

A Research and Innovation Cluster in South Australia

“The Foundation of a Healthy Society”



Introduction

Australia is justifiably proud of its excellent record in research, clinical practice and the development of social justice policies that support access of all Australians to world-class health services. However, there are a range of problems that currently challenge the physical, psychological and social health of Australian children and adolescents. Such challenges require a multidisciplinary and focussed research effort to ensure the healthy development of the next generation of Australians and the 'Foundation of a Healthy Society'.

HDA was established in 2004 as an initiative of the University of Adelaide and is led by Professor Robert Norman (University of Adelaide), Professor Caroline McMillen (University of South Australia) and Professor Michael Sawyer (Children Youth and Women's Health Service).

HDA fosters research across 20 disciplines that include demography, epidemiology, education, genetics, indigenous health, nutrition, obstetrics & gynaecology, paediatrics, pharmacology, psychology, public health and sociology. Over 100 members are involved that include government, health service personnel, and researchers from the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, Flinders University and relevant organisations.

As of 2008, HDA has become *A Research and Innovation Cluster in South Australia* with major funding partners including the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, Women's & Children's Health Research Institute (WCHRI), Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation, and Department of Education & Children's Services. Supporting Partners include Flinders University, Department of Further Education Employment Science & Technology, SA Health, Department for Families & Communities, and the Children Youth & Women's Health Service.

Our Role

The role of HDA is to promote, facilitate and enable multidisciplinary research that will advance an understanding of healthy development and ensure the physical, psychological and social health of infants, children and adolescents.

We are proud of the role that HDA is playing within South Australia to foster multidisciplinary research at a basic, clinical, social and population level which leads to the healthy development and wellbeing of Australia's future generations.

Vision and Objectives

The vision of Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA) is to be the major hub for research and innovation in South Australia that will advance an understanding of healthy development and ensure the physical, psychological, mental and social health of infants, children and adolescents.

This vision can be accomplished by implementing the following objectives:

1. To develop effective communication and multidisciplinary interactions to inform and define research directions in developmental health research among all relevant institutions and individuals in South Australia
2. To facilitate a multidisciplinary research training program in Healthy Development across the state
3. To establish HDA as a focus for interactions with major international research networks and funding agencies
4. To build a positive image and profile of Healthy Development Adelaide to attract community, government and corporate support to achieving financial independency



The Research Context and Target Areas

HDA was formed around three main pillars created to highlight specific research interactions and major research questions, each covering a specific time period and spanning from preconception to adolescence. Within each pillar are three themes. Each theme traverses basic science, clinical science, health service delivery, social, cultural, economic and environmental determinants of health. The intent of this structure is to ensure that research groups with thematic interests will align with researchers from other research areas to advance our understanding of overall impact of research relating to infants, children and adolescence.

A Good Start to Life: Preconception to Birth

- Healthy Reproduction
- Early Growth and Birth
- Pregnancy and Families

The First Steps: Birth to 5 years

- Healthy Babies
- Growth and Child Health
- Healthy Parenting

Learning to Climb: Childhood to Adolescence

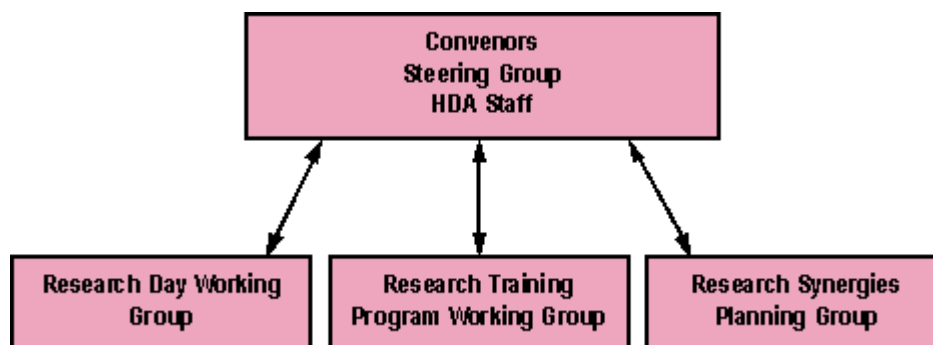
- Adolescent Development
- Health Risk Behaviours
- Gender and Sexuality

Governance

The HDA Steering Group is state-wide working towards developing a collaborative research environment and portfolio for South Australia.

