Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health

Annual Report 2011

Celebrating 10 years 2001-2011

Festschrift

Challenges in Population Oral Health for the 21st Century

In honour of Professor John Spencer

Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health
The University of Adelaide
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The Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH) was established by The University of Adelaide in 2001 to undertake research and research training in population oral health at a standard that is internationally recognised to be of the highest quality.

Introduction

Population oral health is concerned with the community’s oral health, access to dental care, provision of dental care and the labour force which produces dental care. It is that part of research in dentistry which focuses on the population as the patient, rather than on the individual. Through such research, improvements in oral health and better dental care are sought for all Australians.

Collectively, oral diseases and disorders create substantial impact and disability. The challenges of improving oral health and providing better dental care are far from fully addressed and warrant attention as public health issues. Oral health problems share many risk factors and directions for intervention with wider general health problems, including health promotion and access to primary care. Special attention needs to be paid to particular groups in the community; for example, those dwelling in rural and remote areas, Indigenous persons, migrants, the aged and the disadvantaged.

For oral health to make a stronger contribution to public health in Australia, improved information and understanding of oral health and dental care is needed as a prerequisite for the development and implementation of informed public health policy.
Aims

ARCPOH aims to:

> continue to extend the research program and associated research training that is currently undertaken in Adelaide and with colleagues elsewhere in Australia and overseas

> extend and strengthen collaborative relationships with researchers in Australia and overseas, bringing distinguished and stimulating visitors to Adelaide and, through ongoing interaction, fostering synergies that will increase the centre’s scholarly output

> attract postgraduate research students of the highest potential, and

> increase and diversify the financial support for the centre’s research, including necessary infrastructure.

Contributors to the ARCPOH research program

The hub of ARCPOH is The University of Adelaide School of Dentistry’s academic areas of Social and Preventive Dentistry, Oral Epidemiology and Geriatric Oral Health. In addition to core teaching and research personnel, ARCPOH includes the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s Dental Statistics and Research Unit (DSRU), the Dental Practice Education Research Unit (DPERU), funded by Colgate Oral Care, and the National Oral Health Promotion Clearinghouse (NOHPC).

Research collaborators include The University of Adelaide Discipline of Public Health, Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health, Monash University Centre for Health Economics, Deakin University, and Menzies School for Health Research; the dental schools of several universities (particularly Melbourne, Sydney, North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Otago, NZ); major health agencies such as the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (AGDHA), the South Australian Department of Health (SADH) and the South Australian Dental Service (SADS); and commercial entities including Colgate Oral Care.
ARCPHOH Management

Across the last seven years ARCPHOH has had a team approach to its management.

In 2011 ARCPHOH had the following management positions:

> Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson (Director, ARCPHOH; Director, DPERU; Director, NOHPC)

> Associate Professor David Brennan (Deputy Director, ARCPHOH)

> Dr Jane Harford (Co-Director, AIHW DSRU)

> Dr Liana Luzzi (Co-Director, AIHW DSRU)

> Associate Professor Lisa Jamieson (Director, IOHU).

Professor Kaye F Roberts-Thomson
Director, ARCPHOH
Director, DPERU
Director, NOHPC
Professor

Kaye Roberts-Thomson BDSc, MPH has research interests in oral epidemiology and dental public health, particularly in inequality in oral health and access to dental care. Her recent work has a particular focus on the oral health of Indigenous Australian’s, and health promotion for oral health.

Her research is largely funded by NHMRC and involves an examination of the determinants of periodontal disease in an urban Aboriginal population, the testing of silver fluoride to manage deciduous caries in a preschool population, and the National Child Oral Health Survey.

Kaye also leads the National Oral Health Promotion Clearinghouse and the Dental Practice Education Research Unit, both of which seek to provide information on the latest research findings to a wider audience.

Associate Professor David S Brennan
Deputy Director, ARCPHOH
Principal Research Fellow

David Brennan, BA (Hons), Grad. Dip. (Computer & Information Science), MPH, PhD, undertakes health services research and oral epidemiological analysis. Originally from a biological sciences background, he also has qualifications in computer and information science and in public health.

He held a NHMRC Public Health Postgraduate Research Scholarship at The University of Adelaide in 1997–99, where he conducted his PhD research investigating the influence of provider, practice and patient factors on variation in rates of service provision. He has worked on projects involving both cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis of dental service provision, such as the Longitudinal Study of Dentists’ Practice Activity. In 2010 he was awarded a Career Development Award fellowship in population health from the NHMRC to investigate use of services and oral health outcomes over the period 2010 to 2013.

He has served as Associate Editor for BMC Research Notes and sat on the editorial board of the Journal of Dental Research. In 2011 his research included investigation of the impact of dental insurance on use of services and oral health.
Jane Harford B.Bus., Dip.Soc.Sci., GDPH, Dip.App.Ec., PhD is a Research Fellow at ARCPOH. She joined ARCPOH in early 2003. She has a background in public health, health policy and health economics. Her research interests include the impact of population ageing on oral public health and on the provision of oral health care, strengthening a public health/primary care approach to oral health, the impact of various funding arrangements including government subsidies on oral health service delivery and status, and access to and priority setting in oral health care services. Jane currently holds an NHMRC project grant with other staff in ARCPOH to study changes in oral health amongst older South Australians.

Jane is the ARCPOH representative on the Dental School’s Curriculum Review Implementation Committee and contributes to teaching in the areas of population oral health, health inequalities and evidence-based practice in the School’s undergraduate programs as well as teaching in the postgraduate Dental Public Health course.

Dr Jane E Harford  
Co-Director, AIHW DSRU  
Research Fellow

Liana Luzzi is a Research Fellow at ARCPOH. Liana has been at ARCPOH since January 1999. She has completed a PhD in Dentistry (in 2005) and has a background in statistics (BSc (Ma.&Comp. Sc.)(Hons)).

