

Newsletter

HDA Relocating...

The HDA office (Anne Juris-
evic, Network & Communi-
cations Officer) will be
moving from the QEH to the
city.

New contact details from
mid/late August will be:

Medical School North Build-
ing, Frome Road

Level 6 - room N620F

Ph: 8303 8172

Upcoming Events...

• 14-16 August

ACWA Positive Futures
Conference will be held
in Sydney and focus on
achieving well-being for
children and families.

• 24 August

HDA Seminar on Mentoring
and Career Development.
To be held at the
University of Adelaide, Union
House - Margaret
Murray room (level 4).

• 1-2 September

Obesity Prevention in
Communities Conference
will be held in Geelong,
Victoria that focuses on
community-based obesity
prevention programs.

For further information visit
our events page at:

[www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/
events](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events)

HDA WELCOMES NEW CO-CONVENOR



We are very pleased to announce and welcome Professor Michael Sawyer to HDA as Co-Convenor. Michael has been with HDA since its inception and initial Steering Group formation. Michael will bring an added focus to HDA as he not only represents the University of Adelaide but more broadly the Children, Youth and Women's Health Service (CYWHS).

Michael Sawyer is Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Head of the Discipline of Paediatrics at the University of Adelaide. He is also Head of the Research and Evaluation Unit at the Women's and Children's Hospital in South Australia.

Michael completed his undergraduate medical education at Monash University and his post-graduate training in psychiatry at McMaster University and the University of Toronto in Ontario, Canada. His research has focused on the quality of life of children with chronic illness and the epidemiology of child and adolescent mental disorders. He was the lead investigator in the Child and Ado-

lescent Component of the National Survey of Mental Health and Well-Being in Australia. He is currently lead investigator of the research team responsible for the Beyondblue Schools Research Initiative. He is also Chair of the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund Research Committee.

Michael has strong links with the SA Department of Education and Children's Services and has just completed a study with Families SA (the SA child welfare agency) of the mental health problems experienced by children in home-based foster care.

Prof Robert Norman
Prof Caroline McMillen

HDA EARLY CAREER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

HDA will be holding its inaugural **Early Career Research Symposium - Growing Pains: Ensuring the health of our millennium babies on Thursday 2 November 2006**. This promises to feature higher degree research in the area of healthy development spanning preconception to adolescence. The symposium overall will have a strong multidisciplinary focus with research that spans across various disciplines and will be open to all three Universities.

PhD students and early career

researchers will have an opportunity to highlight their work in a research forum that will enhance our understanding of the overall impact of research relating to infants, children and adolescence.

The HDA Research Training Program Working Group will oversee the symposium but it was decided that a group of PhD students would form the Organising Committee that will take ownership in developing and managing the symposium. The organising committee

consists of students across all three Universities: Emma Beukema, Rachael Nowak, Roxanne Portolesi, Kirsty Pringle, Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri and Justine Whitham.

We strongly encourage all senior researchers to attend and support this important event for our early career researchers.

Further details on 'call for abstracts' can be found at [www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/
events](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events) with submissions due by 5pm 1 September.

MEMBER PROFILE - LISA JAMIESON

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR POPULATION ORAL HEALTH



In 2004, Lisa was awarded an NHMRC Training Fellowship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research to establish a dental component in the Aboriginal Birth Cohort (ABC) Study. The ABC project is a life-course investigation involving 680 indigenous children born at the Royal Darwin Hospital between 1987 and 1990. Based at the Menzies School of Health Research, the study has had two phases (birth and age 11) and is now entering Phase 3 (age 16-19). The primary aim of the dental component of the study is to provide insight into factors contributing to variations in dental caries and periodontal disease in accordance with the life-course approach, with the methodology following that of the concurrently run National Adult Oral Health Survey.

Dr Lisa Jamieson is a registered dentist with a PhD in dental public health. Lisa is currently working as a research fellow with ARCPOH at the University of Adelaide. Her main research interests concern oral health disparities between indigenous and non-indigenous children, and she has worked with indigenous groups in New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, South America, Africa and Australia.

The life-course approach suggests that cumulative life-time exposure to "oral health-promoting" or "oral health-damaging" environments may be the most accurate explanation for indigenous and non-indigenous oral health disparities.

This is a health issue requiring swift attention, particularly with the links between periodontal disease and cardiovascular disease and the impact of periodontal disease on diabetes. By adding a dental component to the study will improve the study's completeness and hopefully provide evidence that may be useful in the policy-making arena to lead to more equitable and appropriate oral health promotion initiatives for Aboriginal communities.

I am interested in finding fellow researchers who might be interested in collaborating on a NHMRC New Investigator Award (funding application submitted in 2007 for funding to begin 2008) on an Adelaide-based Indigenous health literacy project. The criteria to be eligible for such an award is to have a PhD (or to be currently enrolled in one) and to have not been previously named on a NHMRC project grant. I'd be especially interested to hear from any Indigenous people who like the sound of the project.

Dr Lisa Jamieson can be contacted on Ph: 8303 4611 or lisa.jamieson@adelaide.edu.au

HDA TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

MENTORING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT: WHAT'S THE RELATIONSHIP?

HDA's third Translational Research Seminar will focus on 'Mentoring and Career Development: What's the relationship?' to be presented by three highly regarded speakers that will deliver their perspectives on the values of mentoring in a research environment, exploring whether there is a demonstrable relationship between mentoring and career development,

and what an ideal mentoring relationship looks like.

Mr James Burgess from the Centre for Learning and Professional Development will present the theory and evidence of values behind mentoring and how it is used to best effect.

