









Contents

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Foreword

he National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research had a very solid year in 2009, with substantial recognition of our work from the National Health and Medical Research Council, and other infrastructure support.

An exciting collaboration between our organisation and the Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide and Western Australia was brought to fruition by a substantial NHMRC program grant for a program titled HIV and HCV Vaccines and Immunopathogenesis. The five-year grant began in January 2009 and addresses the urgent global health priorities concerning the development of vaccines and better treatments for HIV and hepatitis C. The program brings together a team of researchers with skills in basic virology and immunology with those providing expertise in translating findings in the lab into human clinical trials. Output for the first year of the program grant has been one book, six book chapters and 27 journal publications co-authored by the CIs from the program grant – a great measure of the collaborative effort.

Another substantial five-year NHMRC Program Grant, to begin in 2010, is titled Sexually Transmitted Infections: Causes, Consequences and Interventions. National Centre investigators will work with colleagues at the University of Melbourne to examine methods of prevention and management of sexually transmitted infections, which are important causes of serious illness and death in Australia and overseas; particularly affected in Australia are young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and homosexual men.

In addition, during 2009 we joined with St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research to form an Institute, with the working name Institute of Virology, which we hope will enhance our joint research efforts. An independent organisation with a joint management structure, the Institute brings together our overlapping research, clinical and laboratory services.

This year we farewelled our longtime Administrator, Bronwen Turner. Bronwen made an immeasurable contribution to the development and life of the National Centre over 18 years and her presence is greatly missed.

The National Centre's achievements can in part be measured by the achievements of our staff in the lists of publications and presentations 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

Director's office









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Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

009 saw the formation of the Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health (SEPPH) with Associate Professor David Wilson as its head. David had been with NCHECR's Biostatistics and Databases Program for two years and is recognised both nationally and internationally for his outstanding contribution to the mathematical modelling of infectious diseases. The Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health monitors the pattern of transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis, and specific sexually transmissible infections in Australia, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Ageing, State and Territory health authorities and collaborating networks. SEPPH extends to the assessment of past and expected epidemic trends, and evaluates the epidemiological impact and costeffectiveness of public health intervention strategies and programs. Methods used in the assessment often include the use of mathematical modelling, health economics, and impact assessment techniques. SEPPH is also involved in building research capacity in the areas of epidemiology, biostatistics, mathematical modelling, and other biomedical research associated with HIV/AIDS in Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

The thirteenth successive issue of the HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report was formally released at the 21st Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) Annual Conference, held in Brisbane in September. The Bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Surveillance and Evaluation Report 2009, the third in a series, was also

formally released at the ASHM conference in September. These are the key reports informing the government, community and research communities of the epidemiological trends of blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections in Australia.

Trends in the population rate of new HIV diagnoses published in the Annual Surveillance Report 2009 indicated that the annual number of new HIV diagnoses has remained relatively steady at about 1,000 over the past three years. This level of HIV diagnoses was last recorded in Australia in 1994, indicating the need for strengthening safer sexual and injecting messages to minimise the risk of HIV infection. Despite the number of new infections, HIV prevalence in Australia remains one of the lowest in the world, at about 0.1 percent. The pattern of HIV transmission in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population differs from that in the non-Indigenous population. The reports indicated that HIV infection among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was attributed to injecting drug use in 22% of cases over the past five years in contrast to 3% in the non-Indigenous population. Hepatitis C infections have declined by about half in the past decade, particularly in younger age groups. However despite this, hepatitis C prevalence remains high among injecting drug users across Australia and the burden of advanced liver disease continues to grow among infected people. 2009 saw a number of major projects come to fruition. The Return on Investment 2 project, which crossed numerous NCHECR programs, estimated the epidemiological and economic effectiveness of needle and syringe programs in preventing

transmissions of HIV and HCV among Australian injecting drug users. It was estimated that these programs directly prevented more than 32,000 cases of HIV infection and almost 100,000 cases of hepatitis C over the last decade, at an estimated national saving in healthcare costs of \$1,280 million.

The first phase of the National Gay Men's Syphilis Action Plan was developed based on detailed mathematical modelling evidence and social research on acceptability of potential interventions. This research identified strategies likely to be the most effective and feasible to control syphilis among Australian gay men. The National Gay Men's Syphilis Action Plan has been endorsed and is being implemented across all Australian jurisdictions from March 2010 until the end of 2012. SEPPH also completed a project and policy brief on the potential impact of the global economic crisis (GEC) on HIV epidemics in Cambodia and Papua New Guinea, using mathematical modelling. The analysis indicated that the GEC is likely to have a modest impact on HIV epidemics. The results in the report highlight the importance of maintaining funding for HIV programs.

A/Prof Wilson was successful in the inaugural round of the ARC Future Fellowship scheme for funding until 2013. His project title was *Using mathematical modelling to inform HIV/AIDS public health policy*, designed to inform HIV/AIDS policy officials on the most effective strategies for preventing new cases in HIV in the community. Other SEPPH success in grants included an ARC Discovery Project, two NHMRC Project Grants, and a component of an NIH Centre of Excellence Grant.





















Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

(left to right)
David Wilson
Ann McDonald
Richard Gray
Lei Zhang
Melanie Middleton
Kel Heymer
James Jansson
Amy Kwon
Alex Hoare
Karen Schneider

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 2009. 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 feedback of surveillance outputs. 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, Rachel Deacon, Handan Wand,
Basil Donovan, John Kaldor, David Wilson.
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.

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report

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

Status: Ongoing. The *Annual Surveillance Report* was published for the thirteenth successive year.

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Rachel Deacon, Handan Wand, David Wilson

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.

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

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.

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

■ Bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Surveillance Report 2009

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 third issue of *Bloodborne viral* and sexually transmitted infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Surveillance Report 2008 was released in 2009.

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.

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

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: A case for denotification of AIDS has been made by the national bloodborne viral and STI surveillance committee. Until AIDS is denotified its monitoring is 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

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

■ 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, Melanie Middleton, David Wilson

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

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing

■ Monitoring diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection

Diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection are monitored to provide an indication of the

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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

Funding: Commonwealth Department of

Health and Ageing

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-tochild 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

Funding: Commonwealth Department of

Health and Ageing

■ 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

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

Funding: Commonwealth Department of

Health and Ageing

■ 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

Funding: Commonwealth Department of

Health and Ageing

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: Rachel Deacon, Melanie

Middleton, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing Funding: Commonwealth 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: Ann McDonald, John Kaldor,

David Wilson

Collaborators: Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; The Children's Hospital at Westmead; Royal Children's Hospital Funding: Commonwealth Department of

Health and Ageing

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

Funding: Commonwealth Department of

Health and Ageing

Surveillance for sexually transmissible infections

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 Funding: Commonwealth Department of

Health and Ageing

■ 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

Funding: Commonwealth Department of

Health and Ageing

■ 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

Funding: Commonwealth Department of

Health and Ageing

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

■ Evaluation of trends and strategies associated with HIV transmission among men who have sex with men in Australia

This project involves the use of impact evaluation techniques including mathematical modelling to assess the impact of various trends in behaviours and programs on epidemiological outcomes associated with HIV epidemics. Models are being used to assess the benefit of serosorting and accompanying risk-reduction strategies as well as behaviour change and the impact of effective combination antiretroviral therapies among other factors.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: David Wilson, Alexander Hoare, Richard Gray, Kelly-Jean Heymer Funding: NHMRC, Australian Research

Council

■ Understanding the interaction between sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission in Australia

This project involves quantitative analyses using the domains of epidemiology, mathematical modelling, and health economics to investigate the impact of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and where applicable injecting drug use, on population level transmission of HIV. This project addresses populations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, Australian men who have sex with men, and Papua New Guinea.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Richard Gray, David Wilson, James Ward, Jonathan Anderson, John Kaldor, Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich Funding: NHMRC, Australian Research

Council

■ Estimating per-contact probability of HIV transmission in homosexual men in Sydney in the era of HAART

Using data from the Health in Men study, biostatistical modelling techniques are used to calculate the probability of HIV transmission among gay men according to unprotected penile-anal sex, differentiating between acts that are receptive with ejaculation, receptive without ejaculation, insertive with circumcision and insertive without circumcision.

Status: Analysis complete in 2009
Personnel: Jeff Jin, James Jansson,
Mathew Law, Garrett Prestage, Iryna
Zablotska, John Imrie, Susan Kippax, John
Kaldor, Andrew Grulich, David Wilson
Funding: NHMRC, National Institutes of
Health, Australian Research Council,
Department of Health and Ageing

■ Review of HIV transmission risks and development of online calculators

This project involves (i) the review of all published studies on HIV transmission risks according to each route of exposure and (ii) the development of user-friendly software interfaces as online calculators of cumulative risk of HIV acquisition over all exposure events.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Victor Jauregui, David Wilson **Funding:** NHMRC, Australian Research

ouncil

Evaluating the epidemiological and economic implications of introducing rapid tests for HIV diagnosis in Australia

This project involves the conduct of metaanalyses and reviews of the published literature on rapid HIV tests as well as data from the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre and other networks of clinics and laboratories that conduct HIV tests. These sources of information are informing mathematical and economic models to evaluate the expected implications of the use of rapid tests in Australia.

Status: Ongoing **Personnel:** David Wilson

Collaborators: AFAO, Melbourne Sexual

Health Centre **Funding:** NHMRC

■ 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: Ongoing. Models are in final developmental stage.

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 involved 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 was carried out at the national level as well as by each state and territory using detailed jurisdiction-specific data.

Status: Finished in 2009.

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

■ Evaluating the potential impact of the global economic crisis on HIV epidemics in Southeast Asia

This project involved the review and evaluation of potential factors that could be influenced by the global economic crisis and how they may influence HIV epidemics. Mathematical models were designed to assess the potential extent to which the economic crisis could affect HIV epidemics in diverse regions.

Status: Finished in 2009.

Personnel: David Wilson, Richard Gray, Kelly-Jean Heymer, Alexander Hoare, Amy Kwon, Rosie Thein, John Kaldor Collaborators: PNG IMR, NCHADS (Cambodia), WHO, FHI, Global Fund, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Lowy Institute for International Development, AusAID.

Funding: AusAID

■ Epidemiological and economic impact of potential increased hepatitis C treatment uptake in Australia

This project is investigating the possible effects of increased rates of treatment, compared

with current treatment rates, on the future health and economic burden of hepatitis C around Australia. Methods used include mathematical modelling and health economics.

Status: Finished in 2009, to be released and extended in 2010.

Personnel: Rosie Thein, David Wilson, Alexander Hoare, Amy Kwon, Greg Dore **Funding:** Roche

■ Eco-pathogenomics of chlamydial infection of the human reproductive tract

This study aims to discovery the essential correlates of chlamydial infection of the human reproductive tract in the human

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reproductive tract. The project is conceived to prime effective translational research through the identification and characterization of antigens of relevance in the naturally infected host and pathogenetic mechanisms at play in the complex, natural environment of the female genital tract. To achieve this objective the project will leverage some of the most advanced and innovative methodologies in the study of bacterial infectious diseases. These include methodologies such as high throughput 16S rRNA sequencing, metatranscriptomics, the isolation of isogenic mutant-parent pairs and their functional analysis in a guinea pig model of chlamydial genital infection, and biomathematical modelling of chlamydial infection and disease in the guinea pig model and its correlates in humans. The composition of the genital flora, the occurrence of secondary infection, the application of antibiotic treatment are among the common variables that will be evaluated both longitudinally and crosssectionally in humans and in the parallel guinea pig model.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: David Wilson, Kelly-Jean Heymer **Collaborator:** University of Maryland, University of Arkansas, Uniformed Services University

Funding: National Institutes of Health

Understanding the within-host inflammatory response of Chlamydia infection and modelling the impact of potential vaccines

This study uses quantitative techniques along with experimental data from animal models to understand the inflammatory response associated with Chlamydia infection.

Mathematical models incorporating the within-host biology with sexual networks and epidemiology are used to explore the potential impact of targeted vaccines at an individual and population level.

Status: Ongoing.

Personnel: Richard Gray, Kelly-Jean

Heymer, David Wilson

Collaborator: Queensland University of Technology, University of Arkansas Funding: Australian Research Council, National Health and Medical Research Council, National Institutes of Health

■ 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: Ongoing.

Personnel: David Regan, David Wilson **Collaborators:** University of Melbourne, University of Arkansas

Funding: National Health and Medical Research Council

■ Developing evidence to inform a national gay men's syphilis action plan

The aim of this study was to use the Australian HIV partnership model of collaboration across government, community and research sectors to establish Australia's National Gay Men's Syphilis Action Plan in response to a resurgent syphilis epidemic among gay men. Evidence included the combination of mathematical modelling with quantitative and qualitative social research to explore the feasibility of different interventions (partner reduction, increased condom use, increased testing frequency, mass treatment, improved partner notification, and chemoprophylaxis) to reduce rates of syphilis. The study involved online surveys and focus groups to determine whether such interventions were likely to be acceptable to Australian gay men and a mathematical transmission model that simulated the target population was used to explore the potential epidemiological impact of each intervention

Status: Completed in 2009. The national action plan is being implemented from 2010. Personnel: David Wilson, Garrett Prestage, Basil Donovan, Richard Gray, Alexander Hoare, Pol Dominic McCann, Ian Down Collaborators: NSW Health, AFAO, ACON, NCHSR, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Sydney Sexual Health Centre, ASHM, SA Health, Victorian AIDS Council, NAPWA, Taylor Square Private Clinic, Qld Association for Healthy Communities, Positive Life NSW, AIDS Council of NSW, Queensland Health Funding: NSW Health, Victorian Department of Human Services, Australian Research Council, National Health and Medical Research Council

■ HIV treatment failure, therapeutic pathways, and clinical outcomes: understanding the present and planning for the future

This project will assist in the planning for the care and management of HIV-infected Australians in the future by mapping and forecasting antiretroviral treatment pathways and the population-level health burdens of clinical morbidities affecting Australians living with HIV. The study involves extensive meta-analyses and modelling.

Status: Ongoing.

Personnel: James Jansson, David Wilson, Jonathan Anderson, Kathy Petoumenos

Collaborators: NAPWA

Funding: NAPWA (seed funding), National Health and Medical Research Council

Mathematical modelling and costeffectiveness of HIV epidemics and programs in Thailand

This study uses mathematical transmission models, individual-based simulation models, and health economic analyses to describe HIV epidemiology among numerous groups at risk of HIV infection and infected in Thailand. It is evaluating the epidemiological and economic implications of past, present, and potential programs and strategies.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Karen Schneider, Alexander

Hoare, David Wilson **Collaborator:** HIV-NAT

Funding: Australian Research Council, National Health and Medical Research Council

Evaluation of HIV trends and programs in China

This project involves the use of quantitative methods including biostatistics, mathematical modelling, epidemiology, and health economics to assess the key drivers of HIV epidemics in China, the impact of intervention strategies, and forecast future epidemic trajectories.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Lei Zhang, David Wilson

Funding: UNSW

Evaluation of the epidemiological impact of hard reduction programs across Vietnam

This project involves the use of mathematical modelling techniques to evaluate the likely epidemiological impact of peer-education based harm reduction programs (distribution of condoms and needles and syringes) across numerous provinces in Vietnam.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: David Wilson, Lei Zhang,

Richard Gray, Rosie Thein

Funding: World Bank, UNSW, NHMRC

Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

009 was a year of new initiatives for the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program. We were very honoured to be the recipient of a substantial award from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to support a research project with the potential to extend drug therapy to millions of HIV-affected people worldwide. The project, dubbed ENCORE (for Evaluation of Novel Concepts in Optimization of antiRetroviral Efficacy), will study the effectiveness of optimised doses of HIV drug treatment. If proven effective, it would allow governments and NGOs to purchase more supplies for the same budgets, and ease the pressure on manufacturing capacity to meet the growing demand for ART. Dose reduction could then release enhanced funding for further treatment, care and prevention work. More than three million people in developing countries currently receive drug therapy for HIV infection, and the World Health Organisation estimates that this will rise

three-fold to nine million by 2015. The focus of care for HIV-infected people is the continued scale-up of access to ART, but the success of the roll-out of ART is putting enormous pressure on both the ability to pay for the drugs and the capacity to manufacture them. Drug therapy for HIV not only extends and improves the quality of life of people with HIV and also may reduce the likelihood of that person infecting others, so the-roll out of HIV drug therapy supports the work of HIV/AIDS prevention.

Another major initiative for TVRP this year was the start of the Second Line clinical trial, which is now set up and ready to start enrolling patients in the first quarter of 2010. This study is designed to answer a very important question raised by treatment roll-out in the developing world: in the absence of the test results used in the developed world to establish viral load levels and resistance, what do we do for patients who have failed first-line

regimens? Taking a public health approach and assisted by the availability of raltegravir, this study will examine the benefits of moving patients who have failed their first line therapy straight to a combination of raltegravir and a booster protease inhibitor, in contrast with the current recommendation of a switch to two nucleosides and one booster protease inhibitor. The study's principal investigators hope to enrol 700 patients in sixty centres in 28 countries.

2009 also saw considerable progress in planning the START study, for which the NCHECR is a co-ordinating centre for Australian, New Zealand, Thailand, Singapore, Israel, Argentina and Chile. We have started to enrol the first patients in START, which hopes to answer the last remaining strategic question in HIV medicine in relation to ongoing treatment: when is the best time to start treatment? Does starting earlier save more lives?

Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

(left to right)
Sean Emery
Mark Boyd
Helen Byakwaga
Dianne Carey
Fraser Drummond
Sarah Pett
Rebekah Puls
Cate Carey
Allison Humphries
David Courtney-Rodgers
Hila Haskelberg
Enmoore Lir
Simone Jacoby
Nisha Seneviratne
Megan Evans
Natalie Espinosa
Cathy Sajjadi
Kymme Courtney-Vega
Jessica Taylor
ose Aurelio Vieira Vulcac
Wendy Lee
Maja Berilazic
Rosemary Robson
Alexis Shambrook
Margaret Aller

Absent:
Maria Arriaga
Christoph Boesecke
Emma Butter
Kate Clezy
Carlo Dazo
Sarah Field
Jennifer Hoy
Leanne Kearney
Wendy Lee



THERAPEUTIC AND VACCINE RESEARCH PROGRAM STUDIES

ANTIRETROVIRAL THERAPY

Studies recruiting during 2009

■ 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 < 200 cells/µL.

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

■ ENCORE3

Pharmacokinetics of plasma lopinavir/ritonavir over a 12-hour dosing interval following administration of 400/100, 200/150, and 200/50 mg twice daily to HIV-negative healthy volunteers.

Status: 24 recruited, closed to recruitment Sites: one, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, London, United Kingdom Target: 18 HIV-1-negative subjects Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Carlo Dazo, Enmoore Lin, Natalie Espinosa, Jessica

Taylor, Janaki Amin **Funding:** to be decided

Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2009

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 January 2007 to February 2008, week 48 data lead to inclusion of week 144 follow-up visit.

Sites: 37 sites in 15 countries **Enrolled/target:** 329/300

Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Christoph Boesecke, Maria Arriaga, Carlo Dazo, Hila Haskelberg, 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 was fully enrolled at 16 patients. All patients completed the initial phase of trial (52 weeks) and are in two-year extension phase.

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; 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 2009

■ ENCORE1

A randomised, double-blind, placebocontrolled 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 50 Target: approximately 700

Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Janaki Amin

Funding: to be decided

■ ENCORE2

Pharmacokinetics of plasma lamivudine (3TC), and its active intracellular anabolite 3TC-triphosphate over a 24 hour dosing interval following administration of 3TC 300 mg and 150 mg once daily to HIV-negative healthy volunteers.

Status: in development

Sites: one, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, London, United Kingdom Target: 24 HIV-1-negative subjects Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Janaki Amin

Funding: to be decided

■ SECOND-LINE

A randomised open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of ritonavir boosted lopinavir and 2-3N(t)RTI backbone versus ritonavir boosted lopinavir and raltegravir in participants virologically failing first-line NNRTI/2N(t)RTI therapy.

Status: Open to enrolment in all sites in Australia and New Zealand; all other sites expected to be open by Q3 2010

Sites: 48 Target: 550

Personnel: Mark Boyd, Alli Humphries, Natalie Espinosa, Nisha Seneviratne, Torsak Bunupuradah, Maria Arriaga, Rosemary

Robson, Wendy Lee

Funding: UNSW, Merck, Abbott, amfAR

IMMUNE-BASED THERAPIES AND VACCINES

Studies recruiting during 2009

■ 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 \rightarrow 300 cells/µL: study of aldesleukin with and without antiretroviral therapy. PURPOSE OF EXTENDED FOLLOW-UP: To continue unblinded safety assessments of participants in groups that received Il-2 compared to the group that did not receive IL-2.