Liana has been involved in dental health services research and in analysing data relating to oral health and access to dental care. She has worked on a range of projects involving both cross-sectional and longitudinal analysis of service use such as research examining public dental service utilisation in South Australia. Her areas of interest include use of dental health services, access to dental care, factors influencing dental expenditure and dentist job satisfaction. Liana is a chief investigator on two NHMRC grants 1) Prevention and control of caries in older adults in residential aged care and 2) Intergenerational change in oral health in Australia.

Liana has been involved in undergraduate teaching at The University of Adelaide since 2002. She currently co-coordinates and teaches a course to first year BDS and BOH students called ‘Evidence Based Dentistry’.

Dr Liana Luzzi  
Co-Director, AIHW DSRU  
Research Fellow

Lisa Jamieson BDS, MComDent, PhD, has a keen interest in oral health research of Indigenous populations, both in Australia and internationally. In 2011 Lisa was involved in establishing The University of Adelaide’s Indigenous Oral Health Unit (IOHU) which is embedded within ARCPOH. She is the Director of the IOHU and is currently leading three randomised controlled trials involving Indigenous oral health. These studies are based in South Australia, the Northern Territory and internationally, respectively. She is additionally involved in oral health research initiatives involving homeless populations in South Australia. She received her PhD from the University of Otago, New Zealand, after completing her Masters and Bachelor degrees there. Lisa is the recipient of an NHMRC Career Development Award and a member of the International Association for Dental Research. Lisa spent considerable time working as a dental volunteer in developing countries before completing her PhD and joining ARCPOH in 2004.

Associate Professor Lisa M Jamieson  
Director, IOHU (from December)  
Principal Research Fellow
Governance

In formal terms ARCPOH is organisationally a component of The University of Adelaide. Its Director, like the heads of departments, other centres and academic units in the university, is responsible through the Dean of the School of Dentistry and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) to the Vice-Chancellor and Council.

The three component units of ARCPOH are also responsible to their respective stakeholders. Through the Director of The Dental Practice Education Research Unit (DPERU) there is a responsibility to Colgate-Palmolive Australia, and through the Co-Directors of DSRU there is a responsibility to the Director and Board of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW).

The National Oral Health Promotion Clearinghouse (NOHPC) is also located within ARCPOH. The Clearinghouse has a separate Advisory Committee. It has a responsibility to state/territory dental authorities and the Monitoring Group for Australia’s National Oral Health Plan (NOHP) which reports to the Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council (AHMAC) via the Australian Population Health Development Principal Committee (APHDPC).

The Indigenous Oral Health Unit (IOHU) was formally established within ARCPOH in December 2011. The Unit is governed by an Advisory Committee comprising representatives of several aboriginal organisations.

However, ARCPOH is intended to play an important national role, and the university therefore is guided in its management by an Expert Advisory Committee that has the best possible appreciation of the state of population oral health research and major public policy issues that might be informed by that research.
ARCPOH Expert Advisory Committee

Functions
To advise The University of Adelaide, the Director of ARCPOH and, where appropriate, collaborating organisations on:

> the important research questions in population oral health that could beneficially be addressed by ARCPOH, and the relative priority of those issues

> the formulation and regular updating of an appropriate strategic plan for the research program of ARCPOH

> operational planning for the research program of ARCPOH that encompasses collaboration and cooperation between relevant organisations, and the avenues through which resources can be found to support the program

> the means by which the outcomes of the centre’s research can be disseminated to inform public policy and professional practice

> the development and enhancement of the centre’s postgraduate research training activities, within the research program.

Membership

> Vice-Chancellor of The University of Adelaide or nominee (Convener) (Prof. Johann de Vries, Prof. Julie Owens)

> Director of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare or nominee (Ms Teresa Dickinson / Mr David Braddock)

> Nominee of the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (Ms Veronica Hancock)

> Nominee of Colgate Oral Care, Colgate-Palmolive Australia (Dr Susan Cartwright)

> Nominee of the South Australian Department of Health (Mr David Banham)

> Nominee of State and Territory Dental Services (Dr Martin Dooland)

> Nominee of the Universities of Melbourne and/or Otago (Prof. Murray Thomson)

> Nominee of The University of Adelaide, Discipline of Public Health (Prof. Annette Braunack-Meyer)

> Community representative nominated by the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) (Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine)

> Such other persons having expertise in public health including oral public health as may be thought desirable, including in the first instance a nominee of the Australian Dental Association (ADA):
  > Dr Karin Alexander (ADA)
  > Prof. Clive Wright
  > Prof. Bruce Hollingsworth / Prof. Tony Harris
  > Prof. John Lynch

> The Director of ARCPOH (Prof. Kaye Roberts-Thomson)

> Deputy Director of ARCPOH (Assoc. Prof. David Brennan) and Co-Directors of the AIHW DSRU (Dr Jane Harford, Dr Liana Luzzi).
Research program

ARCPOH is pursuing a broad strategy of coordinating the relevant research activities of the contributing components so as to enhance progress in the following main areas.

Distribution and determinants of oral health

Oral diseases and disorders remain widespread and extensive in the population. There is a fundamental requirement for research in documenting and exploring trends in oral diseases and their distribution in the population. Research that seeks to understand the determinants of change over time or variation between subgroups in the population is fundamental to the process of improving oral well-being.

Burden and impact of oral disease

Oral disease has traditionally been described in terms of clinical measures; for example, teeth with experience of disease. This research area extends the capacity to measure oral disease experience through measures of oral-health-related quality of life / wellbeing, and how oral disease impacts on daily living; for example, disability-adjusted life years. Such research has become crucial to identifying priority areas in national health agendas.

Research has identified marked variations in oral disease measures; for example, social gradients in oral health-related quality of life. An increased research effort is exploring factors underlying such variation, including individual behaviours and the individual, school/work and community circumstances that ultimately determine oral health.