In June 2004, Anne Jurisevic was appointed as HDA's Network & Communications Officer. Primary responsibilities include: implementation of HDA strategies, complete administrative duties, creating public awareness of HDA and fostering communication between the various discipline areas, liaison and communication with members, organisation of meetings and events, maintenance of membership database and website.

In addition, HDA also has working groups to help specific initiatives take place. Current structure is displayed in the figure below.





Highlights

- ★ *Establishment* ★ *Profile & Reputation* ★ *Building Relationships* ★ *Events* ★ *Communication*
- ★ *Defining Research Strengths* ★ *Research Outcomes* ★ *Interacting with External Stakeholders*
- ★ *Developing our Early Career Researchers* ★ *Achieving Sustainability* ★ *State-wide* ★ *HDA Scholars*

2004

- ★ Established with website, marketing, strategic plan, and official launch
- ★ Success in the Brailsford Robertson Award (\$200,000 cross-cluster, cross-disciplinary research) with the University of Adelaide and CSIRO Human Nutrition 2004-2006
- ★ Partners in SA's Thinker in Residence program (Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield). HDA involved to various degrees in James Martin 21st Century School (Learning Mind Project Working Group), Science Outside the Square, Women in Science Engineering and Technology, Australian Science Media Centre

2005

- ★ HDA Award for excellence: Professor Graeme Hugo, University of Adelaide
- ★ Establishment of a state-wide Steering Group
- ★ Establishment of three Working Groups with membership across institutions
- ★ Events (Thematic Evenings, Oration & Research Day)

2006

- ★ Partners in SA's Thinker in Residence program (Dr Fraser Mustard). HDA developed events to expose researchers and PhD students to thinking and expertise from Fraser Mustard in early childhood development
- ★ HDA Award for excellence: Professor Alastair MacLennan, University of Adelaide
- ★ Commencement of four HDA PhD Scholars, awarded from 24 applications
- ★ Annual events (Thematic Evenings, Oration & Research Day)
- ★ HDA has played an important role in working towards establishing a Centre for Intergenerational Health in South Australia. In partnership with Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology, Department of Health, University of South Australia, and Flinders University. The Centre will be established in 2008 with HDA in an ongoing role

2007

- ★ HDA Award for excellence: A/Professor Manny Noakes, CSIRO Human Nutrition
- ★ Successful events (Annual Thematic Evenings, Annual Oration & Research Day, Workshops)
- ★ HDA and the Research Centre for Reproductive Health inaugural School Education Program for high school students

2008

- ★ HDA Award for excellence: Professor Barbara Pocock, University of South Australia
- ★ Successful events (Annual Thematic Evenings, Annual Oration & Research Day)
- ★ HDA has two day/week role for one year in coordinating the research agenda and communication portfolio for the newly established Centre for Intergenerational Health in South Australia
- ★ HDA and the Research Centre for Reproductive Health second year School Education Program for high school students
- ★ Inaugural HDA Travel Grants for PhD students and early career researchers
- ★ Planning for a second cohort of HDA Scholars for commencement in 2009

HDA Steering Group



HDA Co-Convenor
Professor Robert Norman

Director: Robinson Institute, University of Adelaide

Professor Norman is sub-specialist in reproductive endocrinology and fertility, Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Pathologists. He is Chief Investigator on the NHMRC Program Grant entitled 'Periconceptual foundations for a healthy start to life' funded for \$10.4 million over 5 years. Professor Norman has published extensively in the areas of reproductive medicine including: polycystic ovary syndrome, assisted reproductive technology, ovarian function, human chorionic gonadotrophin and role of cytokines in reproduction.