Status: Enrolment closed 30 June 09. Main study data collection ended on 28 February 2009. Extended follow-up phase began 01 March 2009 for a further two-year period through to 28 February 2011

Sites: 13

Enrolled/target: 267 patients (worldwide) with an equal allocation among the three study groups. All participants randomised into main study are eligible for the extended follow-up. (5 sites in Australia, 3 sites in Thailand, 6 sites in Argentina)

Personnel: Cate Carey, David Courtney-

Rodgers, Chris Duncombe

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2009

■ The STEP Study Rollover HVTN 540

This was an observational rollover study for The STEP Study, the volunteers enrolled in STEP were asked to consent to 3-monthly follow-up offering increased HIV testing and exploring attitudes and any negative aspects for them following their participation in STEP.

Status: Study completed and closed at end of December 2009.

Sites: 1

Enrolled/target: 2,057/3,000 globally; 11/18

in Australia

Personnel: Fraser Drummond, Anthony

Kelleher

Funding: Merck Sharp & Dohme, Australia, HIV Trials Network US National Institutes of

Health

ART 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/µL despite prolonged HIV plasma viraemia <50 copies/mL for at least 12 months on combination antiretroviral therapy.

Status: Recruitment commenced March 2009 and concluded August 2009.

Sites: 20 Australian sites Enrolled/target: 75/72

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

Amin

MISCELLANEOUS

■ 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/mm³ versus commencing at a CD4+ cell count of <350 cells/mm³. 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

Status: Recruitment opened April 2009. **Sites:** 100 in the pilot phase with 17 sites in the Sydney region (sites coordinated by NCHECR), to be expanded in the definitive phase.

Target: pilot phase enrolment 900 patients with 220 from sites coordinated by NCHECR; enrolment in the definitive phase will be 4000 (with approximately 1000 from sites coordinated by NCHECR)

Personnel: Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, Megan Evans, Simone Jacoby,

Funding: US NIH, NHMRC

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consent documentation.

STEAL CVD biomarker Sub-study

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

Status: Analysis of stored blood samples **Sites:** All that participated in the main STEAL study and collected storage samples

Target: All participant storage samples collected at week 0, 12, 24 and 48

Personnel: Allison Humphries, Sean Emery, Janaki Amin, David Cooper, Anthony Kelleher

Funding: Gilead Sciences

■ STEAL Bone biomarker Sub-study

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

Status: In development.

Sites: All that participated in the main STEAL study and collected storage samples Target: All participant storage samples

collected at week 0, 12, 24, 48, 72 and 96 **Personnel:** Hila Haskelberg, Sean Emery, Andrew Carr, Jennifer Hoy, Janaki Amin,

Peter Ebeling

Funding: NCHECR, UNSW and Dept Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital

■ FLU002

An International Observational Study to Characterize Adults with Influenza A -Pandemic H1N1 (H1N1v) INSIGHT H1N1v Outpatient Study (FLU 002)

Status: vs. 2.0 06-Nov-2009, open at sites with community transmission of H1N1 **Sites:** 75 sites globally; in Sydney region: 22 sites (in Thailand, Argentina, Chile and

Australia)

Target: 696/5000; enrolment in Sydney region n=7

Personnel: Sarah Pett, Sean Emery, Rose Robson

Funding: NIAID

■ FLU003

An International Observational Study to Characterize Adults Who Are Hospitalized with Complications of Influenza A – Pandemic H1N1 (H1N1v) INSIGHT H1N1v Hospitalization Study (FLU 003)

Status: vs. 1.0 18-Aug-2009, open at sites with community transmission of H1N1 Sites: 88 globally; 18 in Sydney region (in Thailand, Argentina, Chile, Hong Kong and Australia)

Target: 1600; total enrolment; enrolment in Sydney region n=1

Personnel: Sarah Pett, Sean Emery, Rose Robson

Funding: NIAID

■ RESTORE

An observational study to explore reconstitution of immunity in patients with

advanced HIV-1-infection commencing combination antiretroviral therapy

Status: In development; expected start date June 2010.

Sites: To be confirmed, 6-8 sites in Australia; 1 site in Thailand Target: 125-150 patients

Personnel: Sarah Pett, Sean Emery,

Anthony Kelleher **Funding:** NHMRC

■ SPARTA

A randomised, open-label, cross-over study to examine the pharmacokinetics and short-term safety and efficacy of two dosing strategies of raltegravir plus atazanavir in HIV-infected patients.

Status: Recruitment open July 2009; and closed April 2010

Sites: 2 Target: 24

Personnel: Dianne Carey

Funding: UNSW

reconstitution of minimum y in patients v

HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

he HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program (HEPP) conducts research into the transmission and prevention of HIV and sexually transmissible infections (STIs), and work on the cancers that occur in people with HIV

The extraordinary productivity arising from the Health in Men study continued in 2009. More than 30 peer reviewed publications have now arisen from this ground-breaking work. In 2009, results were published on the association of HIV infection with risk reduction behaviours, receipt of non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis, and use of illicit drugs. Other findings were published on sexually transmissible infections including on the high prevalence of anal human papillomavirus infection (the cause of anal cancer) and on syphilis.

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, and investigations

of the motivations for risk behaviour and beliefs around HIV and AIDS among gay men. In 2009, funding was obtained to extend the HIV Seroconversion Study to all Australian states and territories through 2012.

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 2009, 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 and invited reviews in specialist journals. The latest analysis of cancer in people with HIV in Australia published in 2009 revealed that rates for most cancers were declining due to antiretroviral therapy, but that rates for some cancers, for example anal cancer, did not appear to be declining despite immune reconstitution. This means that anal cancer will be an increasing focus of our work in future years. Data were published on the risk factors for immune deficiency-related cancers in organ transplant recipients, including cancer of the lip, melanoma, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma.









HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

(left to right)
Andrew Grulich
Garrett Prestage
David Templeton
Iryna Zablotska
Jeff Jin
Ian Down
Pól McCann
Marina van Leeuwen
Jack Bradley
Ati Ayoub

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 and active follow up ceased in 2007. In 2009, 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: 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 final reporting occurred in 2009.

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: postexposure 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 final reporting occurred in 2009.

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 final reporting occurred in 2009.

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 2009, online and direct

enrolment continued in Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia, and was extended to South Australia. In total, 201 men with recent primary HIV infection have been enrolled. Preliminary analysis and reporting has commenced and is ongoing. Funding was sought to continue the study through 2012 and extend to all states and territories. Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Ian Down, 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 Health; NSW Health Department; Western Australian Health Department; South Australian Department of Health.

■ 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 2009, 9,009 surveys were completed in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Canberra, as well as in certain regional areas of Queensland and NSW. Ongoing analysis and reporting occurred in 2009

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Iryna
Zablotska, Ian Down, 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: Data collection is completed: In total, 994 men completed the study questionnaire and sixteen men were

interviewed in depth. Analysis and reporting is ongoing.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Jack Bradley. Collaborators: The University of Sydney; AIDS Council of New South Wales; Victorian AIDS Council; Queensland Association of Healthy Communities.

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 2009, funding was obtained to extend the study to South Australia. Interview schedules and questionnaires were finalised. In total, 4125 men were referred to the survey, of whom 2306 provided sufficiently complete survey questionnaires for inclusion in analysis. 40 men were interviewed in depth. Data analysis and reporting is ongoing. Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Jack Bradley, Pol McCann, Ian Down

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 Health; NSW Health Department; Western Australian Health Department; South Australian Department of Health.

■ Modelling interventions to prevent syphilis infection and their acceptability among gay men

This study uses mathematical modelling to estimate the likely impact of a range of interventions designed to reduce rates of syphilis infection among gay men, and uses both quantitative and qualitative research methods to assess how acceptable such interventions would be to the target population.

Status: During 2009, gay men were recruited to answer specific questions about their knowledge of syphilis and their attitudes toward a range of possible interventions through an online survey and were then invited to participate in focus groups in Sydney and Melbourne. Data from mathematical models were considered alongside the findings from the acceptability study. Data analysis and reporting is ongoing. Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Pol McCann, Jack Bradley, Ian Down.

Collaborators: Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society.

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing, NSW Health Department, Victorian Department of Health.

■ Sexually adventurous men's study

A study to document and record the work of the Sexually Adventurous Men's Projects of the Victorian AIDS Council and PLWHA Victoria, and to investigate the beliefs and behaviours among gay men in sexually adventurous networks in Melbourne.

Status: Processes and record-keeping documentation were established in 2009, and data collection has commenced. Survey questionnaire has been developed and will be administered during 2010. Analysis and reporting will commence in 2010.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage.

Collaborators: Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society; Victorian AIDS Council; PLWHA Victoria.

Funding: Victorian Health Department.

■ Defining risk and mechanisms of permucosal transmission of acute HCV infection within high-risk populations

A study of HCV transmission and its risk factors among homosexual men.

Status: The study samples have been stored and will undergo batch analysis in 2010. During 2009, five patients have been enrolled prospectively into the study and have consented to the qualitative interview study. Recruitment is ongoing.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Ian Down, Jack Bradley, Mark Danta, Gail Matthews, Tanya Applegate

Funding: NHMRC

HIV-related cancer 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 in 2009.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett
Prestage, Marina van Leeuwen
Collaborators: UNSW Cancer research
Centre: Dorevitch Pathology - Mayne

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

Funding: UNSW

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■ 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 and reporting were completed in 2009.

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.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich

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, melanoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and cancers in people during dialysis.

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

Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

2009 was a rewarding year for the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program (VHCRP) with several of the program's large studies reaching completion and being published. The program was also successful in being awarded an NHMRC Partnership Grant. The Hepatitis C Incidence and Transmission Study incident case cohort (HITS-i) funded by the UNSW Strategic Research Grant commenced recruitment and follow-up of incident cases through St. Vincent's Hospital and community outreach.

An NHMRC Project entitled Defining risk and mechanisms of permucosal transmission for acute HCV infection within high-risk populations (RAMPT-C Study) commenced recruitment at St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney with Dr Mark Danta as the study Principal Investigator and Dr Gail Matthews as Co-Investigator. The study will also be conducted at the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne in collaboration with A/Prof Margaret Hellard. The Enhancing Treatment for Hepatitis C in Opiate Substitution Settings (ETHOS) study commenced recruitment at six hepatitis assessment and treatment clinics established within existing drug and alcohol clinics across

NSW. The program was successful in its NHMRC Partnership Grant and was awarded \$1,495,000 from NHMRC and an additional \$1,000,000 from NSW Health for 2010-2014 to expand and extend the ETHOS project activity. The program established HepBank, a large hepatitis C sample repository and established a hepatitis C laboratory research program through the NHMRC Program Grant. Dr Tanya Applegate joined the program as a senior lecturer and began research into hepatitis C mixed infection and protease and polymerase resistance in collaboration with Silvana Gaudieri (Royal Perth Hospital and Murdoch University). Finally, the International Collaboration of Incident hepatitis C in Injecting Cohorts (InC³) Collaborative Group was founded in 2009 by researchers from eight cohorts in Australia, Canada, Europe and the United States, with Greg Dore and Jason Grebely having a leading role in the development of this project. The aim of the collaboration was to create a merged multi-cohort project of pooled data from well characterised cohorts of IDUs with acute HCV infection, facilitate new in-depth studies not possible from each individual study and bring together researchers across disciplines.

Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

(left to right)
Greg Dore
Gail Matthews
Rosie Thein
Jason Grebely
Pip Marks
Alexa Gillman
Ineke Shaw
Barbara Yeung
Brendan Jacka
Amanda Erratt
Patrick McGrath
Jennifer Moore
Natalie Espinosa
Absent:
Tanya Applegate
Lara Cassar
Carolyn Day
Marianne Jauncey





















■ Cancer Council STREP Grant

Understanding hepatocellular carcinoma in NSW

Status: Ethics approval for NSW HBV and HCV linkage study (linkage to NSW Central Cancer Registry, Mortality data from Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages and Australian Bureau of Statistics, NSW Admitted Patient Data Collection) was granted from the NSW Population & Health Services Research Ethics Committee and the UNSW HREC during 2009. A probabilistic linkage of NSW Notifiable Diseases Database, Admitted Patient Data Collection, Central Cancer Registry and deaths was completed at the end of 2009. The linkage was carried out by the Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL).

Personnel: Rosie Thein, Heather Gidding, Janaki Amin, Matthew Law, Greg Dore Collaborators: Kate Ward (NSW Health) Funding: The Cancer Council NSW

HCV modelling and health outcomes

The objective was to evaluate the potential epidemiological impact and expected cost-effectiveness of increased hepatitis C treatment uptake in Australia over the next 30 years (2010-2039).

Status: Mathematical modelling and economic evaluation was completed at the end of 2009

Personnel: Rosie Thein, Alex Hoare, Greg Dore, David Wilson

Collaborators: Murray Krahn (University of Toronto, Canada)

Funding: Roche Products (Australia) Pty Ltd.

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, was completed November 2007 and follow-up completed in February 2009.

Sites: 20 sites Enrolled/target: 168/240

Personnel: Barbara Yeung, Pip Marks, 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 (CHARIOT)

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

Status: 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: Natalie Espinosa, Ineke Shaw, 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: Commenced recruitment in May 2009 **Personnel:** 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, St. Vincent's Hospital Sydney

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

A series of research projects which aims to increase the number of people with chronic hepatitis c virus (HCV) who access and complete HCV treatment in the pharmacotherapy setting. Within the

pharmacotherapy setting the project included; education and training of health care workers; an evaluation of client and practitioner's knowledge and attitudes; development of a network of HCV assessment and treatment clinics and the development of the ETHOS Cohort study. The cohort aims to examine HCV treatment uptake, treatment response and incidence of reinfection among clients with chronic HCV and a history of injection drug use.

Status (ETHOS cohort): Commenced recruitment February 2009

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, UNSW; Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Hepatitis NSW, Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League; Hepatitis Australia; NSW Users and AIDS Association.

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, Patrick McGrath

Collaborators: Johns Hopkins University; Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory; The Alfred Hospital; Royal Melbourne Hospital; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, HIV-NAT, Bangkok, Thailand 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

■ Defining Risk and Mechanism of Permucosal Transmission for acute **HCV** Infection within high-risk populations (RAMPT-C Study)

The study aims to characterize permucosal transmission of HCV among HIV-positive and HIV-negative MSM, through clinical and molecular epidemiological analysis, with qualitative socio-behavioural and biological studies to explore the transmission mechanisms. The Study consists of three parts: Part I - Phylogenetics analysis, Part II -semen analysis, and Part III - Behavioural mechanism interview. An eligible patient can participate in Part I only or all three parts. Status: Recruitment started in November 2009 at St. Vincent's Hospital, NSW. The Alfred Hospital, VIC will start recruitment in March 2010.

Enrolled/target: Part I - prospective component: 5/50; Part II - 3/65; Part III - 3/20 Personnel: Natalie Espinosa, Barbara Yeung, Pip Marks, Dr Mark Danta, Dr Gail Matthews, Prof. Greg Dore Collaborator: The Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, St. Vincent's Hospital, NSW. Funding: National Health and Medical Research Council Project Grant and St. Vincent's Clinic Foundation Research Grant.

■ The International Collaboration of Incident hepatitis C in Injecting Cohorts (InC3)

Collaborative Group This merged collaborative project aims to evaluate aspects of the epidemiology, natural history, virology, immunology and treatment of HCV among injection drug users with welldefined acute HCV infection. This is the largest consortium of investigators ever assembled to investigate acute HCV infection. Status: The first data merger occurred in

Enrolled: 539 participants

September 2009.

Personnel: Andrew Lloyd, Lisa Maher, Margaret Hellard, Julie Bruneau, Naglaa Shoukry, Kimberly Page, Maria Prins, Arthur Kim, Barbara McGovern, Georg Lauer, Andrea Cox.

Collaborators: University of New South Wales, the Burnet Institute, Université de Montréal, University of California San Francisco, the University of Amsterdam and Public Health Service of Amsterdam, Harvard, Johns Hopkins.

NEW SOUTH WALES

St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research - Clinical Research Program (SVC for AMR-CRP)

Site principal: Greg Dore, Mark Danta Site co-ordinators: Rebecca Hickey, Dianne How Chow

Clinic 36

Site principal: Paul Haber Site co-ordinators: Frances Tenison, Janice Pritchard-Jones

Regent House

Site principal: Paul Haber Site co-ordinators: Ann Taylor, Janice Pritchard-Jones

Hunter Pharmacotherapy Services

Site principal: Adrian Dunlop Site co-ordinators: Susan Hazelwood and Raka Tierney

Kite Street Community Clinic, Orange

Site principal: Annie Balcomb Site co-ordinators: Tim Lynch, Josephine Buckerfield and Fiona D'Aquino

Rankin Court Treatment Clinic

Site principal: Alex Wodak Site co-ordinators: Dianne How Chow and Catherine Andrews

VICTORIA

Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health

Site principal: Margaret Hellard Site co-ordinator: Sally von Bibra

The Alfred Hospital

Site principals: Margaret Hellard, Site co-ordinators: Sally von Bibra

INTERNATIONAL

Thailand

Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre HIV-NAT

VIRAL HEPATITIS CLINICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM (VHCRP) CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK (AUSTRALIAN SITES)

Each site listed below has recruited and/or followed at least one subject in a VHCRP research protocol during 2009.

Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

uring 2009 screening and recruitment continued for the Hepatitis Incidence and Transmission Study - community (HITS-c), a new prospective observational study of anti-HCV negative people who inject drugs being conducted in six sites throughout Sydney. Part of a program of preparedness for clinical trials of candidate hepatitis C vaccines under the auspices of the UNSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative, in 2009 VHEPP and a group of international collaborators were awarded an NHMRC Project Grant to continue the cohort as part of our HCV Vaccine preparedness research. In 2009, Jenny Iversen and her team successfully conducted the largest ever annual Australian NSP Survey, recruiting 2680 participants and collecting data on HIV and HCV antibody prevalence and associated risk factors, and needle and syringe coverage. The survey continues to value-add to Australia's internationally recognised surveillance system, with the publication of a paper modelling the impact of NSPs on HCV well received by policymakers and resulting in a NSW Health policy direction to remove restrictions on the availability of sterile injecting equipment and increase distribution. VHEPP staff (Jenny Iversen, Bethany White and Lisa Maher) also contributed to the Return on Investment Report released this year. Recruitment continued into 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. The trial is being conducted with partners at the Kirketon Road Centre and Redfern Drug Health Service and during 2009 was coordinated by Brian Acraman and Dr Rachel Deacon, with assistance from Mofi Islam and Anna Doab,

while Kathy Barnes is on maternity leave. This year saw the completion of the communitybased participatory research component of the Indigenous Resilience Project led by Dr Julie Mooney-Somers and the production of a final report and several publications from the Townsville site. With the appointment of Dr Anna Olsen in mid 2009, the project is now moving into the final phase with plans to conduct a survey of BBV/STI risk and resilience among young Aboriginal people during 2010. Other projects in 2009 included a NSW Health-funded study of hepatitis C seroconversion in collaboration with the National Centre in HIV Social Research, a longitudinal study of Culture and HIV Prevention in Cambodia funded by the National Institutes of Health and CIHR-funded research examining the social and environmental influences on injection drug use conducted with collaborators at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS in Vancouver.

Also in 2009, NHMRC post-doctoral fellows Dr Jo Kimber and Dr Peter Higgs continued work on their respective projects, with Jo analysing data from the Edinburgh cohort and Peter continuing to interview long-term anti-HCV negative injectors as part of the Staying Safe collaboration. In 2010 VHEPP will welcome its third NHMRC post-doctoral fellow with Dr Anna Olsen awarded a fellowship to study hepatitis B in Indigenous communities. VHEPP also had two PhD graduations in 2009 with Heidi Coupland and Allison Salmon awarded PhDs in May and Susan Hudson submitting her thesis in December. During 2009 VHEPP staff submitted 41 papers for publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals; 25 of which were published with a further seven in press and nine under review.



VHEPP

lleft to right]
Lisa Maher
Anna Olsen
Joanne Kimber
Julie Mooney-Somers
Brian Acraman
Anna Bates
Rachel Deacon
Jarliene Enriquez
Jenny Iversen
Len Liao
Rachel McCleave

Absent:
Kathy Barnes
Anna Doab
Aylza Donald
Peter Higgs
Ekramul Hoque
Marlene Thompson
Mofi Islam
Anh Pham

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 2009, 50 NSP sites and almost 2,700 respondents participated in the survey.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Jenny Iversen, Kerri Shying,

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: Julie Mooney-Somers, Anna Olsen, Marlene Thompson, 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; Ngã Pae o te Mãramatanga, 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 7ealand (HRC)

■ UNSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative

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 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: Ongoing. Two papers based on formative ethnographic research submitted, one in press. During the first year of recruitment, the Hepatitis C Incidence and Transmission Study – community (HITS-c) enrolled 108 anti-HCV negative participants, with 76% retention at six months.

Personnel: Jarliene Enriquez, Aylza Donald, Anna Bates, Anh Pham, Len Liao, Bethany White, 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 3dose 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: Ongoing. To date a total of 66

eligible participants have been enrolled in the trial (41 at the Kirketon Road Centre and 21 at Redfern Drug Health Service). A third site, drawing on the HITS-c study, was initiated in south-west Sydney in November 2009 and has enrolled 4 participants to date. Personnel: Brian Acraman (to April 2009), Rachel Deacon (from April 2009), Mofizul Islam (from June 2009), Anna Doab (from November 2009). 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?