Effectiveness of population oral health interventions

Previous research on water fluoridation and the prevention of dental caries and dental fluorosis continues, with additional emphasis on effectiveness in adult and older adult age groups. Findings of research on the determinants of oral disease will be tested in demonstration interventions; for example, support for carers of functionally dependent older adults. Research will continue on the effectiveness of office-based distance education of dental care providers in reorienting dental service provision towards preventive services.

Oral health services and labour force research

Access to high-quality dental care is fundamental to oral health-related quality of life and improved oral health. Too little research has been conducted on what works and why in the effective and efficient delivery of dental services. The particular focus in this research is on public dental care program evaluation, private dental insurance and dental provider behaviour. The dental labour force necessary to provide dental services is an area of increasing attention, given concerns over health labour force supply and distribution.

Oral health policy analysis

Research in population oral health has concentrated on documentation of problems and analysis of their distribution and influences. There is great need for an extension of this research into the area of policy analysis, related especially to the provision of public dental care. Such analysis is directed into cost analysis of public dental care programs under a range of assumptions and with differing approaches to the management of demand and patient flows.

These five research areas encompass an extensive range of potential projects. Research agenda setting meetings of the ARCPOH participants (Expert Advisory Committee) are held, together with other consultations, to determine the best means of pursuing the research, and thus arrive at an operational research program (work programs) for the immediate future and provisional plans for the medium to longer term.

Oral health promotion data warehouse and information clearinghouse

In addition to the five research areas, ARCPOH functions as a data warehouse and an information clearinghouse.
Framework for the research program and work programs within ARCPOH

Research program ARCPOH

- Distribution and determinants of oral health
  - AIHW DSRU
  - Dental health statistics
- Burden and impact of oral disease
  - AIHW DSRU
  - Dental health statistics
- Effectiveness of population oral health interventions
  - DPERU
- Oral health services and labour force research
  - AIHW DSRU
  - Dental labour force statistics
- Oral health policy analysis
- Oral health promotion data warehouse and information clearinghouse
  - National Oral Health Promotion Clearinghouse

Work program DSRU

Work program DPERU

Work program NOHPC
Director’s Report

The environment

The environment in which ARCPOH operated across 2011 was shaped by a number of key events:

> The May 2011 Federal Budget contained an announcement about a National Advisory Council on Dental Health. This Council met and a draft report was prepared. Professor John Spencer was appointed Deputy Chair of the Council.

> There were a number of retirements in the second half of 2011. In addition to Professor John Spencer, one Research Officer, Ms Anne Ellershaw, retired, as did Mrs Leonie Jeffery, a member of the administrative staff who supported research over many years.

> The May 2011 Federal Budget also announced the commencement of a Dental Intern Program from 2013. An advisory committee has been established for that program. Professor Emeritus John Spencer and Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson are members.

> Frequent requests for data and data sets were received and processes were prepared. Professor John Spencer, one Research Officer, Ms Anne Ellershaw, retired, as did Mrs Leonie Jeffery, a member of the administrative staff who supported research over many years.

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> There were some changes in the fluoride environment. There were proposals to change recommended levels of fluoride in water in the USA and a review of effectiveness of low fluoride toothpaste, as well as possible changes to the concentration of fluoride in some Australian toothpastes.

Highlights

In 2011, there were some notable highlights:

> ARCPOH had success with an NHMRC Grant and a Career Development Fellowship. The award as an NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence is in the area of Health Services Research under the leadership of Assoc. Professor David Brennan. The grant provides five-year funding for five research staff and two PhD students. The grant will support a number of projects using existing data sets as well as new initiatives. A Career Development Fellowship was awarded to Dr Loc Do and provides funding for four years. ARCPOH now has four holders of NHMRC fellowships or awards.

> A very successful Festschrift for Professor John Spencer was held over two days in July 2011. About 40 people attended including 16 from overseas, most of whom spoke. The event was supported by the University, the Faculty and the School of Dentistry as well as Colgate Oral Care. The presentations have been written and, after peer review, will be published as a journal supplement.

> ARCPOH and the University of Talca, Chile, recently won funding to allow Dr Gloria Mejia to visit the University of Talca and work with Loreto Nunez Franz, Director of the Public Health Department of the University of Talca, on developing a line of research in population health. Chile’s National Commission on Scientific and Technological Research (Conicyt) makes awards for regional universities in Chile to host an international academic with expertise in a particular field to support teaching and research.

> The University of Adelaide and the Faculty of Health Sciences reviewed University Research Centres in October 2011. ARCPOH was reviewed as part of that process and received some positive feedback.

> ARCPOH received a donation from a family of a deceased oral surgeon whose wife had died after a long period in a nursing home. The family asked for donations to ARCPOH instead of flowers at the funeral. ARCPOH received $565 which was put towards the residential care research project.

> The new Indigenous Oral Health Unit was established and formally opened on 16 December 2011 with some corporate as well as University support. Colgate Oral Care has pledged its financial support of the Unit.

> Peter Foo, with a project titled ‘General and oral health-related quality of life among Australians with cleft compared with population norms’ (LM Jamieson co-supervisor), won the $1,000 prize sponsored by the Faculty of Health Sciences for outstanding poster presentation on research results.

> Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson was a keynote speaker at the ‘6th Asian Conference on Oral Health Promotion for School Children’ held in Hanoi, Vietnam in November 2011.

> ARCPOH is working with Health Workforce Australia on projections of the dental labour force and some new or additional data collections are being discussed.

ARCPOH celebrated its 10th birthday in November and a successful celebration was held.

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Changes

> Professor John Spencer stepped down as Director of ARCPOH at the end of 2010 after an outstanding career in that role. His contribution to the establishment of AIHW DSRU, and later ARCPOH, and his leadership of those bodies, as well as his mentorship through supervision of postgraduate students and staff throughout his time in Adelaide, have resulted in an internationally renowned centre.

> In August Associate Professor David Brennan relinquished the role of Director of DSRU in order to concentrate on the research program under his NHMRC CDA.