HDA Co-Convenor
Professor Caroline McMillen

Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Research and Innovation, University of South Australia

Professor McMillen has an international reputation as a biomedical researcher for her work which focuses on the early origins of adult disease and is Director of the Research Centre for the Early Origins of Adult Health. Professor McMillen is the only Australian Commission Chair of the International Union of Physiological Societies. She served for extended periods as Chair of the ARC Biological Sciences Panel and the NHMRC Fetal, Neonatal and Respiratory Physiology Grant Review Panel and is currently a member of the NHMRC Enabling Grants Committee and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Scheme Expert Sub Committee on Promoting and Maintaining Good Health.



HDA Co-Convenor
Professor Michael Sawyer

Head: Research and Evaluation Unit, Children Youth and Women's Health Service (CYWHS)

Professor of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, research focused on quality of life of children with chronic illness and the epidemiology of child and adolescent mental disorders. Professor Sawyer was lead investigator in the Child and Adolescent Component of the National Survey of Mental Health and Well-Being in Australia. Currently lead investigator of the research team responsible for the Beyondblue Schools Research Initiative. Professor Sawyer is Chair of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund Research Committee. On 26 January 2008, Professor Sawyer was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.



Professor Maria Makrides

Deputy Director, and Head of Applied Nutrition: Women's and Children's Health Research Institute

Professor Makrides is Deputy Director of the Women's & Children's Health Research Institute and Heads the Applied Nutrition laboratory, she is also Professor of Nutrition at the University of Adelaide. Her research interests are in nutrition for preterm infants and perinatal fatty acid nutrition.



A/Professor Margie Ripper

Discipline of Gender Work and Social Inquiry, University of Adelaide

As a sociologist of health and illness and a feminist scholar, research and teaching focuses on gender, embodiment, health and illness, public discourse about 'risk', as well as research methodologies. Current research projects are reproductive policies and politics, including abortion, infertility treatments and technologies, and debates about hormonal control of menstruation and menopause.



Professor Dorothy Scott

Director: Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia

Former Head of School of Social Work at University of Melbourne, and prior to that Executive Director of the Ian Potter Foundation. Prof Scott studied social work at University of Melbourne in the early 1970s and worked for Social Welfare Department in area of foster care and adoption. In the 1980s began an academic career lecturing social work at University of Melbourne, conducting research in maternal depression and child welfare. Conducted reviews and inquiries in Australia on child protection and served on Ministerial advisory bodies in several States and Territories.



Professor Barbara Pocock

Director: Centre for Work + Life, University of South Australia

Professor Pocock has been researching work, employment and industrial relations in Australia for over twenty years. Her main areas of study have been work, employment relations, unions, inequality and vocational education. Barbara is widely published. Her latest book, *Living Low Paid* is to be published in late 2008 (co-authored with Helen Masterman-Smith). Her previous books include *Kids Count: Better early childhood education and care in Australia* (2007), *The Labour Market Ate my Babies: Work, Children and a Sustainable Future* (2006), and *The Work/Life Collision* (2003).



A/Professor Jane Scott

Academic Head of Programs: Flinders Clinical and Molecular Medicine, Nutrition & Dietetics, School of Medicine, Flinders University

A/Professor Scott commenced at Flinders University in May 2007. Originally from Perth, she obtained her BSc in Nutrition & Food Science followed by a Grad Dip in Dietetics from the then Western Australian Institute of Technology, now Curtin University of Technology, where she worked for 13 years. Her research interests are in public health nutrition and nutritional epidemiology in area of infant feeding practices. She has been an investigator on longitudinal studies including the Perth Infant Feeding Studies, Wellcome Trust funded Mastitis in Glasgow Study and the EU funded multi-centre INFABIO project investigating effect of diet and lifestyle on gastrointestinal infection and allergy in early life.