Building upon an existing cohort of injecting drug users, this study seeks to investigate the behavioural, social, environmental and economic factors that distinguish IDUs with and without hepatitis C exposure. It will identify, from the narratives of HCV negative injectors, strategies that may help in the development of interventions for injectors to remain HCV free. A series of up to 3 interviews has been conducted with long term injectors. Results will be compared with similar studies underway in New York and London as part of an international collaboration.

Status: Ongoing. A series of in-depth interviews with long term HCV uninfected injectors (n=25) is almost complete with data analysis to commence in 2010. 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, Burnet Institute Funding: NHMRC Training Fellowship; UNSW Faculty of Medicine Small Grant Scheme.

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 related risk and preventive behaviour, including adherence to a preventive vaccine regimen, among young women working in the sex and

entertainment industry in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Phase 1 consists of a formative qualitative phase to assess the constructs of harmonious control and fatalism, risk behaviours, 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: Ongoing. Training workshops conducted, data collection and analyses in progress

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 was designed to improve existing surveillance and contribute to prevention of hepatitis C in NSW, by improving mechanisms for identifying cases of newly acquired hepatitis C infection and conducting a targeted qualitative study of HCV seroconverters. Aims were to (i) consult with NSW Health, area public health units, laboratories and high case-load doctors to determine acceptable liaison and referral pathways for recruitment; (ii) pilot the recruitment methodology and interview on a small sample of seroconverters; (iii) conduct a targeted study of people with recently acquired HCV infection; and (iv) assess the feasibility of a laboratory-based methodology in increasing the identification of newly acquired cases in NSW. Status: This study was completed in 2009 and

the final report submitted to NSW Health.

Personnel: Rachel Deacon, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV

Social Research, NSW Users and AIDS

Association (NUAA), Hepatitis C Council of

NSW, SEALS, Laverty Symbion pathology

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 **Personnel:** Susan Hudson (PhD student), Lisa Maher

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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

he 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. 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.

The SHP works with the Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health (SEPPH) to refine the reporting of routine STI notification data. The SHP also leads a project that has established a sentinel surveillance network for ano-genital warts in high-risk populations. The SHP is also involving in developing international guidelines for the use of de-tuned assays for the surveillance of incident HIV infections. The program is currently involved in molecular epidemiology studies of Neisseria gonorrhoeae (with the WHO Collaborating Reference Laboratory at Prince of Wales Hospital) and Chlamydia trachomatis (with the Microbiology Department of the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne). In projects led by the modelling team at NCHECR, the SHP consults on syphilis, chlamydia and HPV transmission dynamic

studies and models of STI screening interventions among sex workers. The SHP is involved in extensive studies of the health and welfare of Australian prisoners (with the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW and Curtin University), sex workers (with the Faculty of Law at UNSW and the School of Population Health at the University of Melbourne), backpackers and travellers (with the Sydney Sexual Health Centre), Aboriginal Australians (with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program in NCHECR and the NHMRC-funded CCRE in Aboriginal Sexual Health), and homosexually active men (with the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program in NCHECR). The SHP is also part of national collaborations that are developing three large randomised controlled trails investigating the efficacy of enhanced best-practice in STI management in remote Aboriginal communities (STRIVE Trial): the feasibility and effectiveness of enhanced chlamydia screening in primary care (ACCEPt Trial); and the efficacy of chemoprophylaxis with doxycycline in preventing syphilis in HIV positive men Syphilaxis Trial). With SEPPH and HEPP, on behalf of DoHA, the program has recently been developing a national plan for the control of syphilis in homosexual men.

Sexual Health Program

lett to right!
Basil Donovan
Rebecca Guy
Joanne Micallef
Neil Franklin
Karen Schneider
Kel Heymer
Candace Mitchell
Absent:
Christine Harcourt
Rashmi Fotedar
Karen Schneided
Kirsty Smith











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: Ongoing data collection analysis and

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, 27 general practices, nine antenatal clinics, 25 sexual health clinics, seven Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and fifteen 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: Ongoing data collection analysis and evaluation

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: Syphilaxis

A syphilis epidemic has recently re-emerged among MSM in Australia, particularly among those with HIV infection. 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 HIV infected men who have sex with men treated with 100mg of doxycycline once daily with those receiving placebo. The study will employ a randomised, double-blind placebo design. HIV-infected men who have sex with men will be recruited through designated research sites and followed over an 18 month period. Status: Protocol development.

Personnel: Fraser Drummond, Rebecca Guy, Kathy Petoumenos, Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, David Cooper, Basil Donovan, John Kaldor.

Collaborators: Clinics in Australia, USA, Canada and Peru

Funding: In negotiation

■ 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 (SHAAP) 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 computerassisted 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 Reinfection 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 chlamydianegative 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.

Australian Chlamydia Control Effectiveness Pilot (ACCEPt)

Chlamydia notifications have been increasing for over a decade and approximately 80% of are among young men and women aged 15 to 29 years. Regular testing for chlamydia is recognised as a key public health control strategy. As chlamydia is mostly asymptomatic it can be transmitted unknowingly to others, thereby representing a hidden reservoir of infection if left undiagnosed. Furthermore without treatment, chlamydia may lead to severe clinical consequences such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and infertility, ectopic pregnancy and pregnancy-related complications. Current national guidelines for GPs recommend all sexually active people aged 15-29 years old receive annual testing for chlamydia. More than 80% of 15–29 year olds attend a GP each year less however less than 10% are being tested for chlamydia by their GP. ACCEPt will involve a multifaceted intervention in the general practice setting to maximise testing rates and annual testing in sexually active 16?29 year olds and reduce the prevalence of chlamydia infections and its associated complications such as PID. In mid 2010 ACCEPt will be implemented. This is the first trial of this nature in Australia and is being led by the Centre for Women's Health, Gender and Society in collaboration with a large consortium of experts including a number of researchers from NCHECR. In addition, NCHECR has been contracted by the Centre for Women's Health, Gender and Society to develop the protocol for Program Evaluation and Mathematical Modelling and undertake these activities in collaboration with other ACCEPt investigators.

Status: Evaluation Protocol finalised in mid 2009. Trial implementation and data collection mid 2010 to mid 2013

Personnel: Basil Donovan, John Kaldor, Matthew Law, James Ward, Rebecca Guy, Kirsty Smith, David Regan, David Wilson Collaborators: Centre for Women's Health, Gender and Society (leading agency), Department of General Practice/University of Melbourne, School of Population Health/University of Melbourne, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, University of Bern, Latrobe University, Deakin University, Victorian Cytology Service, Burnet Institute, Royal Women's Hospital, Bern University, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. Funding: Commonwealth Department of

Funding: Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (2008-2011).

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program

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

- Research: The conduct of 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.

The program has a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) which provides a supporting environment for the conduct of research in partnership with Aboriginal communities. The program in 2009 published the 3rd Bloodborne Viral and Sexually Transmissible Infections in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: Surveillance and Evaluation Report. This report was launched jointly with the Australian Surveillance Report by Lizzie Adams of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council.











Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program

left to right) James Ward Simon Graham Candace Mitchell Clint Arizmendi Snehal Akre

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

STRIVE is a community randomised trial design ed to determine two questions: whether targeted support to primary health care services, including the implementation of a quality improvement package can improve the provision of sexual health clinical services in remote communities; and whether the attainment of best practice levels in clinical activity can reduce the prevalence of bacterial STIs in these communities. The trial will take place in 21 clusters comprised of more than 60 remote Aboriginal communities, of which seven will be randomly assigned in each of the three years of the trial to receive the tailored package.

Status: Commenced stage 1 - community engagement and planning 2009/2010. Personnel: John Kaldor, James Ward, Rebecca Guy, Lisa Maher, Basil Donovan, Matthew Law

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

This grant includes a trial aimed at enhancing clinical practice to reduce STIs in urban and regional Aboriginal primary health care settings in NSW and a general practice survey.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: James Ward, John Kaldor and

Simon Graham

Collaborators: Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in NSW

Funding: NSW Health

■ Centre for Clinical Research Excellence in Aboriginal Health: Bloodborne viral and sexually transmitted infections.

This CCRE was funded in 2009 and will bring together researchers from NCHECR, NACCHO and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to conduct innovative research that will identify new approaches to diagnosing and managing STIs and BBVs while at the same time developing improved clinical guidelines and research capacity within the sector.

Status: Planning and Community Engagement

Personnel: John Kaldor, James Ward, Basil Donovan, Greg Dore, Sarah Potter Collaborators: National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation; Aboriginal Health and Medical Research

Council of NSW; Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia, Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney, Durri Aboriginal Medical Service, Nunkawarrin Yunti of South Australia, Goondir Aboriginal Health Service, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. Funding: NHMRC CCRE Program

Sexual Health and Relationship in Young Indigenous People

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. During the next five years a cross sectional survey will be conducted across Aboriginal communities across Australia to determine risk behaviours, knowledge and health service use of young Indigenous people relating to STIs and BBVs.

Status: Planning and community engagement phases

Personnel: James Ward, John Kaldor, Clint

Arizmendi

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

Funding: Australian Research Council (ARC)

Linkage Grant

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

NCHECR personnel are working to develop an evaluation framework and monitor evaluative outcomes for six demonstration youth STI projects nationally (two in the Northern Territory, three in NSW and one in Victoria).

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: James Ward, John Kaldor,

Simon Graham Funding: AIHW

Collaborations on STI, HIV and viral hepatitis projects

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.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: D Regan, D Wilson, A Grulich, J

Collaborators: University of Melbourne,

UNSW SPHCM

Funding: NHMRC Project Grants

Modelling the interaction between sexually transmitted infections and HIV transmission to inform public health policy

This project will conduct quantitative analyses using the domains of epidemiology, mathematical modelling, and health economics to investigate the impact of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and where applicable injecting drug use, on population level transmission of HIV.

Status: Establishment phase Personnel: D Wilson, R Gray, J, Ward. Collaborators: Rob Carter, Jonathon

Funding:_NHMRC Project Grant

ACCEPt: 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 costeffectives 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.

Status: Establishment phase

Personnel: Jane Hocking, Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy, John Kaldor, Matthew Law, David Wilson, James Ward, David Regan Collaborators: University Of Melbourne, NACCHO, Selected Divisions of General Practice

Funding: Department of Health and Ageing

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: Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing

Increasing completeness of 'Aboriginality' in infectious diseases data through record linkage

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'.

Status: Ongoing **Personnel:** James Ward

Collaborators: NSW Health; H Corner, M

Bartlett, J McAnulty 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

Funding: NCHECR

■ 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

Personnel: James Ward, John Kaldor **Collaborators:** Menzies School of Health Research; La Trobe University, J Knox, J Boyle

Funding: NCHECR

Biostatistics and Databases Program

■he Biostatistics and Databases Program continued and expanded its wide ranging activities during 2009. 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 ATAHC study (see Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program). Web-based data bases were developed for the ENCORE and Second Line studies (see Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program) and further work on NCHECR's national HIV and AIDS surveillance databases was continued. The program also played a major, sometimes leading, role in a large number of collaborative projects, both nationally and internationally. The program was also awarded an NHMRC project grant to support methodological work looking at cluster analyses of HIV and other infections. Clinical observational cohorts continued to be a major research area in the program with the Australian HIV Observational Database, 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, and assess questions regarding the natural history of HIV/HCV

infections and treatment. Two Linkage studies were analysed, linking HIV-infected patients from AHOD, and HCV and HBV notifications in New South Wales, to hospitalisation data, providing population based data on rates of hospitalisations.

Sexually transmissible infections became an area of increasing interest for the Program during 2009. The program contributed to the design of the STRIVE and ACCEPt trials (see Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program, and Sexual Health Program). Epidemic transmission models of HPV were developed, and the role of international travellers in transmission investigated. Models of Chlamydia transmission were developed and used to assess different screening and testing methods that might be implemented in the STRIVE trial. During 2009 the program, with the other researchers within NCHECR and externally, was awarded a Program Grant for clinical research in STIs that will underpin development of this area from 2010.

At the end of the 2009 the program moved offices to the UNSW Coogee campus. The move went extremely well, and the program benefited from improved and greater office space. The new offices will support the program's continued expected growth into 2010.

Biostatistics and Databases Program

(left to right)
Matthew Law
John Murray
Janaki Amin
David Regar
Handan Wand
Stephen Kerr
Azar Kariminia
Kathy Petoumenos
Jialun Zhou
Ben Hu
Heather Gidding
Awachana Jiamsakul
Hamish McManus
Rebecca Oyompito
reeyaporn Srasuebkul
Rossitza Chevkenova
Greg Londish
Courtney Bendall
Noorul Absar
Amit Achtra
Ned Waters
Absent



■ 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, Hamish McManus, 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)

■ Myocardial infarction, assessment of Antiretroviral and Genetic factors in Human Immunodeficiency virus infection: MAGNIFICENT

International collaborative project of 17 Observational HIV Cohort Studies to evaluate the contribution of single nucleotide polymorphisms (identified in genome-wide association studies in the general population) and of combination antiretroviral therapy (cART), traditional acute coronary artery disease (CAD) risk factors, and HIV-related factors (CD4+count, HIV RNA levels) to CAD events in HIV-infected individuals

Personnel: Courtney Bendall, Kathy Petoumenos

Collaborators: Network of clinical sites (GPs, hospitals and sexual health clinics) throughout Australia; Swiss HIV Cohort Study Group

■ 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: Sadaf Marashi-Pour Collaborator: Highly Specialised Drugs Program, Special Access and Coordination Section, Pharmaceutical Access and Quality Branch, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

■ TREAT Asia HIV Observational

Database (TAHOD)

Observational cohort study of patients with HIV at 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 2009, baseline and retrospective data from some 4,500 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
Srasuebkul, 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:** Approximately 1000 patients were recruited to TASER-M and had baseline data transferred to NCHECR so far. Recruitment will continue during 2010 with approximately 4 new sites joining the study.

Personnel: Awachana Jiamsakul, 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 qovernment of the Netherlands

Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS)

In collaboration with the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program, ACHOS is a clinic-based study of chronically infected hepatitis C patients, with observational follow-up for data on predictors of treatment uptake and outcomes following treatment. Recruitment was completed in December 2009 and 1243 patients are now being follow-up until at least the end of 2010.

Personnel: Heather Gidding, Janaki Amin, Matthew Law, Greg Dore

Collaborators: Network of 25 sites around Australia

Funding: State and Territory Health Departments

■ Morbidity in people with hepatitis B and C in New South Wales

This is a population-based data linkage study. Notification records for cases of hepatitis B and/or hepatitis C in New South Wales have been linked to their hospital, death, and HIV/AIDS records by The Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL). Hospitalisation rates and standardised hospitalisation ratios have been calculated for all cause and cause specific admissions. For people with hepatitis C mono-infection, rates were 42% higher than in the NSW population overall and the greatest excess was in 15-19 year olds. Lifestyle factors accounted for the highest absolute and relative rates in young adults whilst liver disease contributed the greatest burden in older adults. Further analyses will examine the relative impact of hepatitis and HIV coinfection on morbidity.

Personnel: Heather Gidding, Janaki Amin, Matthew Law, Greg Dore

Collaborators: New South Wales Health, Centre for Health Record Linkage (CHeReL) Funding: University of New South Wales

■ TREAT Asia Paediatric HIV

Observational Database (TApHOD) is a collaborative cohort of HIV-infected children.

in the Asia-Pacific region. The study participants are recruited from TREAT Asia clinical sites. Demographic, clinical and treatment data are aggregated twice each year via electronic data transfer. Currently, 14 sites in six countries have agreed to participate and 12 sites transferred their data to the NCHECR for aggregation.

Status: Data for around 3000 patients from 12 sites in 5 countries were aggregated in September 2009. Further recruitment is planned for 2010 and follow-up for at least three years. Two sites in Vietnam will transfer their data in 2010.

Personnel: Azar Kariminia, Matthew Law Collaborators: Network of 8 sites initially throughout the Asia-Pacific region Funding: TApHOD is funded by The Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), the Austrian AIDS Life Association, and the U.S. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).

■ Biostatistics and database support

Writing clinical trial databases, and providing biostatistical input to the design and analysis of all NCHECR projects. Status: During 2009, members of the Program actively contributed to the design of, or analysed data from, the STEAL, ALTAIR, ENCORE and Second line studies (see Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program); the ATAHC study (Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program); the ACCEPt study (Sexual Health Program); the STRIVE study (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Study); the NSP survey (Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program); and national surveillance activities, including a number of novel back-projection analyses (Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health).

Personnel: Noorul Absar, Janaki Amin, Rossitza Chevkenova, John Murray, Rebecca Oyomopito, Kathy Petoumenos, Preeyaporn Srasuebkul, Handan Wand, Jialun Zhou

Collaborators: Other Programs at NCHECR **Funding:** Project-specific grants

■ Mathematical modelling of human papillomavirus transmission

This research 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 incidence and prevalence of genital warts in the local Australian population in the vaccine era. This work was presented at the 25th

International Papillomavirus Conference in Malmo Sweden in May, 2009, and a manuscript is at an advanced stage of preparation. A model of genital warts transmission in Australia has been developed and calibrated to estimate the impact of vaccination. This model constitutes the first stage in the development of a full multi-type model of HPV transmission and progression to disease, both cervical and non-cervical, in men and women. A PhD project is underway (Edward Waters) involving the development of an individual-based model to examine the ability of current and proposed HPV surveillance programs to detect and respond to a potential increased burden of diease due to non-vaccine HPV types.

Personnel: David Regan, Matthew Law, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor, Gregory Londish, Edward Waters

Collaborators: 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 bacterial STIs in Australian sub-populations

This research involves the design, implementation and analysis of mathematical models for assessing the health economic impact of public health interventions for the control and prevention of chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and trichomaniasis in different populations in Australia. The models will address the STIs that are of most importance in heterosexual, MSM, and indigenous populations, respectively.

Status: A model of chlamydia transmission in the Australian heterosexual population has been developed to investigate the effect of early treatment on acquired immunity to reinfection. This work was presented at the 18th ISSTDR (International Society for Sexually Transmitted Disease Research) Conference in London in June, 2009, and a manuscript is at an advanced stage of preparation. Models are under development to estimate the potential impact on incidence and prevalence of gonorrhoea and chlamydia in remote indigenous communities under a range of screening and testing strategies.

Personnel: David Regan, David Wilson, Ben Hui, Matthew Law, Rebecca Guy, Basil Donovan, John Kaldor

Collaborators: UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Melbourne, La Trobe University, Deakin University

Funding: National Health and Medical 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

■ INSIGHT NWCS for FIRST (CPCRA 058) banked plasma samples

The effects of Protease Inhibitor and Non-Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitor – based Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) on Biomarkers of Inflammation and Microbial Translocation in HAART naïve, HIV-infected subjects in CPCRA study 058 (FIRST)

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (associate investigator)

Collaborator: Professor Daniel Nixon, DO, PhD, US Richmond (CPCRA 018) SCC Leader

■ Spatial and temporal clustering of chlamydia infection among men who have sex with men (MSM) attending sexual health services in Australia (ACCESS study)

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (chief investigator)
Collaborators: Rebecca Guy, Basil Donovan,
David Wilson (SHS network)

■ Developing and Validating a Selfassessment optimal screening score for Hepatitis C virus infection among injecting drug users

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (chief investigator) **Collaborators:** Lisa Maher, David Wilson

■ Trends in prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases among injecting drug users who attended Sydney Sexual Health Clinic during the period of 1998-2009.

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (chief investigator) Collaborators: Lisa Maher, Basil Donovan and David Wilson (Sydney Sexual Health Clinic database 1998-2009)

■ Developing and Validating a Selfassessment screening score for sexually transmitted diseases for menwho-have sex with men, injecting drug users, sex workers who attended Sydney Sexual Health Clinic during the period of 1998-2009.

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (chief investigator) **Collaborators:** Lisa Maher, Basil Donovan

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and David Wilson (Sydney Sexual Health Clinic database 1998-2009)

■ IRD case-control study in INITIO

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (associate

investigator)

Collaborator: Martyn French

■ Various back-projection projects using Australian Surveillance database.

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (Chief

investigator)

Collaborator: Matthew Law

■ Various projects using data from **Durban. South Africa**

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (Chief

investigator)

Collaborator: Gita Ramjee (Medical

Research Council)

■ Various projects using data from Goroka, Papua New Guinea

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (Chief /associate

investigator) Collaborator: IMR

■ INSIGHT for SMART

Plasma Levels of Soluble CD14 Independently Predict Mortality in HIV Infection

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (associate

investigator)

Collaborator: Daniel Douek and Netanya Sandler (NIH Vaccine Research Center)

■ INSIGHT NWCS for CPCRA 059 banked serum samples

Treatment with recombinant interleukin-2 (rIL-2) does not reduce gut microbial translocation or systemic inflammation biomarkers in antiretroviral treated HIVinfected subjects.