> In August 2010 Drs Jane Harford and Liana Luzzi accepted the role of Co-Directors of DSRU through to the end of 2011. This shared role will enable them to contribute their complementary skills while both gaining the experience of managing an important part of ARCPOH’s activities.

Lowlights

> Staff worked hard to address the publication backlog and adjust to changes in processes for publications through AIHW. This continued and resulted in considerable pressure and stress for some staff.

> Frequent contact from the anti-fluoridation lobby including a number of Freedom of Information requests continued to require significant amounts of time.

> The Electoral Roll has been used by ARCPOH for obtaining a random sample for various studies including the National Dental Telephone Interview Survey. Our recent experience is that this may become increasingly more difficult which is a cause for concern.

New challenges

> With the resignation of Dr Peter Arrow and his return to Perth, consideration was given to the establishment of a ‘satellite’ unit in Western Australia. He will come to ARCPOH for eight one week periods in 2012.

> The retirement of Anne Ellershaw and the reduction in hours by Judy Stewart, both of whom took responsibility for the running of the National Dental Telephone Interview Survey (NDTIS), and Anne for sampling and weighting of major studies, were significant losses which need to be managed. Dr Liana Luzzi and Mr Sergio Chrisopolous will undertake the sampling and weighting tasks and Dr Liana Luzzi will take on the overall management of NDTIS.

> The possible change in arrangements for DSRU from a new agreement between the University of Adelaide and the AIHW will need to be managed.

Work program

Overall

> After a period of overly demanding work programs with AIHW and the Australian Government Department of Health and Aging (AGDoHA), the new work plans have a more realistic set of deliverables and achievable timelines. However, there are a number of AIHW publications in the production queue. Finalising these was quite difficult.

Distribution and determinants of oral health

> Participation in research is declining in many parts of the world and is a particular problem in Indigenous research.

Burden and impact of oral disease

> A developing focus of recent analyses has been social gradients in oral health. This has involved caries and periodontal disease in adults using the National Survey of Adult Oral Health (NSAOH) data set and caries in children using the Child Fluoride Study (CFS) M2 data set. Factors associated with the social gradient have been explored. Social inequality was the focus of a symposium organized by Dr Loc Do at the IADR meeting in San Diego which was very well received.

Effectiveness of population oral health interventions

> The fieldwork for an NHMRC Project Grant involving a clinical trial of caries management techniques for residents in aged care facilities commenced. Recruitment of subjects continues to prove a complex task.

> The Australian arm of the international collaborative project on early childhood caries began. Again, recruitment proved very difficult.

> The NHMRC funded fieldwork for the trial of a non-invasive treatment for deciduous caries began and is going smoothly.

Oral health services and labour force research

> As a complementary activity to the 2010 NDTIS, a Dental Expenditure Panel Survey (DEPS) commenced with 5,344 people participating. A smaller number (1,642) of the 2010 NDTIS interviewees were asked to complete a Financial Impact of Dental Services (FIDS) questionnaire. Six-month collection was completed for DEPS resulting in 1,790 responses. The second logbook was distributed. The FIDS data collection was completed.

> A report on practice characteristics and projections (2006–2025) for oral health practitioners will be published in 2012. Projections on the supply of specialist dentists was written.

> The NHMRC ‘Willingness to pay’ project data were analysed.

> Possibilities of research work on the labour force under Health Workforce Australia (HWA) is being explored. Discussions were held with HWA on a collaborative research agreement.

Oral health policy analysis

> An analysis on the access to dental care of teenagers under the Teen Dental Program was published as a Data Watch in the Australian Dental Journal.
Oral health promotion data warehouse and information clearinghouse

> The ‘Key facts and figures’ report on oral health and dental services produced for the AGDoHA was used by the National Advisory Council on Oral Health.

> The Data Watch series in the Australian Dental Journal continued with four further published papers in 2011:


> The following article was published in the 2011 Australian Dental Journal by the National Oral Health Promotion Clearinghouse:


Teaching

> ARCPOH staff were active at both the planning and implementation of the new BDS curriculum (Dr J Harford) and delivery of the material (many staff). The third year of the revised curriculum will begin in 2012.

> A number of ARCPOH staff undertook courses in Teaching @ University.

> The proposal for a series of postgraduate coursework programs is under consideration by the University.

Contractual Research

> ARCPOH has been invited to formulate the protocol and undertake the training and calibration for examiners for the 2012 Oral Health Survey of Older Persons in New Zealand.

> Following an invitation, ARCPOH has submitted a tender to the Government of Brunei to carry out the national oral health survey of that country. We are awaiting a response.
### ARCPOOH project summary

#### Distribution and Determinants of Oral Health

- **Child Dental Health Survey (CDHS)**
- **Queensland Child Oral Health Survey (QCOHS)**
- **National Child Oral Health Survey (NCOHS)**
  - Impact of health policy on the delivery of dental services and child oral health outcomes
- **Adult Dental Programs Survey**
- **Indigenous Oral Health**
- **National Dental Anxiety and Fear Survey (ADRF)**
- **Child Fluoride Study Mark II (NHMRC)**
- **A life course epidemiological approach to understanding oral health inequalities (NHMRC Project Grant)**
- **Exploring factors associated with dental behaviours of carers: oral health literacy and psychosocial measures**
- **Social gradients in child oral health status and access to services**
- **Risk indicators for periodontal disease in an urban Aboriginal population (NHMRC project grant)**
- **NSW Teen Survey**
- **Caries Initiation Study**
  - Associations between periodontal disease and cardiovascular surrogate endpoints in an adult Indigenous population (NHMRC project grant)
- **Natural history of fluorosis (NHMRC)**
- **Intergenerational change in oral health (NHMRC Project Grant)**

