangphoe U, Engchanil C, Pancharoen C, Lumbiganon P, Intasan J, Apateerapong W, Chuenyam T, Ubolyam S, Bunupuradah T, Lange J, **Cooper DA**, Phanuphak P and the HIV-NAT 010 Study Team. A feasibility study of immediate versus deferred antiretroviral therapy in children with HIV infection. *AIDS Res Ther* 2008;5:24 doi:10.1186/1742-6405-5-24.
- Ananworanich J, Nuesch R, Côté HCF, **Kerr SJ**, Hill A, Jupimai T, Laopraynak N, Saenawat S, Ruxrungtham K, Hirschel B. Changes in metabolic toxicity after switching from stavudine/didanosine to tenofovir/lamivudine — Staccato trial substudy. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 2008;61:1340-1343.
- Ananworanich J, Puthanakit T, Saphonn V, **Cooper DA**, Ruxrungtham K. Lessons from a multicentre paediatric HIV trial. *Lancet* 2008;372:356-357.
- Avihingsanon A, Manosuthi W, Kantipong P, Chuchotaworn C, Moolphate S, Sakornjun W, Gorowara M, Yamada N, Yanai H, Ishikawa N, **Cooper DA**, Phanuphak P, Burger D, Ruxrungtham K. Pharmacokinetics and 48-week efficacy of nevirapine: 400 mg versus 600 mg per day in HIV-tuberculosis coinfection receiving rifampicin. *Antivir Ther* 2008;13:529-536.
- Bhaskaran K, Hamouda O, Sannes M, Boufassa F, Johnson AM, Lambert PC, Porter K, for the CASCADE Collaboration (**Kaldor J**, **Kelleher T**, Ramacciotti T, **Gelgor L**, **Cooper D**, CASCADE collaborators). Changes in the risk of death after HIV seroconversion compared with mortality in the general population. *JAMA* 2008;300:51-59.
- Blower SM, **Wilson DP**, Coplan PM, Wainberg MA. Reply to Heise and Philpott: The paradoxical effects of using antiretroviral-based microbicides to control HIV epidemics. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2008;105:E74 (letter).
- Boesecke C**, **Cooper DA**. Toxicity of protease inhibitors: clinical considerations. *Curr Opin HIV AIDS* 2008;3:653-659.
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About 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 funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and is directly affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales.

NCHECR's primary functions relate to the co-ordination of national surveillance programs, clinical research and clinical trials. While the 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. By the end of 2008, the National Centre was conducting research through nine programs. Dissemination of NCHECR's research output is undertaken through publication in scientific journals and a range of surveillance reports.

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