Status: ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand (associate

investigator)

Collaborator: Daniel Nixon, US Richmond

(CPCRA 018) SCC Leader

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

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

Site principal: Mark Bloch Site coordinators: Teo Franic, Shikha Agrawal, Nicky Cunningham Illawarra Sexual Health Site principal: Katherine Brown Site coordinator: Nina Skobalj

Lismore Sexual Health & AIDS Services

Site principal: David Smith

Site coordinators: Cherie Mincham, Cecily Gray

Nepean Sexual Health and HIV Clinic

Site principal: Tong Liang

Royal Prince Alfred Sexual Health

Site principals: Dave Templeton, Catherine O'Connor

St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research - Clinical Research Program, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principals: David Cooper, Andrew Carr Site coordinators: Gary Keogh, Karl Hesse, Richard Norris

Sydney Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Lynne Wray Site coordinator: Heng Lu

Tamworth Sexual Health Service

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

Taylor Square Private Clinic

Site principal: Robert Finlayson Site coordinator: Isabel Prone

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Communicable Diseases Centre, Royal Darwin Hospital

Site principal: Anuja Kulatunga Site coordinator: Peter Knibbs

QUEENSLAND

AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health

Site principal: Mark Kelly

Site coordinators: Abby Gibson, Henry Magon

Clinic 87

Site principal: David Sowden

Site coordinators: Karen McGill, Alan Walker

Gladstone Road Medical Centre

Site principal: David Orth Site coordinator: David Youds

Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic

Site principal: John Chuah

Site coordinators: May Ngieng, Bridget Dickson

The Dolls House, Cairns Base Hospital

Site principal: Darren Russell Site coordinator: Sandra Downing

AUSTRALIAN HIV OBSERVATIONAL DATABASE (AHOD) NETWORK

NEW SOUTH WALES

Blue Mountains Sexual Health and HIV Clinic

Site principal: Eva Jackson

Dr Ellis, General Medical Practice

Site principal: David Ellis

East Sydney Doctors

Site principal: David Baker Site coordinator: Robyn Vale

Holden Street Clinic

Site principal: Debbie Allen

Holdsworth House Medical Practice

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Care and Prevention Programme

Site principal: William Donohue

VICTORIA

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Tim Read Site coordinator: Julie Silvers

Monash Medical Centre

Site principals: Ian Woolley, Michelle Giles

Site coordinator: Masud Salehin

Northside Clinic

Site principal: Richard Moore

Site coordinators: Sian Edwards, Sally

Carson, Peter Locke

Prahran Market Clinic

Site principal: Norman Roth Site coordinator: John Nicholson

The Alfred Hospital

Site principal: Jennifer Hoy

Site coordinator: Kerrie Watson, Sally Price,

Mellissa Bryant

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of Clinical Immunology, Royal Perth Hospital

Site principal: David Nolan

Site coordinators: Claire Forsdyke, Jenny Skett

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Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

uring 2009 the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program (IVPP) continued to provide laboratory support the other programs within the Centre. The trials section of the laboratory was audited by NATA and was re-accredited for another 3 years in addition to continuing its high level of performance in the external quality assurance program of the Immunovirology Research Network. The first year of the PINT trial with its demanding and complex laboratory components was successfully completed and all assays for the planned analysis at the end of the first year of follow-up were well underway. The laboratory completed is role in the long running ESPRIT, SILCAAT and STEP trials. It provided logistical support for the conduct for a range of other trials such as CORAL, PrIRIS and SPARTAC and for sub studies for competed studies such as ALTAIR and STEAL. Immunopathogenesis work continued apace. especially as part of the PINT and PrIRIS studies supported by the commencement of an NHMRC Program grant. The long-term nonprogressor cohort recruited a large number of new participants under the leadership of Linda Gelgor. Collaborations using the unique T-cell assays developed and patented by staff of the

IVPP blossomed allowing the insights from these assays to be applied to other infectious diseases such as Hepatitis C, CMV and tuberculosis infections, as well as to autoimmune diseases such as Coeliac disease. These studies were made possible by external grants from the Institute of Laboratory Medicine at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney and the Coeliac Research Fund and a major equipment grant from UNSW.

Development of siRNAs as possible therapeutic for stabilizing HIV reservoirs continued and was supported by the awarding of an NHMRC project grant and Research Infrastructure Support Services Grant from the Department of Innovation Industry Science and Research. Sarah Sasson and Oliver Distler were awarded their doctorates and Laura Cook was awarded the University Medal in Medical Microbiology and Immunology for her work on cloning and characterising antigen Specific T regulatory cells. Her supervisor, Nabila Seddiki, was awarded a prize for her presentation at the Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) conference, as was Michelle Bailey for her presentation at the Australasian Flow Cytometry Group conference.



Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

(left to right)
Anthony Kelleher
Kersten Koelsch
Nabila Seddiki
Mee-Ling Munier
Patricia Grey
Michelle Bailey
Susanna Ip
Chansavath Phetsouphanh
Ansari Shaik
Yin Xu
Lucy Watchirs-Smith
Sanjay Swaminathan
Chris Weatherall
Linda Gelgor
Absent:
Lydia Jauncey
Nigel McCathy

■ 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: 147 patients were enrolled in this extension study by Dec 2009.

Personnel: Pat Grey, Ansari Shaik, David Cooper, 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 \$\inf-350\$ cells.

Status: Enrolment ceased in June 2007 by which time 37 patients had been screened. 31 patients continue to be followed up in 2009 Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Pat Grey. 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; Dr Nick Doong, Burwood; Professor David Cooper, St Vincent's Hospital; Mark Kelly, AIDS Medical Unit; Norman Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; Dr BK Tee, The Centre Clinic; Richard Moore, Carlton Clinic; Philip Cunningham, Kate McGhie, Julie Yeung, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney Funding: Wellcome Trust

■ PINT

This study is described in the report of the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program.

Australian Long-Term Nonprogressor Study

The Australian long-term non-progressor cohort study was established in 1994 and is still ongoing. Studies focussing on identifying the reason this rare group of

people with prolonged HIV infection remain healthy, with virtually no damage to their immune system are extremely important for understanding the pathogenesis of HIV and for developing new antiretroviral therapy and preventative vaccines.

Status: In 2009, 25 new patients were recruited to this cohort, this is the largest number recruited since the inception of the study in 1994. Of the 141 participants recruited to this cohort 52 individuals (sustained non-progressors) are still treatment naïve.

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

Collaborators: Long-Term Non-progressor Study Group, including clinical sites in Sydney, Port Kembla, Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne; Kat Marks, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Stephen Kent and Ivan Stratov, University of Melbourne. International collaboration includes Elite Controller Collaborative Project and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). Funding: NHMRC

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 including but not limited to; cryopreservation of serum, plasma and PBMC, archiving and on shipping of samples. The service also includes database management of the storage of these samples. Staff in this laboratory service have also had experience with the implementation assays which are not offered by local diagnostic laboratories. This service contributes to the overall smooth running of clinical trials and natural history studies.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: Kate Merlin, Julie Yeung, Maria Piperias, Bertha Fsadni, 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 sub studies. The laboratory supports these sub studies as a semi-routine service.

Status: Routine use of 6-10 colour multiparameter flow cytometry. Intensive assays were performed as part of the PINT and CORAL studies, including analysis of Stem cells.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), Michelle Bailey, Chansavath Phetsouphanh, Yin Xu, Anthony Kelleher Collaborator: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: Project-specific grants

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

A range of flow cytometric assays for assessing CD4+ and CD8+ T-cell function are worked up in the Laboratory. The measures of antigen-specific T-cells include T cell proliferation, activation and cytokine secretion. Such assays are important for understanding HIV pathogenesis and in responses to vaccines, and therefore 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 nonprogressor cohorts. Intensive assays were performed as part of the phase 1 trial of P04112, and the PINT trial of therapy with the integrase inhibitor, Raltegravir. These studies have now also been extended to the PHIIDO observational study of primary HIV infection. These assays are also being validated in 2 clinical trials: assessing latent TB infection; and CMV re-activation and Adenovirus infection following paediatric bone marrow transplantation, respectively. Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Mee-Ling Munier, (PhD student), Michelle Bailey, Yin Xu, Chansavath Phetsouphanh, Celine Yan, Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Mahila Namasivayam, Tony Walls and John Ziegler, Sydney Children's Hospital

Funding: NHMRC, St Vincent's Hospital

■ 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. We have three major projects: evaluation and conducting commercially available genotype testing for Protease, Reverse Transcriptase regions; development of new in-house genotyping method from blood dry-spot from the patients as a starting material of genotype assay, which will be transferred to collaborator in southeast countries; and developing assay for the determination of CCR5 tropism of patient's HIV isolates and establishing the HIV tropism genotype test in our laboratory. Status: We finished evaluation of ViralSeq HIV-1 Genotyping kits. Currently Over 700 HIV-1 resistance genotypes were performed based on the commercial based resistant assays (TrueGene HIV-1 Genotyping kit and ViralSeq HIV-1 Genotyping kit). New Inhouse genotyping method is under development for Protease, Reverse Transcriptase, and Integrese regions using plasma samples as a starting material. We are confirming sensitivity of the current developed assay and we will start to use dry-blood samples for genotyping assay. We

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just started evaluation of CCR5 tropism assay, which was developed in the laboratory of Prof. Richard Harrigan, Director of Research Laboratories at the British Columbian Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS in Vancouver, Canada. We will compare this new tropism assay to the Trofile TM assay, which is currently used as the standard assay.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Celine Yan, Kerstin Koelsch, Yong Pan.

Collaborators: Kazuo Suzuki, Philip Cunningham, Leon McNally, Alexander Carrera, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney Funding: NSW Health Department and ViiV.

■ 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' and BED ELISAs, 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 BED assays,. Protocols were finalized for the adaptation of dried bloodspots for nucleic acid testing.

Collaborators: Philip Cunningham, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Sara Evans, Celine Yang, Kazuo Suzuki, Jane Cornwall, NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: NSW Health Department

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher

■ Pathogenesis research Evolution of immune responses in primary infection and long-term nonprogressors

This study furthers mechanisms of viral escape from cytotoxic T-lymphocyte responses, and particularly the events leading up to escape from the HLA-B27 mediated T-cell response at the level of Tcell 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, 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 nonprogression

The reasons for long-term non-progression are unclear. MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are a newly described RNA species derived from noncoding 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-1 replication is only just starting to be understood. Their expression in vivo in different groups of patients with HIV-1 infection (especially long term nonprogressors) has not been described. The expression of microRNAs in T cell subsets in healthy controls, long term nonprogressors and rapid progressors is being compared.

Status: Patterns of expression of miRNAs in the three described groups have been elucidated. In vitro experiments to determine biological significance of these patterns are in progress. Potential targets of these miRNAs are also being sought to explain their biological significance in HIV-1 infection.

Personnel: Sanjay Swaminathan (PhD student), Anthony Kelleher

Collaborator: Kazuo Suzuki, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Warren Kaplan and Mark Cowley, Garvan Institute of Medical Research 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 postHAART 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 were published. Sarah Sasson completed her Ph.D.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Sarah Sasson (PhD student)

Collaborators: John Zaunders, Sandy Smith, Sam Milliken, John Moore, Keith Stanley, 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 was 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. We have also used this assay to enumerate antigenspecific regulatory and effector T cell subsets in a longitudinal study of HIV-infected patients with low CD4 count before and after starting anti-retroviral therapy (PrIRIS). The use of the assay was extended to non-human primates in therapeutic vaccine trials and also currently used in Hepatitis C cohorts.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Anthony Kelleher, Laura Cook (PhD student), Chansavath Phetsouphanh (PhD student). 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: The methodology for priming assays was published. A patented methodology for a simplified T-cell assay has been employed in a range of studies exploring T cell responses to Hepatitis C, Coeliac disease, tuberculosis and CMV infection.

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

Collaborators: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Stephen Kent, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne Andrew Lloyd UNSW, Bob Anderson, WEHI and Nextpep, John Zeigler Sydney Children's Hospital. Marshall Plit, Sandy Smith and Craig Leeman, St Vincent's Hospital. Funding: NHMRC, Coeliac research Fund,

Funding: NHMRC, Coeliac research Fund, UNSW, Institute of Laboratory Medicine St Vincent's Hospital

■ B cell subsets, neutralizing 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 anticariolipin antibodies in \rightarrow 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 called PrIRIS. The study is still ongoing and 17 patients have been recruited (aim 20). Assays performed real time aimed to look at the phenotype (6 flow cytometry panels) at intracellular cytokine secretion and at antigen-specific regulatory and effector T cells.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Anthony Kelleher, Chansavath Phetsouphanh, Sarah Pett Collaborator: Debbie Marriott, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney Funding: NHMRC

■ Viral reservoirs

Currently available antiretroviral therapy has little impact on HIV viral reservoirs. The site, size and components of these reservoirs is poorly understood. Also, the impact of integrase inhibitors on latently infected cells, including residual viremia which is tightly connected to these cells, is currently unclear.

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 these assays has been completed. These assays will be used to analyze patient samples from the PINT study; week 52 samples from this trial have become ready for analysis. A second study which has recently commenced is aimed at determining the preferential infection of CD4+ T cell subsets during chronic HIV infection. Another assay which is currently under development is a highly sensitive assay for the quantitation of plasma HIV-1 RNA (single copy assay). Once the validation of this assay is complete, it will be used for quantitation of low level (below 50 copy) viremia in patients currently enrolled in the CORAL study.

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 **Funding:** NHMRC, Merck

■ iRNA inducing viral latency

This project is related to siRNA gene silencing for HIV-1 and SIV infection. siRNAs targeting viral promoter DNA region induce transcriptional gene silencing (TGS) of viral genes in infected cells. The study has been extended to two major objectives: delivery system of siRNA and mechanism gene silence. To develop and evaluate delivery system including lentiviral and non-viral delivery system to be used for mouse HIV-1 infection model; and to define the pathways by which dsRNAs targeting the promoter regions of HIV-1 and SIV.

Status: Constructs applicable for use in HIV-1 infection are under development. The constructs will be incorporated into lentiviral delivery vector and the delivery system will be assessed in vitro. Epigenetic changes induced by siRNAs targeting HIV-LTR will be defined. The role of Ago1 in nucleus in this process will be determined by confocal microscope using tagged Ago1 and labelled siRNA.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Chantelle

Hood, Sanjay Swaminathan (PhD student)
Collaborators: Kazuo Suzuki, St Vincent's
Hospital, Sydney, Takaomi Ishida, Makoto
Ymamagisi, Toshiki Watanebe, The
University of Tokyo, Tokyo

Funding: NHMRC

Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principal: David Cooper

Site co-ordinators: Richard Norris, Mark

Rollason

Taylor Square Private ClinicSite principal: Robert Finlayson

Site co-ordinators: Sophie Dinning, Isabel

Prone

VICTORIA

Carlton Clinic

Site principal: Jonathan Anderson Site co-ordinator: Sian Edwards 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 ClinicSite principal: Norman Roth
Site co-ordinator: Helen Lau

The Centre ClinicSite principal: B.K Tee
Site co-ordinator: Helen Lau

QUEENSLAND

AIDS Medical Unit

Site principal: Mark Kelly Site co-ordinator: Abby Gibson Gladstone Road Medical Centre

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

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 2009.

NEW SOUTH WALES

East Sydney Doctors

Site principal: David Baker Site co-ordinator: Robyn Vale

AIDS Research Initiative

Site principal: Cassy Workman Site co-ordinator: Vanessa Rees

Burwood Road General Practice

Site principal: Nicholas Doong Site co-ordinator: Jeff Hudson

Holdsworth House General Practice

Site principal: Mark Bloch

Site co-ordinators: Nicky Cunningham, Kate Beileiter

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International projects

ver the past decade, the National Centre has extended its public health, surveillance and clinical work into the Asia-Pacific region. Now well established in Thailand and Cambodia, our work has more recently expanded to Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. Projects in the region vary depending on the health priorities and needs of different communities and range from capacity building to skills transfer to support for existing government programs. We have also worked closely with The World Health Organization for many years and in 2009 work started on an international guidance document on HIV incidence assays.







John Kaldor Skye McGrego Stephen Kerr

International studies

■ Survey epidemiological cohort studies and specimen sample sets and development of technical guidance documents for HIV incidence assays

The goal of the project is to advance assay identification and development for both the detection of acutely HIV infected persons and for the identification of specimens from recently HIV infected persons. This project will add to the knowledge of how existing and developing science can lead to such assays and build resources that can be used for the evaluation and validation of assays. A Request for Proposals (RFP) will be created to stimulate the development of new assays. Status: Project commenced 2009 Personnel: John Kaldor, Joanne Micallef Collaborators: Timothy Mastro, Connie Sexton, Mary Lynn Baniecki, John Kaldor, JMG Calleja, Gaby Vercauteren, Family Health International

■ Research and education in HIV/AIDS for resource-poor countries: REACH Initiative Diagnosis of tuberculosis in HIV infected and HIV uninfected children in Papua New Guinea with a Tcell based assay: a prospective study

Funding: Gates Foundation Grant

Diagnosis of PTB in children in settings such as Papua New Guinea (PNG) is therefore usually made on the basis of a combination of contact history, clinical findings, tuberculin skin test (TST) and radiological findings if available. This approach can lack sensitivity and specificity, particularly in young children who are the most susceptible group to TB disease in childhood. As a result, children may be either under- or over-treated. The project aims to investigate the role of the QFN test in the management of paediatric TB in PNG.

Status: Ongoing **Personnel:** Wari Allison, John Kaldor

Collaborators: Hong Van Tieu, Dr Jintanat, Dr Thanyawee, John Vince, Prof Tefuarani,

Mobumo Kiromat

Funding: Tibotec Virco Virology BVBA

■ HIV Consortium for Partnerships in Asia and the Pacific

Status: The HIV Consortium for Partnership in Asia and the Pacific was established in 2007 and has nine member organisations comprising a broad range of HIV advocacy and technical expertise from Australia. The Consortium and its members are responsible for implementing AusAID's Regional HIV Capacity Building Program. Personnel: Louise Causer, John Kaldor Collaborators: ASHM, IHRG, NRL, La Trobe University, Scarlett Alliance, AFAO, AIVL Funding: AusAID

■ Preventing mother to child transmission of HIV in PNG

Status: Commenced late 2009 **Personnel:** John Kaldor

Collaborators: Heather Worth, Angela Kelly **Funding:** AusAID Australian Development

Research Award

Male circumcision for HIV prevention among at-risk men and women in Papua New Guinea: Acceptability, epidemiological impact, cost-effectiveness and options for implementation

The continuing expansion of a heterosexual HIV epidemic in Papua New Guinea requires that the acceptability, cost-effectiveness and like epidemiological impacts of new technologies for HIV prevention are urgently investigated. This project is a three-year multi-disciplinary community-based research program among at-risk men and women at two sites in PNG: Port Moresby, National Capital District (NCD) and Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province (EHP).

Status: Phase one commenced 2009 with phase two expected to commence early 2010

Personnel: John Kaldor

Collaborators: Lisa Fitzgerald, Geraldine Maibani, Angela Kelly, Peter Hill, Megan Jennaway

Funding: AusAID Australian Development Research Award

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 of these were paediatric studies.

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. 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.

■ 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

■ 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 (six Thailand, two Cambodia)

Enrolled/target: 300/300

HIV-NAT study co-ordinator: Thanyawee

Puthanakit

Personnel: 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 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:** three Thailand **Enrolled/target:** 150/150

Personnel: Stephen Kerr (study co-

ordinator), Chris Duncombe

Collaborators: Kiat Ruxrungtham, Praphan Phanuphak, Anchalee Avihingsanon, Ploenchan 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: three 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

■ HIV-NAT 108

T-cell subsets in healthy children. This is a cross sectional study assessing the cellular subsets and immunoglobulins in health Thai children between the ages of 2 and 15.

Enrolled: 150 **Personnel**: Stephen Kerr

Collaborator: Jintanat Ananworanich (Study

Coordinator)

Funding: The Thailand Research Fund

■ HIV-NAT 073

Pharmacokinetics of low dose Atazanavir /ritonavir (200/100mg) compared to standard dose (300/100mg) in HIV pretreated Thai patients.

Enrolled: 22

Personnel: Stephen Kerr

Collaborator: Anchalee Avihingsanon (Study

Coordinator

Funding: Thai Social Security Office

■ HIV-NAT 093

An open-label, multiple dose, one-group trial assessing the pharmacokinetic profile and safety of generic lopinavir/ritonavir 200/50mg tablet formulation, (dosed at 400/100mg BID) in pregnant Thai HIV-infected women.

Enrolled: 20

Personnel: Stephen Kerr

Collaborator: Nittaya Phanuphak, Reshmie Ramautarsing, Anchalee Avihingsanon Funding: The Thai Red Cross AIDS

Research Centre.