#### Effectiveness of Population Oral Health Interventions

- **An oral health literacy intervention among rural Indigenous adults (NHMRC project grant)**
- **Early childhood oral health promotion project (WA)**
- **Health Promotion and Early Childhood Caries (ADRF; Channel 7 Children’s Research Foundation), NHMRC; Centre of Clinical Research Excellence**
- **The Dental Practice Education Research Unit**
- **Prevention and control of caries in older adults in residential aged care (NHMRC)**
- **Population Oral Health Project (SADS)**
  - Reducing disease burden and health inequalities arising from chronic dental disease among Indigenous children: an early childhood caries intervention (NHMRC project grant, in collaboration with New Zealand’s Health Research Council and Canada’s Institute of Health Research)
  - Randomised control trial of effectiveness of silver fluoride in managing deciduous dental caries in remote Aboriginal communities (NHMRC)

#### Oral Health Services and Labour Force Research

- **Preventative maintenance program in Community Dental Services (CDS) – adult recall (SADS contract)**
- **National Dental Telephone Interview Survey (NDTIS) and associated activities**
- **Financial Impact of Dental Services (FIDS)**
- **Dental Expenditure Panel Survey (DEPS)**
- **National Dental Labour Force Data Collection**
- **Dental Labour Force Planning in South Australia**
- **The Longitudinal Study of Dentists’ Practice Activity**
- **The impact of declining tooth loss on oral health status and dental care utilisation (NHMRC)**
- **The attitudes of Australian dentists towards oral health therapists (ADRF)**
- **Job satisfaction survey of the oral health labour force in Australia (ADRF)**
- **Mobility of International Dental Graduates (IDGs) in Australia (ADRF)**
- **Evaluating profile changes in 1st year BDS students, Adelaide Dental School, over 10-year period**
- **Study of private subsidisation of dental care in Australia (SOPS) (ADRF)**
- **Impact of insurance on use of dental services and oral health (NHMRC)**
- **Private health insurance and use of dental services (ADRF)**

#### Oral Health Policy Analysis

- **Policy analysis**
  - Impact of changes in public policy on access to dental care
  - Impact of ageing on dental costs
  - Willingness-to-pay for public dental services
  - Reasons for having/not having insurance
- **Oral health messages in the Australian mass media: a content analysis (ADRF grant)**

#### Oral Health Promotion Data Warehouse and Information Clearinghouse

- **National Oral Health Promotion Clearinghouse**
## Staff list

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Professor</strong></th>
<th>Professor Kaye F Roberts-Thomson (Director, ARCPOH; Director, DPERU; Director, NOHPC)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emeritus Professor</strong></td>
<td>Professor A John Spencer</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adjunct Professor</strong></td>
<td>Professor Gary D Slade (University of North Carolina)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Associate Professors / Principal Research Fellows</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor David S Brennan (Deputy Director, ARCPOH) Associate Professor Lisa M Jamieson (Director, IOHU)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Senior Research Fellows</strong></td>
<td>Dr Jason Armfield Dr Peter Arrow Dr Loc Do</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Fellows</strong></td>
<td>Dr Najith Amarsena Mr Sergio Chrisopoulos Dr Lerr Crocombe Dr Jane Harford (Co-Director, AIHW DSRU) Dr Liana Luzzi (Co-Director, AIHW DSRU) Dr Gloria Mejia Dr Kamila Plutzer Dr Archana Pradhan Ms Dana Teusner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lecturers</strong></td>
<td>Dr Wendy Cheung Dr Haiping Tan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Research Associates</strong></td>
<td>Dr Diep Ha Ms Kelly Jones Dr Pingzhou Liu</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Staff from the School of Dentistry</strong></td>
<td>Ms Sue Gardner Mr Clinton Kempster Ms Jenny Miller Dr Eleanor Parker Ms Katrina Plastow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research Officers</strong></td>
<td>Mr Madhan Balasubramanian Ms Katie Beckwith Ms Sabina Coulthard Ms Anne Ellershaw Mr Emmanuel Gnanamanickam Ms Joanne Hedges Ms Xiangqun Ju Ms Kirsten Kennington Ms Louise Marsh Ms Jessica Merrick Maddy Shearer Mrs Judy Stewart Ms Leanne Trio Dr Alexis Zander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative Staff</strong></td>
<td>Ms Lexi Doidge Mr David Harley Mrs Leonie Jeffery Mrs Lorna Lucas Mrs Silvana Marveggio Ms Than Nguyen Ms Teresa Phung Ms Gina Stephens Ms Ali White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Casual Administrative Staff</strong></td>
<td>Mrs Beverly Ellis Mrs Sharon Miller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Staffing changes

Ms Gina Stephens was appointed as Grants Manager. Her role is to assist with budgeting for grant applications and to monitor the compliance and expenditure of successful grants. She also seeks out new grant opportunities for ARCPOH staff. Gina’s previous experience working in the University of Adelaide Research Branch is very useful.

Ms Jessica Merrick, Ms Joanne Hedges, Ms Madeline Shearer, Ms Sabine Coulthard and Ms Louise March commenced with ARCPOH working on Indigenous oral health projects. Dr Najith Amarasena returned to ARCPOH in January 2011 after a period overseas. In 2011 Dr Wendy Cheung and Dr Len Crocombe commenced working one day a week with ARCPOH. Mrs Leonie Jeffery retired in the second half of 2011. As an administrative staff member, she supported research over many years at ARCPOH.

Dr Lexi Zander who worked casually on the Clearinghouse until March 2011, left ARCPOH to take up a NSW Public Health Training position. Her replacement is Mr Emmanuel Gnanamanickam as a Moderator.

Ms Leanne Trio was appointed as a research officer on the NHMRC project ‘Prevention and control of dental caries in adults in residential care’.

Securing key research staff

Professor John Spencer retired from the Chair in Social and Preventive Dentistry on 1 September 2011. He was awarded Professor Emeritus status. Applications for the Professor of Population Oral Health position closed on 13 May 2011. Considerable effort in contacting potential applicants in writing and by phone and email occurred.

The NHMRC grant for a Centre of Research Excellence opened up two new research positions and scholarships for two Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students.