Professor Caroline McMillen and HDA Co-Convenor from the University of South Australia

will present from a research mentor's perspective.

Dr Maria Makrides from the Child Health Research Institute will present from a research mentee's perspective.

When: Thursday 24 August 3.30 – 5.30pm at the University of Adelaide - Union House (Margaret Murray room, level 4).

Further details can be found at www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events

The seminar is a great opportunity for students and early career researchers in assisting with their career development.

Proudly sponsored by the Centre for Learning and Professional Development, University of Adelaide

HDA and CYWHS Highlight Neonatal Intensive Care Issues

On 3 July 2006, HDA and the Children Youth and Women's Health Service (CYWHS) held a special seminar on Neonatal Intensive Care: When is enough enough?

The seminar was presented by international world expert Professor John Wyatt from University College London on the ethi-

cal issues surrounding caring for extremely preterm babies in intensive care at the limits of viability.

Professor Wyatt was a member of the UK Parliamentary Commission on Fetal Sentience (capacity for feeling) and has a long-standing interest in the ethical, religious,

philosophical and legal issues raised by advances in medical care at the beginning of life, on which topic he is a highly respected Christian commentator.

Prof Wyatt highlighted various issues around care, ethics and data. The Epicure study (Wood et al, NEJM 2000, 343;

378-84), the largest study of its kind followed 1,200 babies born alive at less than 26 weeks gestation in Britain and Ireland in 1995, just over 300 of whom survived to go home.

For a brief transcript and summary of the presentation you can email me at anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu.au

HDA'S ROLE IN THE STATE STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION

HDA has been involved with the 'SA Have Your Say' engagement process with direct participation in both the Talking Targets – Improving Health and Wellbeing consultation and the Community Congress. This engagement process has enabled the state's many communities to learn about how implementation of the plan is progressing and to help shape the next phase of implementation.

On 8 May, HDA attended and participated in the Talking Targets - Improving Health and Wellbeing consultation that included examining the current strategies and progress toward target achievement. Participants were asked to provide

guidance on how the plan can build stronger links with the community and what priorities for updating the plan should be. Targets in Objective 2: Improving Health and Wellbeing that were discussed included quality of life, healthy south australians, infant mortality, psychological distress, smoking, overweight, sport and recreation, crime rates, road safety and greater safety at work. *HDA participated in the smoking, overweight and healthy life sessions.*

On 8 July, HDA attended and participated in the Community Congress which was the culmination of the state-wide community engagement process.

A preliminary report was presented from the strategic plan update team summarising feedback obtained in the process and offering a set of propositions for consideration by congress delegates. The strategic plan audit committee presented a progress report which assessed progress on the targets to date and recommendations for improvement. Two breakout sessions during the day looked at themes that have strongly emerged from the community consultations and the audit committee findings plus a session that work-shopped the recommendations contained in the community engagement report and audit committee progress report. *HDA participated in the*

'measuring and collecting the right data' (session 1) and the 'health and wellbeing' (session 2).

The Update Team will make recommendations to the Executive Committee of Cabinet based on both reports and findings from the Community Congress, as the Government prepares to update South Australia's Strategic Plan later this year. The reports can be accessed at www.SAplan.org.au, along with transcripts from the various consultation meetings and Community Congress.

For further information, contact the SA Strategic Plan office on 8226 3547.

SOCIAL HEALTH ATLAS (3RD EDITION) AND POPULATION HEALTH IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

On 10 July, the Third Edition of the Social Health Atlas of South Australia and a report into Population Health in South Australia based on the SA Burden of Disease study was launched by the Hon John Hill, Minister for Health.

This is the third edition of the Social Health Atlas and allows comparisons between earlier editions in 1990 and 1996. The Social Health Atlas maps the

health status of the State's population and its relation to socio-economic status and was produced by the University of Adelaide's Public Health Information Development Unit (PHIDU).

The Social Health Atlas shows a consistent pattern of poor health status in areas of greatest disadvantage. The Atlas compares the 20% of the population considered the most

disadvantaged and the 20% considered the most advantaged. PHIDU has launched a new interactive mapping facility on its website at www.publichealth.gov.au which allows data from the Atlas and other reports to be quickly and easily presented in maps and graphs using software not previously used in Australia.

The SA Burden of Disease Study produced by the South

Australian Department of Health describes the average amount of ill health and premature death in the population during the period of 1999-2001. The objectives were to estimate the burden of disease for diseases and injury, key risk factors, selected priority populations, metro and country regions and sub-regional areas. *For further information go to www.health.sa.gov.au/burdenofdisease.*

MILESTONE FOR THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The Research Centre for Reproductive Health is less than 3 years old but has made significant strides in its aim to become the leading group in reproduction research in Australia and one of the most outstanding of its type in the world. It seeks to make important scientific discoveries and foster very close clinical-basic science ties. This will be achieved by collaboration with clinicians in

obstetrics, gynaecology, endocrinology, cancer, and surgery as well as by developing individuals who understand laboratory and clinical medicine with equal confidence.

Directed by Professor Robert Norman and a Senior Advisory Board, RCRH integrates key research leaders, emerging postdoctoral researchers and talented postgraduate students

to assure its continual growth in depth and profile and strengthen its linkages with government, health service providers and industry to maximise impact on reproductive health service and delivery.

RCRH has produced its 2005 Research Report that highlights and showcases the reproductive health research achievements of its members in 2005.

To view the 2005 RCRH Research Report - visit the website at www.adelaide.edu.au/rcrh/about/

RCRH is in the very late stages of relocating from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to the Medical School on Frome Road.



Research Centre
for Reproductive
Health