■ 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. Enrolled: 450

Personnel: Stephen Kerr

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

Hirankarn, Sasiwimol Ubolyam

Financial support: Funding: The Royal
College of Physicians, Thailand

■ 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 HIVinfected 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

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). 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 2009. At the end of December 2009, there were 52 antiretroviral (ARV) treatment sites in 20 provinces. Paediatric care is provided at 29 sites. At the end of December 2009; 37,315 people, including 3638 children were receiving ARV therapy in the national program, which is >94% of the estimated number of people in need.

NCHECR contributed to the national program in a technical capacity, including support for SHC staff to mentor and train provincial staff working in HIV clinics, and provision for clinical training placements at the SHC. NCHECR and SHC staff in Cambodia participated in national HIV and STI working groups, and NCHECR staff have advised on the development of a new laboratory to be constructed at NCHADS. The NCHADS SHC research and data management team undertook regular visits to provincial ARV sites, analysed and presented data back to these sites, and centrally for the National Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) program. The NCHADS Social Health Clinic (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. Since clinic commencement in 2004, a total of 2438 patients have enrolled at the SHC, and 1709 commenced on antiretroviral therapy.

Since 2008 when Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing was established at the SHC, VCCT has been performed for 1202 adults (403 tested HIV Ab positive), 501 children (41 tested HIV positive) and infant dry blood spot DNA testing was performed on an additional 33 infants, of which 3 tested HIV positive.

Clinical research at the SHC included the generation and analysis of observational patient data, contribution to the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD), and contribution of all paediatric data to the TREAT Asia Paediatric Observational Database (TAPHOD). Patients continued to be enrolled in a prospective clinical cohort. Enrolment of patients into the PREDICT study closed mid 2008.

A Research Mentoring and Training Project (RMTP), under the *Support for Clinical and Epidemiological research capacity in Cambodia*, Funded by the AusAID Regional Capacity Building Program 2007-2011, commenced in 2009. Seven participants and two local mentors are involved, with additional facilitation by the onsite NCHECR staff member, and visiting support from NCHECR Sydney-based staff, which included a three-day statistics workshop in July 2009.

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: At 31 December 2009, 1657 adults and 90 children were actively enrolled at the SHC, including 1435 adults and 71 children on ART, of which 94% are on first line ART.

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

■ The following projects are described in other sections of this report:

Evaluating and predicting the epidemiological impact of health policies for reducing HIV in Melanesian and South-East Asian populations: p5

Evaluating the potential impact of the global economic crisis on HIV epidemics in South-East Asia: p5

Mathematical modelling and costeffectiveness of HIV epidemics and programs in Thailand: p6

Evaluation of HIV trends and programs in China: p6

Evaluation of the epidemiological impact of hard reduction programs across Vietnam: p6

Hepatitis B epidemiology and disease burden in Vietnam and Australia: p14

Culture and HIV prevention in Cambodia: p17

TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD): p26

TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme (TAQAS): p26

TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance (TASER): p26

TREAT Asia Paediatric HIV Observational Database (TApHOD): p26

Diagnosis of paediatric HIV infection in a resource-limited setting: p28

Diagnosis of tuberculosis in HIV infected and HIV uninfected children in Papua New Guinea with a T-cell based assay: a prospective cohort study: p28

Advisory committees

SURVEILLANCE COMMITTEES

Annual Surveillance Report Advisory Committee

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Epidemiologist, Vaccine Preventable Diseases Surveillance, Surveillance Branch, Office of Health Protection, Department of Health and Ageing

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

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*Subcommittee of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia

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External boards, committees and advisory groups

2nd Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health (CRIAH) Conference Scientific Advisory Committee (James Ward)

5th International AIDS Conference 2009, Basic Science Track Committee (Anthony Kelleher International Co-chair)

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)

23rd International AIDS Conference 2009, Basic Science Track Committee (Anthony Kelleher International Co-chair)

Aboriginal Sexual Health Advisory Committee (James Ward)

ACCEPt Executive Committee (Rebecca Guy)

ACCESS Coordinating Committee (Rebecca Guy)

ACCESS family planning network steering committee (Rebecca Guy)

ACCESS general practice network steering committee (Rebecca Guy)

ACCESS sexual health service network steering committee (Rebecca Guy)

ACON Board (Garrett Prestage member)

ACON Ethics Committee (Garrett Prestage chair, Ian Down member)

ACON Research and Policy Advisory Committee (Garrett Prestage)

AH&MRC Hepatitis C Reference Group (James Ward)

AIDS Council of New South Wales Aboriginal Advisory Group (James Ward)

AIDS Council of New South Wales Board (Garrett Prestage)

AIDS Council of New South Wales Ethics Review Committee (Garrett Prestage)

AIDS Council of New South Wales HIV and Sexually Transmissible Infections Working Group (Garrett Prestage)

AIDS Council of New South Wales Lesbian Health Board Advisory Committee (Julie Mooney-Somers)

AIDS Editorial Board (Andrew Grulich member)

AIDS Editorial Board (Andrew Grulich)

Altair Trial Protocol Steering Committee (David Cooper, Sean Emery, Kathy Petoumenos, Rebekah Puls)

ANEX 09 Conference Reference Group (Lisa Maher)

Anex Research Advisory Committee (John Kaldor)

Australasian Health and Research Data Managers Association Executive Committee (Pip Marks)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Antiretroviral Guidelines Panel (Fraser Drummond)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, *ASHM Journal Club* Editorial Committee (Lisa Maher)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Board member (Mark Boyd)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Education and Training Committee (Sarah Pett)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Education Resources Advisory Committee (James Ward)

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

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, HIV and the Body Steering Committee (Sarah Pett)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, National Clinical Subcommittee (Fraser Drummond)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, NSW

Hepatitis B Reference Committee (Gail Matthews)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, NSW Hepatitis C Reference Committee (Gail Matthews)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, NSW Hepatitis C Prescriber Trial Clinical Subcommittee (Greg Dore)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, NSW Viral Hepatitis Program Advisory Committee (Alexa Gillman)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Program Building Committee (Anthony Kelleher)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, reviewer of abstracts (Anthony Kelleher)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Standing Committee on Viral Hepatitis (Greg Dore, Chair; Lisa Maher)

Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases Annual Scientific Meeting Organising Committee (Chris Weatherall)

Australian Chlamydia Control Effectiveness Pilot (ACCEPt) Project Executive Committee (Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy, John Kaldor)

Australian Collaboration for Chlamydia Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS) Coordinating Committee (Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy, John Kaldor)

Australian Collaboration on validation of oral fluid tests for HIV (Rebecca Guy)

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Biomedical Prevention Policy Reference Group (Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage)

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Chlamydia Program Implementation Committee (Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich)

Australian Government Department of Health Ministerial Advisory Committee on Blood Borne Viruses and Sexually Transmissible Infections (Andrew Grulich member)

Australian Hepatitis Council Health Reference Group (Lisa Maher)

Australian HIV Observational Database Steering Committee (Matthew Law, Kathy

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Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, Vietnamese Hepatitis C and Injecting Drug Use Project Reference Group (Lisa Maher)

Australian Institute of Policy and Science [David Wilson, Associate Member]

Australian NSP Survey National Advisory Group (Lisa Maher)

Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency Radiation Health and Safety Advisory Council (John Kaldor)

Australian Society of Immunology Conference, Abstract Review Committee [Nabila Seddiki]

Australian Society of Immunology Conference, Poster Judging Committee (Nabila Seddiki)

Biomedical Prevention Working Group (ex officio) (John Kaldor)

Cancer Working group, international epidemiologic databases to evaluate AIDS [Andrew Grulich member]

Centre for Immunology UNSW Research degree review committee (Tony Kelleher)

Chapter Committee, Education Committee, Assessment, Teaching and Learning Subcommittee, Site Accreditation/Clinical Educators Sub-Committee, Annual Sexual Health Conference 2009 organising committee (Fraser Drummond, member)

Cochrane Collaborative Review Group on HIV infection and AIDS, Biomedical Interventions Reviews Editor (John Kaldor)

Communicable Diseases Intelligence Editorial Board (John Kaldor)

Communicable Diseases Network Australia (John Kaldor)

Communicable Diseases Network Australia, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Surveillance Working Party (John Kaldor)

Communicable Diseases Network Australia, New Developments in HIV Surveillance Committee (John Kaldor, Chair)

Communicable Diseases Network Australia, Subcommittee on Surveillance of Bloodborne Viral and Sexually Transmitted Infections (John Kaldor chair, Melanie Middleton, Anne McDonald, Rebecca Guy, Basil Donovan)

Comprehensive International Program for Research on AIDS (CIPRA) HIV Research Program in Thailand and Cambodia International Steering Committee (David Cooper)

Current HIV/AIDS Reports Editorial Board (David Cooper, Honorary Member)

Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS (David

Cooper, co-editor)

Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS Editorial Board (John Kaldor)

Drug and Alcohol Review Editorial Board [Lisa Maher]

eJournal of the International AIDS Society Editorial Board (John Kaldor)

Enhancing Hepatitis C Treatment Uptake and Outcomes in Opiate Dependency Pharmacotherapy Settings Steering Committee (*ex officio*) (John Kaldor)

ESPRIT Trial International Steering Committee (Matthew Law)

Expert Working Group to provide advice on Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing-funded HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and sexually transmissible infections education and health promotion materials (John Kaldor)

Faculty of Medicine, Research Management Committee (Anthony Kelleher)

Future HIV Therapy Editorial Board (David Cooper, John Kaldor)

Gardasil Advisory Board, CSL Ltd (Andrew Grulich, Basil Donovan)

Gastroenterology Metropolitan Committee on Hepatitis C (Greg Dore)

Genital Herpes Advisory Board, Glaxo SmithKline (Basil Donovan, chair)

Genital Warts Surveillance Network (Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich, Rebecca Guy, Neil Franklin, David Regan)

Gilead HIV Advisory Board (Sarah Pett)

GlaxoSmithKline Advisory Board (Fraser Drummond)

Greater Metropolitan Clinical Taskforce (GMCT) Viral Hepatitis working party (Suzanne Polis)

NSW Hepatitis C Antiviral Treatment MDS (Suzanne Polis)

Harm Reduction Journal Editorial Board (Lisa Maher)

Hepatitis C Victoria & White Lion Youth Services - Young Women's Hepatitis C Prevention and Early Intervention Project (Peter Higgs)

Hepatitis C Victoria Research Advisory Committee (Peter Higgs, chair)

Hepatitis C Victoria, Board of Directors (Peter Higgs, Vice-president)

Hepatitis C Council of NSW Medical Research Advisory Panel (Greg Dore)

HIV Consortium for Partnership in Asia and the Pacific Management Committee (John Kaldor, Louise Causer)

HIV DART 2008 Conference Organising

Committee (David Cooper co-chair)

HIV Expert Writing Reference Group for the development of Australia's new national HIV strategy (David Wilson, member)

HIV Netherlands, Australia, Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT) International Advisory Board (David Cooper, Co-Director, Chris Duncombe)

HIV Star Data Safety Monitoring Board Committee (Matthew Law, Stephen Kerr)

HIVNAT International Advisory Board (Sean Emery)

HPV Vaccine Forum, Sydney 2008 (Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich, Neil Franklin)

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IeDEA Data Harmonization Working Group (Jialun Zhou, Rebecca Oyomopito)

IeDEA Executive Committee (David Cooper, Matthew Law)

IeDEA Pharmacovigilance and Adverse Events Working Group (Jialun Zhou)

Immunovirology Research Network Steering Committee (Anthony Kelleher)

Indigenous Australian Sexual Health Committee (James Ward)

Infectious Disease Reports (David Wilson, member, Editorial Board)

INSIGHT network, Executive Committee (David Cooper, Sean Emery)

INSIGHT network, Infrastructure Committee (Sarah Pett, Cate Carey)

INSIGHT network, Monitoring Group Committee (David Courtney-Rodgers, Nisha Seneviratne)

INSIGHT network, Quality Oversight and Performance Evaluation Committee (David Courtney-Rodgers)

INSIGHT network, Training Committee (Cate Carev)

International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm: 2009 Bangkok, Joint coordination of the *Film Fest* Stream (Peter Higgs)

International Consortium of Investigators Working on Lymphoma Epidemiologic Studies (InterLymph), Immunology Working Group (Andrew Grulich member)

International Epidemiologic Databases to Evaluate AIDS Cancer Working Group (Stephen Kerr)

International Journal of Drug Policy Editorial Board (Lisa Maher)

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International Journal of STD & AIDS Editorial Board (Basil Donovan)

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

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Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency
Syndromes Editorial Board (David Cooper)

Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice International Advisory Board (Lisa Maher)

Journal of Drug Issues Editorial Board (Lisa Maher)

Journal of Hepatology Editorial Board (Greg Dore)

Journal of HIV Medicine Editorial Board (Andrew Grulich)

Journal of HIV Therapy Current Trends Advisory Board (David Cooper)

Leukaemia and Lymphoma Editorial Board (Andrew Grulich)

Lionel Murphy Foundation (Board of Trustees) (Lisa Maher)

Lotus House Refuge Management Committee (Lisa Maher)

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Mid Term Review Steering Committee NSW Health AIDS Branch Strategies HIV STI HCV Aboriginal Implementation Plan (James Ward)

MIMS Annual Honorary Editorial Board (Basil Donovan)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH), HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections Subcommittee (Andrew Grulich)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH), Hepatitis C Subcommittee (Greg Dore)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis [MACASHH] Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Committee (James Ward)

Multicultural HIV and Hepatitis Service Advisory Group (Lisa Maher, Chair)

NACCHO Sexual Health and Bloodborne Virus Advisory Committee (James Ward)

NAPWA Treatments Policy Advisory Group (Fraser Drummond, Sarah Pett) National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, HIV Medication Working Group (Dianne Carey)

National BBV and STI Surveillance Committee (Rachel Deacon, Lisa Maher, James Ward, David Wilson)

National Centre for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD (NCHADS) Steering Committee for Cambodian Treatment Access Program (CTAP) and AusAID funded HIV projects (John Kaldor)

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Disease Scientific Advisory Committee (John Kaldor)

National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) Scientific Advisory Committee (Lisa Maher)

National Gay Men's Syphilis Action Plan Steering Committee and Monitoring and Evaluation Subcommittee (David Wilson, member)

National Health and Medical Research Council Centres of Research Excellence Grant Review Panel (John Kaldor)

National HIV Surveillance Committee (Rebecca Guy)

National STI Surveillance Committee (Rebecca Guy)

National Syphilis Action Plan monitoring and evaluation working group (Rebecca Guy)

National Syphilis Action Plan Technical Working Group (Andrew Grulich, Rebecca Guy, Garrett Prestage)

National Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Committee (Rebecca Guy)

NHMRC Grant Review (Immunology) (Anthony Kelleher)

NHMRC Indigenous Health Review Panel (James Ward)

NSW Aboriginal Sexual Health Advisory Committee (James Ward, Chair)

NSW Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting Organising Committee (Fraser Drummond)

NSW Chief Health Officer Report Special Topic: STI (David Wilson, advisory group member)

NSW Department of Corrective Services Ethics Committee (John Kaldor)

NSW Health Chopped Liver Reference Group (James Ward)

NSW Health Shared Scientific Advisory Committee (Fraser Drummond expert reviewer)

NSW Health Shared Scientific Assessment Committee (Fraser Drummond)

NSW Health Statewide Review of AIDS Funded Services (James Ward)

NSW Hepatitis Committee (James Ward)

NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hepatitis (MACH) (Lisa Maher, Greg Dore, James Ward)

NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections, Health Promotion Subcommittee (Andrew Grulich chair)

NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections (James Ward)

NSW Population and health services research ethics committee (Andrew Grulich member)

NSW STI & HIV Committee (James Ward)

NUAA Policy & Campaigns Advisory Committee (Ian Down)

Open Family Australia research advisory committee member (Peter Higgs)

OpiCare Leadership Team (Greg Dore, Jason Grebelv)

Positive Life (NSW) Board Advisory Group (Garrett Prestage, Mark Boyd)

Practical Advances in Treating HIV (PATH II)
Steering Committee (Sean Emery, Chair)

Prevention Science Track Committee, International AIDS Society Conference, Vienna, 2010 (Andrew Grulich)

Project Management Group Randomised Control Trial, Tobacco Control AH&MRC [James Ward]

Project Reference Group NSW STI Campaign (James Ward)

ProPrems Trial Data Safety Monitoring Committee (John Kaldor)

Public Health Association of Australia -Justice Health Special Interest Group (Peter Higgs)

Public Health Association of Australia, Conference Program Committee (Peter Higgs)

Repatriation Medical Authority (John Kaldor)

Review panel for Sydney University Master of Medicine (HIV/STI) degree program (David Templeton committee member external)

Sax Institute, Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health (CRIAH) Steering Committee

Sax Institute, representative for NCHECR (David Wilson)

SESIAHS Clinical Services Expert Advisory Group (Suzanne Polis)

SESIAHS Hepatitis C Governance Committee (Suzanne Polis)

Sexual Health (David Cooper, Editor)

Sexual Health Editorial Board (Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

Sexually Transmitted Infections, Editorial Board (David Cooper)

Sexually Transmitted Infections, Elsevier, New Delhi (Basil Donovan, Section Editor)

Sexually Transmitted Infections in Gay Men Action Group (Jeff Jin member)

Sidney Myer Health Scholarship Selection Committee (Peter Higgs)

SIRFLOX Independent Data and Safety Monitoring Board Committee (Matthew Law)

SPARTAC Trial Steering Committee (David Cooper, Anthony Kelleher)

SSDV Interagency (Ian Down)

St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research/ UNSW Research degree review committee (Anthony Kelleher)

St Vincent's Hospital Campus Institutional Biosafety Committee (Anthony Kelleher)

St Vincent's Hospital Clinical School Teaching Committee (Fraser Drummond)

St Vincent's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee (Claire Vajdic, Deputy Chair; Handan Wand)

St Vincent's Research & Biotechnology Precinct Hub Governance Council (David Cooper)

Steering Committee for NHMRC grant under the International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership (John Kaldor)

STIGMA - NSW Implementation committee for the National Syphilis Action Plan (Rebecca Guy)

STIGMA (Iryna Zablotska)

Suicide Prevention Australia Reference Group on Suicide and self-harm amongst the GLBTI communities (Garrett Prestage member)

Sydney HIV Interagency (Garrett Prestage)

Thai A/E Clade HIV Vaccine Trial Protocol Steering Committee (David Cooper, Sean Emery, Anthony Kelleher, Rebekah Puls)

The Cancer Council NSW Cancer Research Committee (Andrew Grulich member)

The Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drug Study International Steering Committee (Matthew Law)

The Sax Institute (Andrew Grulich member)

TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database Steering Committee (Matthew Law, Jialun Zhoul

TREAT Asia Paediatric HIV Observational Database Steering Committee (Matthew Law)

TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme Steering Committee (Matthew Law, Jialun Zhou)

TREAT Asia Steering Committee (David Cooper)

TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance Steering Committee (Matthew Law)

UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Committee, Bachelor of Science (Medicine) Subcommittee (Greg Dore)

UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Grant/Early Career Grant Review (Anthony Kelleher)

UNSW Health Data Linkage committee (Matthew Law)

UNSW Hepatitis C Vaccine Initiative Steering Committee (John Kaldor)

UNSW Human Research Ethics Advisory Panel: Medical/Community (Greg Dore, Lisa Maher, Mark Boyd)

VAC/GMHC Sexually Adventurous Men's Project Committee (Garrett Prestage member)

Vietnamese Australian Buddhist Assistance Trust (Lisa Maher)

Working Group, International Agency for Research on Cancer Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans, Volume 100: A Review of Human Carcinogens (Andrew Grulich)

World Health Organisation Strategic and Technical Advisory Committee for HIV/AIDS (David Cooper)

World Health Organisation Working Group on Incidence Assays for HIV Infection (John Kaldor Co-Chair)

World Health Organisation/UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Advisory Committee (David Cooper, Chair)

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

Vaccines program grant co-ordinator

John Wilkinson BSc(Hons), PhD

Manager, Research Communication Louisa Wright M Journalism, MPH

Therapeutic and Vaccine

Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Head and 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

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)

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 Megan Evans BappSc HIM (Health Information Management) Natalie Espinosa BS (Biomed), MA.AppSc (Ex&Sc)

Program Manager

Cathy Sajjadi Dip Bus (from July)

Margaret Allen (to April)

Data ManagersKymme 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 Alexis Shambrook Sarah Field

HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program Head and Professor

Andrew Grulich MB BS, MSc, PhD, FAFPHM

Senior Lecturers

Garrett Prestage BA(Hons), PhD David Templeton MB ChB, Dip Ven, Grad Cert ForensMed, MACLM, FAChSHM Iryna Zablotska PhD, MD, MPH

Lecturer

Jeff Jin BMed, MPH, PhD (to June)

Post Doctoral Research Fellow

Jeff Jin BMed, MPH, PhD (from June)

Research Assistants

Ian Down (from April)
Pól McCann BA (Hons), PhD
Marina van Leeuwen BSc(Hons), MPH (to
November)

Project Officer

Jack Bradley

Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

Head and Associate Professor

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

Gail Matthews MBChB MRCP(UK), FRACP PhD (from July)