Visiting researchers

> Visitors for the Festschrift (held in July 2011) in honour of Professor John Spencer included:
> » Dr Paul Batchelor
> » Professor Peter Robinson
> » Professor Wagner Marcenes
> » Professor Richard Watt
> » Professor Tim Newton
> » Professor Emeritus Andrew Rugg Gunn
> » Professor Jimmy Steele
> » Professor Elizabeth Treasure and Professor Martin Tickle from the UK
> » Professor David Nash and Professor Gary Slade from the USA
> » Dr Herenia Lawrence from Canada
> » Professor Murray Thomson from New Zealand
> » Professor Jenny Lewis from Denmark
> » Professor Finbarr Allen from Ireland.

> Professor Yerco Moreno Simunovic from the University of Talca in Chile, August 2011.

> Dr Sam Harper from Magill University Montreal, Canada, September 2011.

Professor Yerco Moreno Simunovic visiting from the University of Talca, Chile, pictured with ARCPOH Director, Kaye Roberts-Thomson and ARCPOH Research Fellow, Dr Gloria Mejia.
Finances

ARCPOH receives its funding from a range of stakeholders. In 2010–11, under agreements, ARCPOH received $371,000 from AIHW as a collaborating health unit and for COAG activities. In 2010–11 ARCPOH received continuing funding of $309,000 and an additional $217,000 from AGDHA to enhance NDTIS 2010 and implement a Dental Expenditure Panel Survey. ARCPOH received $78,000 from the SADH via SADS, $144,000 from SADS and $175,000 from Colgate Oral Care. In addition, ARCPOH received substantial research support, $2,713,000 via competitive research grants and $295,000 from competitive awards. The amount of Category 1 National Competitive Research funding increased from 2010. Scholarships income was ~$110,000, while an additional $68,000 was received from RIBG and $38,000 from SRE funds. Some $70,000 was received from the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) (DVC-R) and the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) for Oral Epidemiology as well as an additional $481,000 in support from the School of Dentistry for academic staff in ARCPOH.

Agreements, grants and contracts, 2011

AIHW DSRU

AGDHA ACD 2010–11

SADH 5-year agreement

SADS 1-year agreement and extras

Research grants NHMRC ADRF Qld Health

NHMRC Awards

Contracts/consultants through ARI

$371K

$309K+$217K

$78K

$144K

$2,713K

$295K

$0K

$4,128K

ARCPOH

University Scholarships (2 x $22K) The University of Adelaide

Social & Preventive Dentistry Geriatric Oral Health Oral Epidemiology

DVC-R ($30K) FHS ($40K) SoD ($481K)

NOHPC

$95K

$175K

$551K

Staff (3.6 FTE)

Colgate Oral Care

DPERU

Total funding $5,163K
Financial status: Cash flow 1 January to 31 December 2011 ($)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>AIHW</th>
<th>AGDHA Acute Care Division</th>
<th>AGDHA Acute Care Division NDTIS</th>
<th>SADH</th>
<th>SADS</th>
<th>Competitive research grants</th>
<th>Contracts/consultancies</th>
<th>Scholarships/Fellowships</th>
<th>Colgate Oral Care</th>
<th>Clearing House</th>
<th>School of Dentistry</th>
<th>CENTRE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total operating revenue</td>
<td>134,006</td>
<td>499,828</td>
<td>82,128</td>
<td>81,267</td>
<td>121,977</td>
<td>2,528,339</td>
<td>128,932</td>
<td>460,252</td>
<td>179,475</td>
<td>99,899</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,316,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>243,625</td>
<td>401,988</td>
<td>26,547</td>
<td>93,136</td>
<td>2,109,366</td>
<td>151,736</td>
<td>411,871</td>
<td>203,386</td>
<td>28,417</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3,865,473</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating surplus (deficit)</td>
<td>(109,619)</td>
<td>97,840</td>
<td>55,581</td>
<td>(114,134)</td>
<td>28,841</td>
<td>418,973</td>
<td>(22,840)</td>
<td>48,381</td>
<td>-23,911</td>
<td>71,482</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>450,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds (deficit) at the beginning of reporting period</td>
<td>108,591</td>
<td>(62,577)</td>
<td>(36,349)</td>
<td>125,397</td>
<td>(60,162)</td>
<td>644,741</td>
<td>23,655</td>
<td>99,085</td>
<td>53,043</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>11,522</td>
<td>907,082</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated funds (deficit) at end of reporting period</td>
<td>#1,028</td>
<td>35,263</td>
<td>19,232</td>
<td>11,263</td>
<td>*(31,321)</td>
<td>1,063,714</td>
<td>815</td>
<td>147,466</td>
<td>29,132</td>
<td>71,618</td>
<td>11,522</td>
<td>1,357,712</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* AIHW payments 6 months behind
* $72,000 to be billed for 2011

Support

External support through agreements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder</th>
<th>Agreement</th>
<th>Agreement Period</th>
<th>Funding Period</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)</td>
<td>AIHW Dental Statistics and Research Unit</td>
<td>2008–12</td>
<td>2010–11</td>
<td>$350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>AIHW COAG</td>
<td>2009–10</td>
<td>$148,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2010–11</td>
<td>$ 21,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing (AGDHA) via AIHW under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)</td>
<td>Adult oral health and access to dental care</td>
<td>2008–11</td>
<td>2010–11</td>
<td>$309,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Enhancements</td>
<td></td>
<td>$216,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA Department of Health (SADH)</td>
<td>Research Unit in Oral Epidemiology</td>
<td>2010–14</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$78,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colgate Oral Care</td>
<td>Dental Practice Education Research Unit</td>
<td>Rollover of agreement</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$140,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>plus NZ $20,000 (~A$18,610)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australian Dental Service (SADS)</td>
<td>Contract research</td>
<td>Out of agreement</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>$144,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Grant status