Ms Gail Mondy

Chief Executive Officer: Children, Youth and Women's Health Service

Ms Mondy leads a health service that brings together acute and primary health care services for children, young people and women. CYWHS is the state's leading provider of parenting support and community-based child and youth health services.



Ms Miriam Daley

Director: Strategic Initiatives, Early Childhood Services, DECS

Early Childhood Services supports the learning, development and wellbeing outcomes for young children, with a particular focus on birth to eight years of age, and those with additional needs. Miriam has responsibility for identifying DECS' research priorities for early childhood, and managing relevant national projects.

Mr Andrew Stanley

Director: Strategic Planning, Policy and Research Branch, SA Health

Andrew has worked within the SA public health sector for over 20 years. The SPPR Branch is responsible for the coordination of the health portfolio strategic plan; policy development; research policy, funding, ethics and privacy issues; coordination of health legislation; and the health system's contribution to South Australia's Strategic Plan. Andrew is on numerous state and national committee's and is Chair of SA Health Human Research Ethics Committee.

HDA Staff

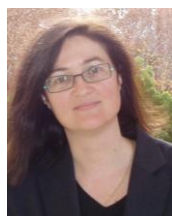


Ms Anne Jurisevic

Network & Communications Officer: Healthy Development Adelaide, University of Adelaide

Anne graduated from Flinders University with a BSc Degree in 1992 and immediately joined the University of Adelaide working in the Department of Physiology as Laboratory Manager and Senior Animal Surgeon for the Early Origin of Adult Health Laboratory with Prof Caroline McMillen. In 2004, Anne joined HDA as the Network and Communications Officer. Her current role includes implementing HDA strategies, creating public awareness of HDA and fostering communication between Universities + Government + Community, communication with members, organisation of meetings and events, maintenance of membership database and the website www.adelaide.edu.au/hda.

HDA Working Groups



A/Professor Pat Buckley

Dean: Research & Research Education, Division of Health Sciences, University of South Australia

Pat has previously been Associate Head of the School of Pharmacy & Medical Sciences at UniSA, and Head of Physiology and Associate Dean (International) at the University of Adelaide. Pat is currently the President of the SA Branch of the Perinatal Society of Australia & New Zealand. Her research interests include how early postnatal experience affects the developing physiology of infants, and the effectiveness of educational interventions in physiology and health-related sciences.

Chair: HDA Research Training Program Working Group

Members: Ms Bernadette Richards (UniA), Dr Janna Morrison (UniSA), A/Prof Maree O'Keefe (UniA), A/Prof Irene Hudson (UniSA), Ms Anne Jurisevic (HDA)



A/Professor Claire Roberts

Research Leader: Placental Development Group, Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Adelaide

Claire's research focuses on cellular and molecular interactions in placental differentiation, invasion and function and their impacts on fetal and maternal health. Claire is Scientific Director of the SA SCOPE (SCreening fOr Pregnancy Endpoints) project which aims to develop predictive tests for couples' risks for complications of late pregnancy (preeclampsia, intrauterine growth restriction and pre-term birth). Claire is active in promoting scientific and career development of young investigators in her capacity as a member of judging committees for SRB, ANZPRA and IFPA New Investigator Awards and the Women's and Children's Hospital Young Investigator Award.

Chair: HDA Research Synergies Working Group

Members: Dr Natalie Sinn(UniSA), Dr Genevieve Baratiny(UniSA), A/Prof Gordon Howarth(UniA), Dr Lisa Smithers(Women's & Children's Research Institute), Ms Anne Jurisevic (HDA)



A/Professor Margie Ripper

Discipline of Gender Work & Social Inquiry, University of Adelaide

Chair: HDA Research Day Working Group

Members: Prof Robert Norman (UniA), Prof Caroline McMillen (UniSA), Prof Michael Sawyer (CYWHS), Dr Grant Brinkworth (CSIRO Human Nutrition), Ms Anne Jurisevic (HDA)