Tanya Applegate, BSc (Hons), PhD

Lecturers

Carolyn Day BSc(Hons), PhD (part time) (to January)

Marianne Jauncey BMed, Grad Dip App Epi, MPH(Hons), FAFPHM (part time) (from August) Gail Matthews MBChB, MRCP (UK), FRACP (to July)

Rosie Thein MD, MPH, PhD Jason Grebely, BSc, PhD

Clinical Trials Manager

Pip Marks BSc

Clinical Project Co-ordinators

Natalie Espinosa BAppSc, MHSc (to July) Alexa Gillman BSc(Hons) Ineke Shaw BSc, Grad Cert BioStats Barbara Yeung RN, BHSc(Nursing), MPH

Senior Research Assistant

Brendan Jacka BSc(Hons) (from December)

Research Assistants

Amanda Erratt ADip (Admin) Maryam Salehi Alavi (BSc), (MSc)

Data Manager

Patrick McGrath BA, Dip Ed

Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Moore Lara Cassar (to July)

Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Professor and Head

Lisa Maher PhD

Lecturer

Ekramul Hoque (to January) Anna Olsen (from August)

Post Doctoral Research Fellow

Peter Higgs PhD, MA, BSW Joanne Kimber BSc, PhD

Senior Project Co-ordinator

Marlene Thompson BSc (to March 2009)

Qualitative Research Co-ordinator

Julie Mooney-Somers BSc(Hons), PhD

Clinical Trial Co-ordinator

Kathy Barnes RN (maternity leave from June)

Research Assistants

Brian Acraman (to April) Anna Bates BA Rachel Deacon BSc, PhD Anna Doab RN, MPH

Aylza Donald BSSc, BA Jarliene Enriquez

Mofi Islam

MOII IStalli

Jenny Iversen BAppSc

Anh Pham

Len Liao

Kerri Shying (from March)

Administrative Assistant

Rachel McCleave BA(Hons), BEd(Prim)

Surveillance and Evaluation Program for Public Health

Head and Associate Professor

David Wilson BSc, BInfTech, BAppSc(Hons), GradCert(Biostats), PhD

Senior Research Officer

Ann McDonald BSc, MPH

Lecturer

Louise Causer MB BS, MSc, DTM&H Richard Gray BSc(Hons) Lei Zhang BSc(Adv Hons), MSc, PhD, MPH (from May)

HIV Surveillance Officer

Melanie Middleton BMedSci, MPH

Research Assistants

Kel Heymer BSc (to February) James Jansson BTeach, BSc(Hons) (part-time) Amy Kwon BSc

Administrative Assistant

James Jansson BTeach, BSc(Hons) (part-time)

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 David Regan BA, BSc(Hons), PhD (from July) Handan Wand MA, MSc, PhD (from July)

Lecturers

Azar Kariminia BSc, MSc, PhD (from August) Kathy Petoumenos BSc, MA, MPH(Hons), PhD David Regan BA, BSc(Hons), PhD (to July) Handan Wand MA, MSc, PhD (to July) Jialun Zhou BMed, MPH, PhD

Associate Lecturer

Ben Hui BE(computer engineering), MBiomedF

Statisticians

Heather Gidding BAppSc, Grad Dip Epid Biostats, MAppEpid, MPHAA

Awachana Jiamsakul BSc, MS (from August) Azar Kariminia BSc, MSc, PhD (to August) Sadaf Marashi Pour BSc, MSc

Hamish McManus BEcon, BActS, MBIOS (from October)

Rebecca Oyompito BSc, Grad Dip Med Stat Preeyaporn Srasuebkul BSc, MSc, PhD (to October)

Computer Systems Officers

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

Rossitza Chevkenova BSc

Research assistant
Greg Londish BSc(Hons) (from April)

Program co-ordinator

Courtney Bendall DipBus

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

Research Assistants

Michelle Bailey BSc(Hons)

Susanna Ip BSc

Chansavath Phetsouphanh BSc, MSc Yin Xu MSc (Research), MSc

Data Administrator

Ansari Shaik BA, MBA

Administrative assistants

Lucy Watchirs-Smith BA Lydia Jauncey BA

Sexual Health Program

Head and Professor of Sexual Health

Basil Donovan MB BS, DipVen (Lond), MD, FAFPHM, FRCPI, FAChSHM

Senior Lecturer and NHMRC Post-doctoral Fellow

Rebecca Guy BAppSc, MAppEpid, PhD

Senior Research Fellow

Christine Harcourt MA(Hons), PhD (to July)

Lecturer

Joanne Micallef PhD

Project Co-ordinator

Neil Franklin BSc (Hons), MPH

Senior Research Assistant

Kirsty Smith RN DipHealthSci DipEd MPH (to June 2009)

Research Assistants

Kel Heymer BMath, BAppSci(Hons)(Part time) Karen Schneider BSc(Hons), MPH (Part-time) Rashmi Fotedar PhD

Administrative assistant

Candace Mitchell

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Program

Program Manager

Head and Senior Lecturer

James Ward

Research Manager

Simon Graham M Appl Epid

National Co-ordinator

Clint Arizmendi PhD

Research Assistant

Snehal Akre MBBS, MPH

Administrative assistant

Candace Mitchell

Public Health Interventions Research Group

Head and Professor of Epidemiology

John Kaldor PhD

Program co-ordinator

Skye McGregor BA, BSc, MA

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 (to December)

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

Human Resources Advisor

Brigette 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

lan Brodie BEc, Grad Dip Ed, Ass Dip Hlth Sc Dhara Kothary (from August)

Receptionist

Rata Joseph

Researchers affiliated to NCHECR

Visiting Professor

Jennifer Hoy MB BS, Grad Dip Epi Bio, FRACP

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

Professor and Director

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Melbourne

Cathy Pell MB BS, MM

Specialist General Practitioner

Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney

Don Smith MB ChB, MD

Associate Professor and Head of Research Development

Albion Street Centre, Sydney

Mark Sullivan BSc

Chief Operating Officer

VivaGel™ Microbicide Development

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

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 Yuin Lee (from May)

Gerard Moynihan (to March)

Bachelor of Science (Honours) student

Yuan Gao

Doctor of Philosophy students

Wari Allison BSc(Hons), MB BS

Oliver Distler BSc(Hons), MSc

Kelly Heymer (from August)

Alexander Hoare BSc(Hons)

Susan Hudson BSW, PG Cert Addictions, MSW

Heidi Lim BSc(Hons)

Mee-Ling Munier BSc, Grad Dip Epi, MSc

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 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)

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)

Education and training

Students supervised or cosupervised by NCHECR staff

Supervisor(s) in brackets

■ Masters of Public Health by research Anna Farr (UNSW)

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

William Coorey

Aboriginal Men's Business: Perspectives on Sexual Health and Sexual Health Services in Western Sydney

(Julie Mooney-Somers)

■ Doctor of Philosophy awarded Wari Allison

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

Michael Burke

Factors influencing participation in prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV programs in Tanzania, East

(Sue Kippax, John Kaldor)

Alexandra Calmy

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

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)

Heidi Lim

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

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)

Allison Salmon

5 0

Policy and public health: an 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)

Karina Razali

Estimates and projections of HIV and hepatitis C virus in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region

(Matthew Law, John Kaldor)

David Templeton

Interventions to reduce HIV transmission in homosexual men

(Andrew Grulich, Basil Donovan)

David van Bockel

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

Marina van Leeuwen

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

■ Bachelor of Science (Honours) awarded Laura Cook (University Medal)

Studies of antigen specific T reg clones (Anthony Kelleher, Nabila Seddiki)

■ Doctor of Philosophy candidates

Amit Achhra

Predictors of outcomes in HIV infection (Janaki Amin, David Cooper, Matthew Law)

Jonathan Anderson

The role of economic evaluation in decision-making about HIV

(David Cooper, Sean Emery, Kathy Petoumenos)

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)

Dianne Carev

Optimising therapeutic outcomes in HIV-infected subjects

(Sean Emery, David Cooper)

Charisse Farr

Evaluation of HIV in the Philippines (David Wilson, primary supervisor)

James Fetherston, Curtin University Modelling hepatitis C transmission in Australian prisons

(David Wilson, secondary supervisor)

Jacqueline Flynn (Monash University)

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

Rashmi Fotedar

Molecular epidemiology of *Neisseria* gonorrhoeae in Sydney, Australia (Basil Donovan, Rebecca Guy)

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 pychostimulant 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 South East Asia

(David Wilson, Matthew Law)

Jeff Hudson (The University of Sydney)

Fluid sexuality: Married men who have sex with men

(Garrett Prestage)

Susan Hudson

Sex, Drugs and 'Ugly Mugs': An ethnographic study of women who inject psychostimulants and engage in street-based sex work in Kings Cross, Sydney. (Lisa Maher)

Robert Kemp (University of Queensland)

Development of the Needle and Syringe Program in Queensland

(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)

Maneerat Layton (Khon Kaen University)

Patient-Healthcare Provider Communication: The Patients' Perspectives. (Stephen Kerr)

Gregory Londish

The Impact of a Male Circumcision Intervention on HIV Epidemics (John Murray, Matthew Law)

Gail Matthews

Therapeutic strategies in HIV/viral hepatitis coinfection

(Greg Dore, David Cooper)

Kristin McBride

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

Mee Ling Munier

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

Rebecca Oyomopito

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

Alisa Pedrana (Burnet Institute)

Molecular epidemiology of *Neisseria* gonorrhoeae in Sydney, Australia (Rebecca Guy)

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)

Suzanne Polis

Adherence to hepatitis B therapies (Lisa Maher)

Mary Poynten

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

Karen Schneider

Mathematical modelling of HIV epidemiology, treatment and drugresistance in Thailand (David Wilson, Basil Donovan, Matthew Law)

Sowbhagya Somanadhan

Influence of civil society on HIV policies and services in India and the participation of people living with HIV/AIDS (Lisa Maher)

Sanjay Swaminathan

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

Edward Kyle Waters

The ecology of human Papillomavirus infection: implications for surveillance (David Regan)

Chris Weatherall

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

Bethany White

Hepatitis C vaccine preparedness (Lisa Maher)

Henry Zheng

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

■ 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) awarded

Simon Graham (Australian National University)

(John Kaldor)

Master of International Public Health awarded (practicum supervision) Cocilis de Pustos (Veile University The

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)

■ International practicum placements

Andrea Gonnermann

(Handan Wand)

Christin Riedeberger

Real-time PCR for HIV DNA quantitation (Kersten Koelsch)

Claudia Mische

Post-doctoral researcher HIV DNA sequencing assay (Kersten Koelsch)

Maneerat Layton

Department of Pharmacy Practice, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Khon Kaen University. Patient-Healthcare Provider Communication: The Patients' Perspectives. (Stephen Kerr)

Collaborating organisations

National

Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs (ANEX), Melbourne

Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Sydney

Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other drugs (APSAD)

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 Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL), Canberra

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra

Australian Liver Association, Sydney

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

Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia (DANA)

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 Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists

Therapeutic Goods Administration, Canberra

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Corrective Services, Canberra

ACT Health

Canberra Sexual Health Centre

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

Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT

The Canberra Hospital, Canberra

New South Wales

Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW

Aboriginal Medical Service Co-op Ltd, Sydney

Aboriginal Medical Service Western Sydney, Mount Druitt Village

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 Services, NSW Health, Sydney

Bigge Park Medical Centre, Sydney

Blacktown Methadone Unit, Blacktown

Blacktown Needle and Syringe Program Services, Sydney

Blue Mountains Sexual Health Clinic, Katoomba

Brindabella Family Practice, Queanbeyan

Burwood Road General Practice, Sydney

Central Access Service, Sydney (formerly St George Hospital Needle and Syringe Program)

Centre for Addiction Medicine, Westmead Hospital

Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice, Justice Health, NSW Health Department, Sydney

Centre for Infection and Inflammation Research, School of Medical Sciences, UNSW

Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Centre for Transplant and Renal Research, Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Sydney

Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine, University of Sydney

Charlestown Family Medical Services, Charlestown

Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney

Coffs Harbour Sexual Health Clinic

Concord Hospital, Sydney

Dubbo Sexual Health Centre, Dubbo

Durri Aboriginal Corporation Medical Service, Kempsey

East Sydney Doctors, Sydney

Faculty of Science, University of Sydney

Fleet Street Opioid Treatment Unit, Parramatta

First Step Program, Port Kembla and Nowra

Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney

Gateway Opioid Treatment Service Clinic, Nepean Hospital

Goulburn River Group Practice, Goulburn

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General Medical Practice, Coffs Harbour Grafton Sexual Health Clinic, Grafton Greater Southern Area Health Service Harm Reduction Program, Liverpool Harm Minimisation Program, Newcastle

Health ConneXions, Sydney

Hepatitis NSW (formerly Hepatitis C Council of NSW), Sydney

Holden Street Clinic, Gosford

Holdsworth House Medical Practice, Sydney and Byron Bay

Hunter Harm Reduction Services, Newcastle Hunter New England Sexual Health Service Illawarra Sexual Health, Port Kembla 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

Laverty Pathology

Lismore Base Hospital, Lismore

Lismore/ Tweed Heads Sexual Health & AIDS Services

Liverpool Hospital, Sydney

Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic, Sydney

Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Marrickville

Manly 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 FPNSW Centre, Cooks Hill

Newcastle Pharmacotherapy Services, Newcastle

North Coast Area Health Service, Harm Reduction Services

North Sydney Medical Practice, North Sydney

Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service, NSW Health Department, Sydney

Northern Sydney Sexual Health Service, St Leonards

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

Orange Sexual Health Clinic

Parramatta Needle and Syringe Program Services, Sydney

Perinatal and Reproductive Epidemiology Research Unit, incorporating the National Perinatal Statistics Unit, UNSW

Positive Life NSW

Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney

Rankin Court Treatment Centre, 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, Sydney

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Clinic 36 Outreach Clinic, Sydney

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) Drug Health Services, Sydney

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Regent House Outreach Clinic, Sydney

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPA) Sexual Health Clinic, Sydney

Sax Institute, Sydney

School of Medical Sciences, UNSW, Sydney

School of Public Health, University of 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

South Court Primary Care Needle and Syringe Program, Sydney

South Eastern Area Laboratory Services (SEALS), Prince of Wales Hospital

South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service, NSW Health Department, Sydney

South Eastern Area Laboratory Services, South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service, Sydney

South West Area Health Service, Eastern Division

South West Area Health Service, Western Division

St George Hospital, Sydney

St George Hospital Short Street Sexual Health Clinic

St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research

St Vincent's Medical Imaging, Sydney

Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, Sydney

Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney

Sydney South Illawarra Health Service

Sydney South West Area Health Service, Sydney

Sydney West Area Health Service, Sydney

Sydney West Area Health Service HIV/Hepatitis C Prevention Service, Auburn, Blacktown, Merrylands, Mt Druitt and Parramatta

Sydney West Area Health Service Clinical Sexual Health Services

SydPath, Sydney

Tamworth Sexual Health Service, Tamworth

Taree Manning Clinic

Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney

The Byrne Surgery, Sydney

The Cancer Council NSW, Sydney

The Cancer Institute NSW, Sydney

Tweed Heads Sexual Health Service

University of Sydney – Discipline of Addiction Medicine, Sydney

UNSW Cancer Research Centre, integrated cancer research group

Western Sydney Aboriginal Medical Service Mt Druitt

Westmead Hospital, Sydney

Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Sydney

Woodlands Clinic, Blue Mountains Anzac Memorial Hospital, Katoomba

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 Clinic 34

Communicable Disease Centre, Royal Darwin Hospital, Darwin

Danila Dilba Health Service, Darwin

Darwin Harm Reduction Program, Darwin

Darwin Sexual Health Service

Family Planning Northern Territory, Coconut Grove

Northern Territory Sexual Health and BBV Unit

Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis C Council, Alice Springs, Darwin and Palmerston

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

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

Carbal Medical Service, Toowoomba

Chancellor Park Family Medical Practice, Sippy Downs

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
Family Planning Queensland, Toowoomba

Gladstone Road Medical Centre, Brisbane

otaustone Road Medical Ochtre, Brisbe

Gold Coast Hospital, Southport

Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, Miami

Goondir Health Service, Dalby

Kewarra Family Practice, Kewarra Beach

Kobi House, Toowoomba

Nambour Medical Centre, Nambour

Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane

Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane

Princess Alexandra Sexual Health, South Brisbane

Queensland Health, Brisbane

Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN), Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast

Queensland Medical Laboratory (QML), Brisbane

Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brisbane

School of Population Health, University of Queensland

Sunshine Coast and Cooloola HIV/Sexual Health Service, Nambour

Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services Ltd, Townsville

Townsville ATODS

Townsville Health Services

West Moreton Sexual Health Service, QLD

South Australia

AIDS Council of South Australia (ACSA),

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

Department of Health

Flinders Clinical Trials Pharmacy, Adelaide

Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide

Harm Minimisation Program, Hindmarsh Centre, Adelaide

Infectious Diseases Laboratories, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide

Noarlunga Community Health Service, Adelaide

Northern Metropolitan Community Health Service NSP and Shopfront, Salisbury; SA

Nunkuwarrin Yunti of South Australia Inc, Adelaide

O'Brien Street Practice, Adelaide

Parks Community Health Service, Adelaide

Port Adelaide Community Health Service, Port Adelaide

Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide

Royal Adelaide Hospital Clinic 275

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Services, Internal Medicine Service, Royal Adelaide Hospital

Shine SA (Sexual Health Information Networking and Education Inc)

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

Women's and Children's Hospital Adelaide

Tasmania

Clarence Community Health Service, Hobart

Corrective Services Division, Department of Justice, Hobart

Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania

Devonport Community Health Centre, Devonport

Family Planning Tasmania, Hobart

Hobart, Devonport and Launceston Sexual Health Service

Hobart Sexual Health Service

Royal Hobart Hospital

Salvation Army Launceston, Launceston

Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (TasCAHRD), Hobart and Glenorchy

The Link Youth Health Service, Hobart

Victoria

Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs Australia (Anex), Melbourne

Barwon Drug and Alcohol Services, Geelong

Bendigo NSP Services, Bendigo

Brighton Medical Clinic, Brighton

Centre for Population Health, Burnet Institute, Melbourne

Centre for Women's Health, Gender and Society, Melbourne School of Population Health, University of Melbourne

Darebin Community Health Centre, Northcote

Deakin Health Economics Unit, Deakin University, Melbourne

Department of Human Services, Victoria

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

Genesis Medical Centre, Brighton

Health Information Exchange, Salvation Army, Melbourne

Health Works, Footscray

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

The Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne

Middle Park Clinic, Melbourne

Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne

Monash University, Melbourne

Mooroopna Medical Centre, Mooroopna

Nexpep, Victoria

North Richmond Drug Safety Program, Melbourne

Northcote Clinic, Melbourne

Northcote Needle and Syringe Program Services, Melbourne

Northside Clinic, Fitzroy North

People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Melbourne

Prahran Market Clinic, 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

South East Alcohol and Drug Service, Dandenong

St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne

The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

The Carlton Clinic, Melbourne

The Centre Clinic, Melbourne

Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Fitzroy

Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre (GMHC), Melbourne

Victorian Cytology Service Inc, Melbourne

Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Melbourne

Wellness Centre Medical Clinic, Malvern East

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne, Victoria

Western Australia

AK medical/dental Clinic, Kelmscott

Centre for Clinical Immunology and Biomedical Statistics, Perth

Communicable Diseases Control Branch, Department of Health, Perth

Curtin University of Technology

Data Linkage Western Australia, Perth

Department of Corrective Services, Perth

Department of Health, Western Australia

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, Perth

Duncraig Medical Centre, Duncraig

Fremantle Hospital

Fremantle Hospital Sexual Health Service

Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service, Geraldton

Murdoch University, Perth

National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology

Quarry Health Centre for under 25s, Fremantle:

Royal Perth Hospital, Perth

Royal Perth Hospital Sexual Health Clinic

Royal Perth Hospital, Department of Clinical Immunology

Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program, Department of Health, Perth

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

AIDS Clinical Centre, International Medical Centre of Japan, Tokyo

AIDS Malignancy Consortium, Birmingham,

American Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR). New York

Angkor Hospital for Children, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Arkansas Children's Hospital

Aviano Cancer Centre, Aviano, Italy

Bamrasnaradura Hospital, Bangkok

Beijing Ditan Hospital, Beijing

British Columbia Cancer Registry, Vancouver

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control, Vancouver, Canada

British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Vancouver, Canada

Brown University, Providence, USA

Calgary Regional Health Authority, Canada Cambodia NCHADS

Canadian Trials Network (CTN), Vancouver

Catalan Institute of Oncology, Barcelona

Centre for Research on Drugs and Health Behaviour, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK

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,

Children Hospital No. 1, Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam

Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Beijing

Chonburi Regional Hospital, Chonburi,

Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Soweto, South Africa

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

Cornell University, New York

Department of HIV/GUM Research, Brighton,

Department of Life Science & Medical Bio-Science, School of Advanced Science and Engineering, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan

Department of Social Medicine, University of Bristol, UK

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

Evangel Hospital, Jos, Nigeria

Duke Clinical Research Institute, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University and Sanglah Hospital, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia 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 Almenara, Lima, Peru

Hospital Central, Mendoza, Argentina

Hospital de Clinicas Jose de San Martin, Buenos Aires

Hospital Dos de Mayo, Lima, Peru

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 General de Guadelajara, Mexico

Hospital General de Leon, Mexico

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 Paroissien, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Hospital Pulau Pinang, Malaysia

Hospital Likas, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris

Hospital Nacional Prof Dr Alejandro Posadas, Buenos Aires

Hospital Raja Perempuan Zainab II, Kelantan, Malavsia

Hospital Rawson, Bajada Pucara, Argentina

Hospital San Borja-Arriaran, Santiago, Chile

Hospital Sungai Buloh, Kuala Lumpur

Imperial College, St Mary's Hospital, London

Infections and Immunity, Avenir Group, Hôpital Pitié Salpêtrière, Université Pierre et Marie Curie-Paris, France

Institute of Infectious Disease, Pune, India Instituto de Medicina Tropical Alexander von Humboldt, Lima, Peru

Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutricion Salvador Zubrián, Mexico City Integrated Treatment Centre, Hong Kong International AIDS Society, Geneva

International Consortium of Investigators Working on Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Epidemiologic Studies (InterLymph)

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Joint Clinical Research Centre, Kampala, Uganda

Jos University Teaching Hospital, Jos, Nigeria JOSHUA Research, Bloemfontein, South Africa JW Goethe Universität, Frankfurt

Kaplan Medical Centre, Rehovot, Israel Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand

Kumamoto Univeristy, Japan

Laboratory of Tumour Cell Biology, Department of Medical Genome Sciences, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston

Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin McGill University

Medical Group Practice, Berlin

Medical Research Council, Durban, South Africa Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit, London

Ministry of Public Health, Bangkok Muirhouse Medical Group, Edinburgh, UK

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 Infectious Disease, Tokyo

National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA

National Pediatric Hospital, Phnom Penh

National Taiwan University Hospital, Taipei New Hope for Cambodian Children, Phnom Penh

Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford

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Osaka National Hospital, Japan

Papua New Guinea Institute for Medical Research, Goroka, Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea National AIDS Council

Partners AIDS Research Center, Boston

Pediatric Institute, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur

Penang Hospital, Malaysia

Plateau State Specialist Hospital, Jos, Nigeria Port Moresby General Hospital, Papua New

Guinea

Providence Health Care, Vancouver

Public Health Service (GGD), Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hong Kong

Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong

Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard, Boston, USA

Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok

Rambam Medical Centre, Haifa, Israel

Research Institute for Health Science, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Manila

Rikshospitalet, Oslo, Norway

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

Swiss HIV Cohort Study, Copenhagen

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 General Research Institute, Toronto, Canada

Toronto Health Economics and Technology Assessment Collaborative (THETA), Toronto, Canada

Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto, Canada

Toronto Hospital, Canada

TREAT Asia, American Foundation for AIDS Research (amFAR), Bangkok, Thailand and New York, USA

Uduyana University, Sanglah Hospital, Bali UNAIDS, Geneva

Université de Montréal, Montreal, Canada

University Health Network, Toronto, Canada

University of Malaya Medical Centre, Kuala

University of Basel, Switzerland

University of British Columbia

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, San Francisco

University of California, San Francisco, Vietnam Campus, Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam

University of Detroit

University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

University of Indonesia, Jakarta

University of Maryland, Baltimore, USA

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

University of Toronto, Canada

University of Waterloo, Canada

Vietnam AIDS Council

Waikato Hospital, Hamilton NZ

Wayne State University, Detroit, USA

The World Bank

The 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

Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd, Sydney Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd, Sydney

Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals, Melbourne

Calimmune, USA

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

Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney

Roche Pharmaceuticals

Roche Products Pty Ltd, Sydney

Schering Plough Pty Ltd, Sydney

Disclosure of financial and other relationships with industry

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 2009.

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 2009. Abbreviated forms of the company names have been used for ease of recognition.

Tanya Applegate

SpeeDx

Mark Boyd

Abbott Janssen-Cilag Merck Roche

David Cooper

Abbott

Bristol-Myers Squibb Gilead GlaxoSmithKline Janssen-Cilag Johnson & Johnson

Merck Pfizer

Basil Donovan

CSL

GlaxoSmithKline Sanofi-Pasteur MSD

Greg Dore

Roche

Schering-Plough

Abbott

Merck

Novartis

Fraser Drummond

 ${\sf GlaxoSmithKline}$

Jason Grebely

Schering-Plough

Andrew Grulich

CSL

GlaxoSmithKline

Anthony Kelleher Becton Dickenson

Virax

Matthew Law

Sirtex Technology

Pip Marks

Roche

Gail Matthews

Gilead

Sarah Pett

Boehringer-Ingelheim Bristol-Myers Squibb Gilead GlaxoSmithKline Janssen-Cilag

Merck ScheringPlough

Funding

Research activities for blood borne virus and sexually transmissible infections 2008/9 to 2010/11	4,290,402
The Australian Collaboration for Chlamydia Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS) Project	207,370
Current status of the female sex industry in Western Australia	15,000
Developing evidence to inform a national syphilis action plan: mathematical modelling, conducting focus group, host technical workshop	
Increasing access to hepatitis C treatment through opiate dependency settings	51,000
The Cost Effectiveness and Mathematical Modelling of Needle and Syringe Programs on Viral Transmission among Injecting Drug Users in Australia	124,664
Other grants and contracts from public sources	
American Foundation for AIDS Research: TREAT Asia Studies to Evaluate Resistance (TASER)	182,616
TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme (TAQAS)	170,055
TREAT Asia Pediatric HIV Observational Database (TApHOD)	131,228
AusAID: Evaluation of the potential impact of the global economics crisis on HIV epidemics in Southeast Asia	39,819
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Evaluation of the improving sexual health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth demonstration projects	
Australian Research Council (ARC): Allocating scarce HIV/AIDS antiretroviral drugs in resource-constrained countries	38,222
Planning female and male vaccination and cervical screening strategies to achieve optimal prevention of HPV-related disease (Project)	149,094
Planning female and male vaccination and cervical screening strategies to achieve optimal prevention of HPV-related disease (APAI)	26,669
Sexual health and relationships in young Indigenous people	107,126
Using mathematical modelling to inform HIV/AIDS public health policy	87,538
Australian Society for HIV Medicine: Consortium to Implement AusAID's Regional Capacity Building Program 2007-2011 – Cambodia	396,123
Consortium to Implement AusAID's Regional Capacity Building Program 2007-2011 – Indonesia	397,890
European Medicines Evaluation Agency: Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs Study	60,824
Family Health International Subcontract funded from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation : Development of Assays for Acute HIV Infection and Estimation of HIV Incidence in Populations	
Medical Research Council, UK: SPARTAC Study	41,511
National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDs: Modelling historical HIV antiretroviral treatment pathways in Australia and predicting future trends in treatment demand by geographical region	56,017
NHMRC Career Development Award - David Wilson	94,250
CCRE in Aboriginal Health: Blood borne viral and sexually transmitted infection	500,000
International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership Grant	
Practitioner Fellowship for Basil Donovan	296,820 100,975
Practitioner Fellowship for Greg Dore	84,175
Practitioner Fellowship for Tony Kelleher	72,150
Program Grant - HIV & HCV vaccines and immunopathogenesis	1,785,244
Project Grant - A randomised trial to control sexually transmitted infections in remote Aboriginal communities	316,900
Project Grant - Defining risk and mechanisms of permucosal transmission for acute HCV infection within high-risk populations	136,175
Project Grant - Randomised Controlled Trial of Hepatitis B Vaccine Completion in Injecting Drug Users	183,453
Project Grant - Randomised trial to determine the safety and efficacy of early versus deferred treatment of adult HIV infection (START)	
Project Grant - SiRNA induced TGS of retroviruses : Elucidation of underlying mechanisms and their application in animal models	128,242
Public Health Fellowship for Rebecca Guy	71,250
Public Health Fellowship for Peter Higgs	71,250
Research Fellowship - PRF - Andrew Grulich	135,500
Research Fellowship - SPRF - Lisa Maher	112,000

Research Fellowship - SPRF - John Kaldor	153,250
Sidney Sax Fellowship - Joanne Kimber	71,250
NHMRC - Program Grant Subcontract	
University of Sydney: Mathematical Modelling for improved planning of infectious disease control policy	60,000
University of Sydney: Building research capacity for health interventions to improve Aboriginal health	
University of Melbourne: Using mathematical models to assess the impact of interventions to reduce sexually transmitted infections in Australia	120,000
NSW Health Department	
Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS)	297,500
Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS) South Australian Arm	31,000
Developing evidence to inform a national syphilis action plan	29,793
Expert services in HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible diseases	100,000
Hepatitis C seroconversion: Using qualitative research to enhance surveillance	149,105
High risk men who have sex with men and understandings of risk study (PASH)	147,719
Increasing access to HCV treatment in NSW through opiate pharmacotherapy settings – pilot clinics project (ETHOS)	200,000
NSW Aboriginal Sexual Health and BBV Research Study - Stage One	257,400
Prevalence, incidence and risk factors for hepatitis C in HIV negative and HIV positive homosexual men in Sydney	53,560
Status report on the female sex worker industry in Sydney	81,081
Queensland Health: Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS)	85,240
South Australia Health: Evaluation of the South Australian HIV Epidemic	
The Cancer Council NSW - Strategic Research Partnership Grant with University of Sydney - Towards a strategic partnership (STREP)	50,000
The University of Melbourne - Collaborative Agreement from Department of Health & Ageing - Evaluation of Chlamydia Pilot in General Practice (ACCEPt)	102,062
University of Minnesota: SILCAAT Study	294,315
US National Institutes of Health Subcontract American Foundation for AIDS Research: TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD)	254,426
Johns Hopkins University: Liver Disease and HIV-HBV Coinfection in the HAART Era	46,096
University of California, San Francisco Institute for Global Health, Culture and HIV Prevention in Cambodia	21,477
University of Minnesota: ESPRIT Study	494,463
University of Minnesota: INSIGHT Study	276,408
University of Minnesota: START Study	122,655
University of Minnesota: STALWART Study	77,055
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
Victoria Health: Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS)	67,064

Finance and Administration

(left to right)
Annie Tung
Patricia Xu
Coralie Kronenberg
Brigette Sharp
Lisa Howard
Charles Tran
Teresa Wong
Yvette Toole
Ian Brodie
Rata Joseph
Bronwen Turner
Absent:
Dhara Kothary
Gina Lam



■ Pharmaceutical Industry Funding	
Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd	1,440
Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals (Australia)	4,700
CSL Limited	320,707
CSL Limited (ARC Linkage Partner)	66,967
Gilead Science Inc	2,447,560
Gilead Science Pty Ltd	500,000
GlaxoSmithKline Pty Ltd	25,000
Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd	19,975
Merck Sharp & Dohme	434,849
Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd	11,999
Pfizer Inc via Quintiles Pty Ltd	58,780
Quintiles Pty Ltd	12,499
Roche Products Pty Ltd (Australia)	62,619
Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd via Quintiles Pty Ltd	12,924
Tibotec Virco Virology BVBA	118,919
	18,924,472

Research grants

Ashton LA, CM Vajdic, TA O'Brien, AJ Dodds, K Bradstock. NHMRC Project grant: Second cancers after haematopoietic stem cell transplantation. \$1,181,250 (2009-2011).

Bavoil PM, Ravel J, Rank R, Maurelli A, Myers G, Wilson DP. National Institutes of Health Center for Excellence. Eco-pathogenomics of chlamydial infection of the human reproductive tract. US\$12,207,835 (2009-2013).

Butler T, MH Levy, JM Kaldor, F Al-Yaman, K Wilhelm K, M Dodson M, D Gray, S Allsop. NHMRC Capacity building grant: From Broome to Berrima: Building Australia wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health and health care delivery. \$2,315,190 (2009).

Cooper DA, Emery S. Merck, Sharp and Dohme Australia Pty Ltd. A randomised open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of ritonavir boosted lopinavir and 2N9t) RTI backbone versus the same ritonavir boosted lopinavir and raltegravir in patients virologically failing first-time NNRTI/2N(t)RTI therapy: the SECOND-LINE study. US\$1,100,000 (2009-2011).

Cooper DA, Kent SJ, Lloyd A, Dore GJ, Emery S, Kelleher AD, French MAH, Beard M, Purcell D. NHMRC Program Grant. HIV & HCV vaccines and immunopathogenesis. \$17,734,213 (2009-2013).

Danta M. NHMRC Project Grant. Defining risk and mechanisms of permucosal transmission for acute HCV infection within high-risk populations. \$380,050 (2009-2011).

Donovan B. NHMRC Practitioner fellowship. Sexually transmissible infections: causes, consequences, and interventions. \$504,875 (2009-2013).

Donovan B. NSW Health. Status report on the female sex worker industry in Sydney. \$81,081 (2009).

Dore G. NHMRC Program Grant. HIV & HCV vaccines and immunopathogenesis. \$1,832,535 (2009-2013).

Dore G. The Cancer Council NSW - Strategic Research Partnership Grant with University of Sydney. Epidemiology, prevention and management of liver cancer in NSW: Towards a strategic partnership (STREP). \$250,000 (2009-2013).

Emery S, Hoy J, Pett SL, Roth N, Wright E. Randomised trial to determine the safety and efficacy of early versus deferred treatment of adult HIV infection. NHMRC Project Grant 2009. \$405,401 (2009-2010).

Emery S. NHMRC Program Grant. HIV & HCV vaccines and immunopathogenesis (CORAL). \$1,832,535 (2009-2013).

Grulich A. NHMRC Research fellowship: \$677,500 (2009-2013).

Hocking J, Gunn J, Fairley CK, Kaldor JM, Donovan B, Low N. Australian Department of Health and Ageing. Australian Chlamydia Control Effectiveness Pilot (ACCEPt). \$2,053,346 (2009-2011).

Hocking J, Regan D, Wilson D, Philip D, Smith A. NHMRC Project Grant. Using mathematical models to assess the impact of interventions to reduce sexually transmitted infections in Australia. \$539,775 (2009–2011).

Kaldor J, Allison W. Research and education in HIV/AIDS for Resource-Poor Countries REACH Initiative. Diagnosis of tuberculosis in HIV infected and HIV uninfected children in Papua New Guinea with a T-cell based assay: a prospective study. Tibotec Virco Virology BVBA, 2009, \$118,919

Kaldor J, Causer L. Australian Society for HIV Medicine. Consortium to Implement AusAID's Regional Capacity Building Program 2007-2011 - Support for Clinical and Epidemiological HIV Research Capacity in Indonesia. \$208,650 (2009).

Kaldor J, Donovan B. The University of Melbourne - Collaborative Agreement for funding from Department of Health & Ageing. Evaluation of Chlamydia Pilot in General Practice (ACCEPt). \$255,154 (2009-2011).

Kaldor J. Family Health International. Subcontract funded from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - Development of Assays for Acute HIV Infection and Estimation of HIV Incidence in Populations. \$166,626 (2009).

Kaldor J. National Institute of Health (NIH) -Subaward Agreement with University of California, San Francisco. Syphilis chemoprophylaxis in homosexual men with HIV infection using Doxyxyxline. \$32,809 (2009-2010).

Kaldor JM, Ward J, Delaney-Theile D, Cousoz S, Hunt J, Scrimgeour D, Donovan B, Dore G. NHMRC. Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) in Aboriginal health: sexually transmitted and blood-borne viral infections. \$2,500,000 (2009-2013).

Kaldor JM, Ward J. NHMRC Project Grant. A randomised trial to control sexually transmitted infections in remote Aboriginal communities (STRIVE). \$1,746,789 (2009-2013).

Kaldor JM. NHMRC Research fellowship, Senior principal research fellow. \$766,250 (2009-2013).

Kelleher A. NHMRC Program Grant. HIV & HCV vaccines and immunopathogenesis. \$1,832,535 (2009-2013).

Kerr TH, Shannon K, Maher L, Shoveller J, Small W, Wood E. Canadian Institutes of Health Research: Exploring the natural history of injection drug use. CAN\$261,051 (2009-2012).

Law M. NSW Health. Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS) South Australian Arm \$31,000 (2009).

Law M. University of Basel. Swiss HIV Cohort Study - Myocardial infarction, assessment of antiretroviral and genetic factors in human immunodeficiency virus infection MAGNIGICENT. (2009).

Law M. Victoria Health. Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study ACHOS Victoria. \$67,064 (2009).

Lloyd A, Cooper DA. NHMRC Program Grant. HIV & HCV vaccines and immunopathogenesis. \$1,832,535 (2009-2013).

MacIntyre R, Dwyer D, Nga N, Ferguson N, McLaws M, Maher L, Seale H, Wood J, Newall A. ARC. Economic, social and cross cultural issues in non-pharmaceutical protection of front line responders to pandemic influenza and emerging infections. \$185,000 (2009-2012).

Maher L, I van Beek, C Day, L Topp, M Shanahan, H Wand. NHMRC Project grant. Hepatitis acceptability and vaccine incentives trial: HAVIT. \$270,875 (2009-2010).

Maher L. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing. Viral hepatitis surveillance and research. \$287,306 (2009).

Maher L. NHMRC Research fellowship. \$560,000 (2009-2013).

Maher L. NSW Health. Hepatitis C seroconversion: Using qualitative research to enhance surveillance. \$149,105 (2009).

Mastro T, C Sexton, ML Baniecki, JM Kaldor, JMG Calleja. Gates Foundation Grant. Identification and Development of Assays for Acute HIV Infection and Estimation of HIV Incidence in Populations \$717,574 (2009).

Mooney-Somers J. UNSW Faculty of Medicine Post Doctoral Research Grant. Preventing sexually transmitted infections in same-sex attracted young women: An examination of perceived vulnerability and safer sex negotiation. \$7200 (2009).

Pett S. The Regents of the University of Minnesota. International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials [INSIGHT FLU 002 and FLU 003] - Site advances. US\$174,182 (2009-2010).

Pett S. The Regents of the University of Minnesota. International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials (INSIGHT FLU 002 and FLU 003) - Site payments.

Prestage G, Hurley M, Pitts M, Brown G. South Australian Department of Health. Study of Understandings of Risk among Gay Men in South Australia. \$22,000 (2009-2010).

Prestage G, Jin J, Slavin S, Ellard J, Brown G. South Australian Department of Health. Study of Risk Factors for HIV Seroconversion among Gay Men in South Australia. \$10,450 (2009-2010).

Prestage G, Korner H. NSW Health. HIV and risk among Thai gay men in Sydney. \$58,771 (2009).

Prestage G. Government of Western Australia - Department of Health: Study of risk and HIV among men who have sex with men in Western Australia. \$36,675 (2009).

Prestage G. McInnes D. NSW Health. High risk men who have sex with men and understandings of risk study (PASH). \$147,719 (2009).

Prestage G. Victorian Department of Human Services. Study of sexually adventurous men in Melbourne. \$100,000 (2009-2010).

Regan D, Wilson DP, Hocking J, Philip D, Smith A. NHMRC Project Grant. Using mathematical models to assess the impact of interventions to reduce sexually transmitted infections in Australia. \$350,000 (2009-2011).

Rhodes T, Bonell C, Maher L, Hope V, Treloar C, Friedman S Economic and Social Research Council UK: Staying Safe: A sociology of how injecting drug users avoid viral infection in the long-term. GBP£368,410.56 (2009-2011).

Ward J, Worth H, Kaldor J, Smith A, Pitts M, Bryant J. Australian Research Council 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 Indigenous people. \$755,000 (2009-2013).

White P, Cooper DA. NHMRC Program Grant. HIV & HCV vaccines and immunopathogenesis. \$60,000 [2009-2013].

Wilson DP, Petoumenos K, Anderson J. National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS. Modelling historical HIV antiretroviral treatment pathways in Australia and predicting future trends in treatment demand by geographical region. \$56,017 (2009).

Wilson DP, Prestage GP, Donovan B. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and NSW Health: Developing evidence to inform a national syphilis action plan. \$54,716 (2009).

Wilson DP, Thein R, Dore G. Roche Pharmaceuticals: Economic evaluation of current and future costs of hepatitis C in Australia and the potential impact of increased treatment uptake. \$62,619 (2009).

Wilson DP. ARC Future Fellowship: Using mathematical modelling to inform HIV/AIDS public health policy. \$686,400 (2009–2013).

Wilson DP. AusAID: Evaluation of the Potential Impact of the Global Economic Crisis on HIV Epidemics in Southeast Asia. \$39,819 (2009).

Wilson DP. National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS. Modelling historical HIV antiretroviral treatment pathways in Australia and predicting future trends in treatment demand by geographical region. \$56,017 (2009).

Wilson DP. National Institute of Health (NIH) -Subrecipient Agreement with University of Maryland, Baltimore. Eco-Pathogenomics of Chlamydial Reproductive Tract Infection. US\$3240 (2009-2010).