### 2011 Competitive grants – continuing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant*</th>
<th>Grantees</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| NHMRC Project Grant    | Roberts-Thomson K, Bartold M, Daniels J, Magarey A and Meihubers S       | Risk indicators for periodontal disease in an urban Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islander population | 2008–10  
2008 $106,075  
2009 $165,038  
2010 $55,250  
2011 Carry-over                                                                 |
| ID 519246              |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| NHMRC Project Grant    | Brennan DS and Teusner D                                                 | The impact of insurance on the use of dental services and oral health | 2009–11  
2009 $63,625  
2010 $66,000  
2011 $66,000                                                                 |
| ID 565321              |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| NHMRC Project Grant    | Do L and Spencer AJ                                                     | Natural history and longterm impact of dental fluorosis              | 2009–11  
2009 $93,075  
2010 $138,450  
2011 $63,625                                                                 |
| ID 565362              |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| NHMRC Project Grant    | Spencer AJ, Zhao X, Sanders AE, Gold L, and Harford J                    | Economic evaluation of the costs and benefits of options for publicly funded dental care provision in Australia | 2009–10  
2009 $131,025  
2010 $106,025  
2011 Carry over                                                                 |
| ID 565334              |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| NHMRC Project Grant    | CIA: Haiping Tan  
CIB: Liana Luzzi  
AI1: John Spencer  
AI2: Archana Pradhan | Prevention and control of caries in older adults in residential aged care | 2010: $157,375  
2011: $187,500  
Total: $344,875                                                                 |
| (New Investigator) ID  |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| 627222                 |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| NHMRC Project Grant    | CIA: Lisa Jamieson  
CIB: Michael Skilton | Associations between periodontal disease and cardiovascular surrogate endpoints in an adult Indigenous population | 2010: $460,128  
2011: $460,128  
2012: $426,504  
Total: $1,346,760                                                                 |
| (New Investigator) ID  |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| 627100                 |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| NHMRC Project Grant    | CIA: Lisa Jamieson  
CIB: Michael Skilton  
CIC: Alwin Chong  
CID: Eleanor Parker | An oral health literacy intervention among rural Indigenous adults | 2010: $182,750  
2011: $182,750  
2012: $182,750  
Total: $548,250                                                                 |
| (New Investigator) ID  |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| 627101                 |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| NHMRC Centre for Clinical Research Excellence | CIA: M Bartold  
CIB: AJ Spencer  
CIC: G Townsend  
CID: D Keefe  
CIE: K Roberts-Thomson | Centre for Oral Health | $2,440,625  
2009/10: $488,125  
2010/11: $488,125  
2011/12: $488,125  
2012/13: $488,125  
2013/14: $488,125  
ARCPOH: $218,875/year                                                                 |
| ID 565520              |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership Grant | Australia:  
CIA: Lisa Jamieson  
CIB: Rus Nasir  
CIC: Alwin Chong  
CID: Eleanor Parker  
CIE: Kaye Roberts-Thomson  
CIF: Gary Misan  
CIG: John Spencer | Reducing disease burden and health inequalities arising from chronic dental disease among Indigenous children: an early childhood caries intervention | Australia:  
2010: $316,010  
2011: $316,010  
2012: $316,010  
2013: $316,010  
2014: $316,010  
Total: $1,580,050                                                                 |
| (NHMRC, NZ HRC, CIHR)  |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
| Queensland Health      | CIA: AJ Spencer                                                          | The benefits of water fluoridation | $821,200  
2009/10: $169,000  
2010/11: $172,400  
2011/12: $164,200  
2012/13: $157,800  
2013/14: $157,800                                                                 |
|                        |                                                                          |                                                                      |                                                                        |
* CIHR – Canadian Institutes of Health Research; NHMRC – National Health and Medical Research Council; NZ HRC – Health Research Council of New Zealand.
### 2011-12 Competitive grants – new

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant*</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Investigators</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| NHMRC Partnership Project Grant ID 1016326 | Impact of health policy on the delivery of dental services and child oral health outcomes | CIA: AJ Spencer  
   CIB: L Do  
   CIC: K Roberts-Thomson  
   CID: DS Brennan  
   2012: $368,498  
   2013: $231,670  
   2014: $155,690  
   Total: $1,259,048 |
| NHMRC Project Grant ID 1010758 | Randomised control trial of effectiveness of silver fluoride on managing deciduous caries in remote Aboriginal communities | CIA: KF Roberts-Thomson  
   CIB: L Do  
   2012: $109,678  
   2013: $221,355  
   2014: $211,355  
   Total: $662,066 |
| NHMRC Project Grant ID 1011589 | Intergenerational change in oral health in Australia | CIA: JE Harford  
   CIB: L Luzzi  
   CIC: H Tan  
   CID: G Mejia  
   CIE: KF Roberts-Thomson  
   2012: $137,355  
   2013: $204,078  
   2014: $95,865  
   Total: $644,981 |
| Cancer Council ID 1009996 | Assessment of autofluorescence for detection of oral cancer | CIA: C Farah  
   2012: $184,884  
   2013: $122,508  
   Total: $512,276 |
| ADRF | Mobility of internationally-trained dentists in Australia: developing and piloting a survey instrument (Phase 1) | CIA: DS Brennan  
   A1: AJ Spencer  
   A2: M Balasubramanian | 2011 | 2011: $6,500 |
## Fellowships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant*</th>
<th>Grantees</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NHMRC Career Development Award</td>
<td>Jamieson LM</td>
<td>Indigenous oral health</td>
<td>2009–2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$92,500 pa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| NHMRC Postgraduate Overseas Training Fellowship | Armfield JM   | Understanding the role of psychological factors in the etiology, prevention and treatment of high dental fear | 2009–11 $103,776 pa  
|                                             |                 |                                                                      | 2011–13 $71,250 pa 
|                                             |                 |                                                                      | 2010–2013  |
| NHMRC CDA ID 627637                         | Brennan DS      | Use of dental services and oral health outcomes                      | 2010–2013   |
|                                             |                 |                                                                      | $104,250 pa  |
| NHMRC Career Development Fellowship         | Do LG           | Understanding influences on child oral health                       | 2012–2015   |
|                                             |                 |                                                                      | $97,769 pa   |