Wilson DP. NHMRC Career Development Award 1: Biomedical (Fellowship). Using modelling to evaluate STI epidemiology control strategies and investigate chlamydia within-host disease. \$370,000 (2009–2012). Wilson DP. South Australia Health. Evaluation of the South Australian HIV Epidemic. \$21,641 (2009).

Conference presentations

■ 12th Bangkok Symposium on HIV medicine (Bangkok, January)

Boyd M. Mythbusters: HIV, immune deficiency, ART and adverse events.

Grulich AE. AIDS and non-AIDS malignancies in the era of HAART.

Matthews GV: Preventing and managing hepatotoxicity.

■ SPARTAC Trial Management Committee Meeting (Sharm El Sheik, January)

Kelleher AD. A proposal for assessing the impact of viral reservoirs on Primary outcome measures in SPARTAC.

Kelleher AD. An update of the SPARTAC trial at the Sydney sites.

■ 16th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections (CROI) (Montreal, February)

Grulich AE. AIDS-related cancers. Losso M, Abrams D and INSIGHT ESPRIT Study Group. Effect of Interleukin-2 on Clinical Outcomes in Patients with a CD4+ Cell Count of 300/mm3: Primary Results of the ESPRIT Study.

Losso M, Abrams D and INSIGHT ESPRIT Study Group. Effect of Interleukin-2 on Clinical Outcomes in Patients with a CD4+ Cell Count of 300/mm3: Primary Results of the ESPRIT Study.

Lundgren J, Reiss P, Worm S, Weber R, El-Sadr W, De Wit S, **Law M**, d'Arminio Monforte A, Pradier C, Sabin C and Aquataine, AHOD, ATHENA, INSIGHT, EuroSIDA, ICONA, Nice, SHCS, St Pierre Cohorts & D:A:D Study Group. Risk of Myocardial Infarction with exposure to specific ARV from the PI, NNRTI and NRTI drug classes: The D:A:D study.

Puls R, Hemachandra A, Sirivichayakul S, Kerr S, Thaniworasit P, Cooper DA, Emery S, Kelleher AD Ruxrungtham K. A randomized Phase I/IIa trial of a Clade A/E Prime, Recombinant Fowlpox Virus Boost HIV-1 Vaccine in Low-risk Thai Population.

Smith C and the D:A:D Study Group (Law MG a member of study group). Association between modifiable and non-modifiable risk factors and specific causes of death in the HAART era: The Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV drugs study.

■ NCHECR International Clinical Research Network Meeting (satellite meeting of CROI 2009) (Montreal, February)

Boyd M. NCHECR International Clinical Research Network Presentation. The Second Line Study - an international, multi-centre, randomised, controlled clinical trial (satellite meeting of CROI 2009).

Puls R. 'The Altair Study - an update', Feb 10th, Inter-Continental Hotel, Montreal, Canada (satellite meeting of CROI 2009)

Puls R. 'The Encore Program - an update', Feb 10th, Inter-Continental Hotel, Montreal, Canada (satellite meeting of CROI 2009)

■ 5th Annual Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver Winter Meeting (Banff, Canada, February)

Conway B, Gallagher L, Knight E, Genoway K, Showler G, Tossonian H, Hosseina M, Duncan F, Viljoen M, Raffa JD, **Grebely J**. Safety and efficacy of substituting tenofovir for other nucleoside analogues in virologically controlled HIV-infected patients co-infected with hepatitis C virus: the TEN-switch study.

Conway B, Knight E, Ngai T, Genoway K, Showler G, Duncan F, Krajden M, Dore G, Raffa JD, **Grebely J**. Low rate of persistent re-infection following sustained virological response among injection drug users treated for chronic HCV infection.

Grebely J, Hellard M, **Matthews GV,** Haber P, **Yeung B, Marks P, Petoumenos K,** van Beek I, McCaughan G, White P, Ffrench R, Rawlinson W, Lloyd A, **Kaldor J, Dore GJ**. Factors associated with response to

therapy during treatment for acute and early chronic HCV infection.

Grebely J, White P, **Matthews GV**, Flynn J, Renkin M, **Kaldor J**, Lloyd A, Hellard M, Ffrench R and **Dore GJ**. Partial protective immunity against hepatitis C virus reinfection in humans.

■ Social Science International Workshop on The Impact of HIV/AIDS and Antiretroviral Treatment in Asia (Chiang Mai, February)

Maher L, Pisith P, Elliott J, Hong T K, Huort T, Saramony S, Saphonn V, Kaldor J, Vun M C. HIV treatment beliefs and practices and adherence to antiretroviral therapy in Cambodia.

■ TREAT Asia Mid-Term Meetings (Bangkok, March)

Oyomopito R. TASER Study Update.

■ Symposium on HPV in the Immunocompromised Host and in Non-Cervical Cancers (Sydney, February)

Philp DJ, **Regan DG**. Modelling of HPV vaccination of boys.

■ 13th annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of Hong Kong, March

Pett SL. New Treatments for HIV-1-infection.

13th International Symposium on Viral Hepatitis and Liver Disease (Washington, March)

Dore G. Hepatitis C control among injecting drug users.

Grebely J, White P, **Matthews GV,** Flynn J, Renkin M, **Kaldor J,** Lloyd A, Hellard M, Ffrench R and **Dore GJ**. Partial protective immunity against hepatitis C virus reinfection in humans. Hellard M, Matthews G, Grebely J, Haber P, Yeung B, Marks P, Petoumenos K, van Beek I, McCaughan G, White P, Ffrench R, Rawlinson W, Lloyd A, Kaldor J and Dore G. Impact of adherence on response to therapy during treatment for acute and early chronic HCV infection.

■ 2009 International Liver Congress (Copenhagen, April)

Baleriola C., W. Rawlinson, S. Chaverot, S. Stelzer-Braid, M. Yoshihara, B. Rizkalla, D. Dubois, W. Sievert, G. McCaughan, D.H.G. Crawford, M. Weltman, W.S.C. Cheng, G.J. Dore, S. Roberts. Impact of low-level hepatitis C viraemia at week 24 on HCV treatment response in genotype 1 patients.

Cheng W.S.C., S. Roberts, M. Weltman, D.H.G. Crawford, W. Sievert, G. McCaughan, W. Rawlinson, P. Desmond, M. Yoshihara, B. Rizkalla, J. DePamphilis, **P. Marks, G.J. Dore**. Efficacy and safety of peginterferon alfa-2a 360 lg/week in combination with ribavirin in hepatitis C genotype 1 patients with cirrhosis: analysis from the Chariot Study.

Grebely J, Raffa JD, Lai C, Krajden M, Fischer B, Kerr T, **Dore GJ** and Tyndall MW. Impact of hepatitis C virus infection on liver-related mortality in a large community-based cohort of inner city residents.

Roberts S., M. Weltman, D.H.G. Crawford, W.S.C. Cheng, W. Sievert, G. McCaughan, P. Desmond, W. Rawlinson, P. Marks, M. Yoshihara, B. Rizkalla, J. DePamphilis, G.J. Dore. High-dose peginterferon alfa-2a (40kd) induction therapy and standard ribavirin enhances early but not sustained virological responses in HCV genotype 1 patients: final Chariot Study results.

Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) in HIV Risk Research Workshop (Sydney, April)

Law MG. HIV infection, antiretroviral treatment and cardiovascular disease risk.

Law MG, Hoy J, Carr A. Faciliate Workshop feedback.

Law MG. Observational Cohort Studies.

■ International Harm Reduction Association Conference (Bangkok, April)

Higgs P, Aitken C, Hellard M, Winter R, **Maher L**. Drug user narratives on staying hepatitis C free.

Kimber J, Copeland L, Hickman M, Macleod J, McKenzie J, De Angelis D, Robertson J R. Natural history of injecting drug use: A longitudinal study of survival and long term injecting cessation.

Prestage GP, Hurley M. Sexual risk behaviour among gay men: Is drug use the cause or an effect?

Treloar C, McCann P, Byron P, Maher L. Concerns of injecting drug users and health workers regarding trials of hepatitis C vaccines

■ PHAA Health Justice in Australia Conference (Melbourne, April)

Topp L, Iversen J, Kumar S, Treloar C, **Maher L**, Indig D. NSW prison inmates' use of community needle and syringe programs prior to incarceration.

Higgs P, Aitken C, Hellard M. Prison history of a Melbourne cohort of injection drug users, Justice Health: Beyond the Convict Era.

■ 18th biennial meeting of the International Society of Sexually Transmitted Disease Research (ISSTDR) (London, June)

Guy R, Goller J, Leslie D, Thorpe R, Grierson J, Batrouney C, Kennedy M, Lewis J, Fairley C, Ginige S, Zablotska I, Hellard M. No increase in HIV or STI testing following a social marketing campaign among men who have sex with men in Australia.

Jin F, Prestage GP, Templeton DJ, Donovan B, Imrie J, Kippax S, Mindel A, Cunningham A, Cunningham P, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. The impact of HIV risk reduction behaviours on sexually transmissible infections in HIV negative homosexual men.

■ 5th International Workshop on HIV and Hepatitis Coinfection (Lisbon, June)

Matthews, GV: The Epidemiology of Acute Hepatitis C (plenary)

Matthews GV; Avihingsanon A, Bowden, S, Lewin S; Sasadeusz J, Thio CL, Ayres A Locarnini SA; Ruxrungtham K, Dore GJ. Changes in quantitative HBsAg levels in Thai HIV-HBV coinfected subjects following initiation of HBV-active HAART within a randomised clinical trial.

Jennifer Audsley, Joe Sasadeusz, Margaret

Littlejohn, Lilly Yuen, Chris Desmond, George Lau, **Greg Dore, Gail Matthews,** Anchalee Avihingsanon, Kiat Ruxrungtham, Stephen Locarnini, Chloe Thio[,] Sharon Lewin, Peter Revill. Virological characteristics of a longitudinal HIV/HBV co-infected cohort prior to initiation of HBV-active HAART.

Ribeiro, RM, Avihingsanon A, Bowden S, Matthews G, Marks P, Locarnini SA, Ruxrungtham K, Perelson AS, Dore GJ, Lewin SR. Modeling of viral dynamics of hepatitis B virus (HBV) DNA in HIV-1-HBV co-infected individuals: similar kinetic parameters compared to HBV mono-infected individuals.

Megan Crane, Sunee Sirivichayakul J. Judy Chang, Anchalee Avihingsanon, Sasiwimol Ubolyam, Supranee Buranapraditkun, Pattarawat Thantiworasit, Fiona Wightman, Stephen Locarnini, **Gail Matthews, Gregory J Dore**, Kiat Ruxrungtham, Sharon R Lewin. No change in HBV-specific T cells in HIV-1-HBV co-infection following HBV-active HAART

Australian Centre for HIV & Hepatitis Virology Research (ACH2) 5th National Workshop (Terrigal, June)

Cameron B, Elliott L, Ratnarajah S, Sugden P, Lloyd A, Haber P, Dolan K, Ffrench R, Rawlinson B, White P, Levy M, Kaldor J, Dore G, **Maher L**. Evaluation of potentially protective immunity against HCV in highly exposed, but uninfected prison inmates in the HITS study.

Luciani F, **Wilson D**, Teutsch S, Lloyd A (on behalf of the HITS investigators). Mathematical modelling of hepatitis C transmission dynamics in the prison environment: the <u>Hepatitis C Incidence</u> and <u>Transmission Study</u> (HITS). Evaluation of potentially protective immunity against HCV in highly exposed, but uninfected prison inmates in the HITS study.

Teutsch S, McCredie L, Bloomfield M, Levy M, Haber P, Lloyd A, Dolan K, Ffrench R, Rawlinson B, **Kaldor J, Dore G, Maher L.** HCV incidence in a follow-up study of highrisk IDU prison inmates – the HITS-p cohort.

International AIDS Society Conference (Cape Town, July)

Grulich AE. HIV, cancer and immune deficiency.

Miura T, Brumme Z, Brumme C, Block B, Brockman B, Trocha A, Pereyra F,

Kaufmann D, Iwamoto A, Jessen H, Rosenberg E, **Kelleher AD**, Markowitz M, Little S, Walker B, AIEDRP Network. Characterization of human immunodeficiency virus type I in the acute/early phase of infection in the individuals who subsequently become viremia controllers.

Mohanarama R S, Center R, Suzuki K, Gray L, Gorry P, **Kelleher AD**, Purcell D. Genotypic and phenotypic profiles of envelope glycoproteins derived from HIV-1 pre-seroconversion strains.

van Bockel D, Ammaranond P, Venturi V, Davenport M, Price D, Douek D, Zaunders J, Gelgor L, Kaldor J, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD.TCR clonotypes responding to an immmunodominant HLA-B*27 restricted epitope are relatively stable over extended periods but their diversity does not correlate with viral escape in HIV-1 infected Long term non-progressors (LTNP).

NCHECR International Clinical Research Network (satellite meeting of IAS)(Cape Town, July)

Puls R. The Encore Program - an update.

■ INSERM Strasbourg (France, July)

Murray JM. In host dynamics of human immunodeficiency and hepatitis B viruses.

Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf (Germany, July)

Murray JM. In host dynamics of human immunodeficiency and hepatitis B viruses.

26th NRL Workshop on Serology (Christchurch, August)

Yan C, Hanafi I, Kelleher AD, Carr A, McNally L, and Cunningham P. Lack of correlation at the lower limit of detection of three commercially available viral load assays for the quantitation of HIV-RNA.

■ 1st International Symposium on Hepatitis Care in Substance Users (Zurich, September)

A Gillman, J Grebely, M Jauncey, C Day, A Dunlop, P Haber, A Wodak and GJ Dore. Assessment and treatment of chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in a prospective, observational cohort of injection drug users (IDUs): the ETHOS Cohort

Conway B, Knight E, Storms M, Barrieshee A, Gallagher L, Duncan F, **Grebely J**. Treatment of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Infection in Active and Recent Injection Drug Users (IDUs): The Vancouver Experience.

Dore GJ, Hellard M, Matthews GV, Grebely J, Haber PS, Petoumenos K, Yeung B, Marks P, van Beek I, McCaughan G, White PA, Ffrench R, Rawlinson W, Lloyd AR and Kaldor JM for the ATAHC Study Group. Treatment of recent hepatitis C virus infection in a predominantly injection drug user cohort: the ATAHC Study.

Grebely J, Matthews GV, Petoumenos K, Pham ST, **Marks P**, Rawlinson W, Haber PS, **Kaldor JM**, Lloyd AR, Hellard M, Ffrench R, White PA and **Dore GJ** for the ATAHC Study Group. Hepatitis C virus superinfection and reinfection in injection drug users.

Grebely J, Raffa JD, Knight E, Storms M, Tossonian HK, Duncan F, Singer J, John-Baptiste A, Krahn M, Fischer B and Conway B. Factors influencing willingness for and uptake of treatment for hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in illicit drug users in urban care settings in British Columbia, Canada: the Hi-Lo Study.

Tyndall MW, Sadr A, Kellman C, Mority J, Tu D, Littlejohn D, **Grebely J.** A pilot project for Hepatitis C treatment using an intensive case management model in Vancouver, Canada.

21st Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Conference (Brisbane, September)

Adam PCG, Murphy DA, Imrie J, Pitts M, **Prestage G.** MSM in Australia are willing to participate in a large scale online cohort study on sexuality and health.

Anderson J. Debate on Pre-exposure HIV Prophylaxis (PREP).

Anderson J. (How to set up an anal cancer screening program) Is it worth it?

Anderson J. Return on Investment cost effectiveness of needle syringe programs.

Babiker A, Law M, Seneviratne N, Pett SL, Carey C, Courtney-Rodgers D, Kearney L, Lin E, Emery S, Cooper DA for the INSIGHT ESPRIT Study Group and SILCAAT Scientific Committee. Combined analysis of the primary results of the evaluation of proleukin in a randomised international study (ESPRIT) and subcutaneous recombinant, human interleukin-2 in HIV-infected patients with low CD4+ counts

under active antiretroviral therapy (SILCAAT) studies.

Botes LP, **Cooper DA**, **Pett S**, Carr A, Carbone S, Hillman R J. High levels of anal cytological abnormalities in HIV-infected men who have sex with men in Sydney.

Bradley J. Love, Lust or Calculated Risk? Findings from the Online Seroconversion Study.

Carey C, Courtney-Rodgers D, Kelly M, D Wyman on behalf of the STALWART Protocol Team and the INSIGHT network. A study of aldesleukin with and without antiretroviral therapy (STALWART); what we've learnt.

Cooper DA. Introduction to a lifetime of HIV/AIDS. Opening plenary

Down I. Group sex among gay men: How many and how often?

Drummond FM, Neuhaus J, Hoy JF, **Emery S, Pett SL, Cooper DA** for the INSIGHT SMART Study Group Markers of Inflammation, Coagulation and Renal function in HIV-infected adults in Smart and in two large population-based studies, CARDIA and MESA.

Emery S for the INSIGHT ESPRIT Study Group. Effect of recombinant interleukin-2 (IL-2) on clinical outcomes in patients with a CD4+ T-cell count of ?300/MM3: primary results of the ESPRIT study.

Emery S. Immune-based therapies for HIV infection: where might this be heading now?

Falster K, Wand H, Donovan B, Anderson J, Nolan D, Watson K, Watson J, Law MG on behalf of the Australian HIV Observational Database. Rates and predictors of hospital admissions among patients in HIV infection in New South Wales and Western Australia: The Australian HIV Observational Database hospital linkage study.

Goller JL, **Guy R**, El Hayek C, Gold J, Gouillou M, Bergeri I, Leslie D, BK Tee, Owen L, Roth N, Fairley CK, Higgins N, Hellard ME. Syphilis testing, diagnoses and reinfection in MSM in Victoria.

Gray R. Evaluation of the potential impact of the global economic crisis on HIV epidemics in south-east Asia.

Grulich AE. HPV-associated cancers in immune deficient populations

Guy R, Ward J, Rumbold A, Silver B, Skov S, Boffa J, Ah Chee D, Donovan B, Law M, Maher L, McDermott R, Kaldor J. The

evidence for primary health STI screening programs in remote Aboriginal communities.

Guy R. The role of voluntary counselling & testing (VCT) data in estimating HIV prevalence: a systematic review.

Haskelberg H. Immune reconstitution diseases in HIV-Infected, Antiretroviral Therapy-Naïve patients recruited into the Altair study.

Horyniak D, **Guy R**, Prybylski D, Hellard M, **Kaldor J**. The role of voluntary counselling & testing (VCT) data in estimating HIV prevalence: a systematic review. **Huffam S**. Preventing loss to follow up at an HIV treatment service in Phnom Penh Cambodia.

Jin F, Prestage GP, Imrie J, Kippax S, Zablotska I, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. HIV negative homosexual men in an HIV serodiscordant relationship in the Health in Men study.

Jin F, Prestage GP, Templeton DJ, Donovan B, Imrie J, Kippax S, Mindel A, Cunningham A, Cunningham P, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. The impact of HIV risk reduction behaviours on sexually transmissible infections in HIV negative homosexual men.

Jin F, Prestage GP, Zablotska I, Rawstorne P, Imrie J, Kippax S, Donovan B, Templeton DJ, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. High incidence of syphilis in HIV positive homosexual men: Data from two community-based cohort studies.

Kelly M. A Study of Aldesleukin with and without Antiretroviral Therapy [STALWART]: What we've learnt [Carey C, Kelly M, Courtney-Rodgers D, Wyman N on behalf of the STALWART Protocol Team and the INSIGHT network]

Kaldor JM. Chair, Indigenous Sexual Health Symposium.

Kaldor JM. Chair, plenary sessions.

Kwon A. Estimating the past and future impact of NSPs in HIV and HCV transmissions among IDUs in Australia

Law M. Combined analysis of the primary results of the Evaluation of Proleukin in a Randomised International Study (ESPRIT) and Subcutaneous Recombinant, Human Interleukin-2 in HIV-infected Patients with Low CD4+ Counts Under Active Antiretroviral Therapy (SILCAAT) studies.

Matthews GV, Grebely J, Pham ST, Hellard M, Oon A, Marks P, Rawlinson W, **Kaldor JM**, Lloyd A, White PA, **Dore GJ**. Epidemiology of recently acquired hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection in HCV and HCV/HIV infected participants in the ATAHC study.

McCann PD, Prestage GP, Bradley J, Hurley M.. Desire, disinhibition and danger: how to pleasure and risk interact for gay and bisexual men (McCann PD, Prestage G, Bradley J, Hurley M) and What HIV positive and HIV negative gay men think about syphilis (McCann PD, Prestage G, Triffitt K, Down I).

McCann PD, Prestage GP, Triffit K, Down I. What HIV positive and HIV negative gay men think about syphilis.

McDonald A. Monitoring HIV transmission using the bed assay.

McDonald A. Trends in age at HIV diagnosis in Australia, 1997 – 2008

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About NCHECR

he 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, NCHECR is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales.

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