## Postgraduate students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madhan Balasubramanian</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Migration of international dental graduates</td>
<td>2010–2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghashyham Bhat</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Indicators of periodontal disease in a disadvantaged Indian population</td>
<td>2010–2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Gardner</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Characteristics of dental providers working with underserved populations</td>
<td>2011–2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diep Ha</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Factors influencing the accuracy of caries risk assessment among South Australian children</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Jones</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Relative needs validation and testing</td>
<td>2003–2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiangqun Ju</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Longitudinal study of the relationship between periodontal disease and tooth loss in elderly people in South Australia</td>
<td>2011–2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenny Miller</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Social gradients in child oral health (part-time)</td>
<td>2006–2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor Parker</td>
<td>PhD (half-time)</td>
<td>Indigenous oral health literacy (part-time)</td>
<td>2009–2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archana Pradhan</td>
<td>D Clin Dent</td>
<td>Exploring dental behaviours of carers: oral health literacy and psycho-social factors</td>
<td>Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Teusner</td>
<td>PhD</td>
<td>Dental insurance and use of services</td>
<td>2008–2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Honours students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Malvina Filip</td>
<td>Hons</td>
<td>Oral health related quality of life of medically compromised patients</td>
<td>Full-time 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaun Goh</td>
<td>Hons</td>
<td>Use of dental services and dental perceptions of an adult Aboriginal population</td>
<td>Part-time 2011–2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton Kempster</td>
<td>Hons</td>
<td>Allied dental labour force (Luzzi, Roberts-Thomson)</td>
<td>Part-time 2008–2011 Completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katrina Plastow</td>
<td>Hons</td>
<td>Diet and dental caries (Spencer, Roberts-Thomson, Armfield)</td>
<td>Part-time 2007–2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margie Steffens</td>
<td>Hons</td>
<td>Associations between self-reported discrimination and oral health among Aboriginal young adults</td>
<td>Part-time 2011–2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## University of Adelaide Scholarships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Time Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Madhan Balasubramanian</td>
<td>Adelaide Scholarship International</td>
<td>2010–2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghashyam Bhat</td>
<td>Adelaide Postgraduate Scholarship</td>
<td>2010–2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Gardner</td>
<td>University of Adelaide Divisional Scholarship</td>
<td>2011–2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xiangqun Ju</td>
<td>Adelaide Postgraduate Scholarship</td>
<td>2011–2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kostas Kapellas</td>
<td>University of Adelaide Divisional Scholarship</td>
<td>2011–2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dana Teusner</td>
<td>University of Adelaide Divisional Scholarship</td>
<td>2008–2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Features

Professor A John Spencer: Farewell

Professor John Spencer retired from the Chair in Social and Preventive Dentistry on 1 September 2011. To celebrate the achievements of Professor Spencer, three events were held: a Festschrift on ‘Challenges in Population Oral Health for the 21st Century’, a lunch for ARCPOH staff, and an event hosted by the School of Dentistry. Professor John Spencer’s research in oral health, dental practice, fluorides and dental labour force has been outstanding. As the Founding Director of the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH), he developed and led a group of researchers with national and international recognition in public health and dental practice. He supervised some 40 higher degree students, a number of whom have gone on to become international leaders in oral epidemiology and dental public health. Professor Spencer led Australia’s policy discussions on oral health and dental services. He contributed to the development of surveillance on oral health, dental services and the dental labour force in Australia for nearly 25 years. The findings of this surveillance activity include documentation and analysis of oral diseases and dental service patterns by social characteristics in the Australian population. This drives critical analysis that informs policy discussion.

On an international level, Professor Spencer is currently a member of the IADR’s Global Oral Health Inequalities Task Group 6 on Implementation and Delivery, a member of the World Health Organization’s Global Burden of Disease, Oral Health Expert Group, and Editor of Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology. The willingness of many eminent international researchers to come to Adelaide in July confirmed his standing. Professor Spencer has been awarded the title Emeritus Professor in recognition of his University contribution.


A Festschrift titled ‘Challenges in Population Oral Health for the 21st Century’ was held in honour of Professor John Spencer at the National Wine Centre of Australia over two days on 14 and 15 July 2011. The Festschrift brought together just over 50 participants, 15 of whom visited from overseas. A total of 24 papers spanning key areas of Professor Spencer’s extensive research contribution were presented over the two-day event. These areas included Population Oral Health, Social Epidemiology, Health Promotion, Data/Surveillance, Health Services and Dental Education. Many presenters offered suggestions for the future of population oral health research that stimulated lively debate and discussion amongst participants. The presentations will be published in a special supplement of the journal Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology.

The Festschrift was funded partly by the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Vice-Chancellor’s Office and the School of Dentistry at the University of Adelaide, and the Centre for Oral Health Strategy, NSW. A dinner held at the Red Ochre restaurant on Thursday, 14 July 2011 was supported by a donation from Colgate.
ARCPOH Celebrates 10-year Anniversary

ARCPOH celebrated its 10th anniversary as a research centre in November 2011. To commemorate this important occasion, a celebration was held at ARCPOH on 30 November. The event was well attended by staff and students of ARCPOH with invitations sent to School of Dentistry staff, SA Dental Service executive staff and ARCPOH Expert Advisory Committee members. Professor Johann de Vries (Dean of the School of Dentistry) and Emeritus Professor John Spencer (founding Director of ARCPOH) presented speeches that highlighted some of ARCPOH’s outstanding achievements over the past 10 years.

A special cake was ordered (pictured) and a photo slideshow and timeline of events was compiled and displayed at the event. ARCPOH looks forward to celebrating continued success.

ABOVE: ARCPOH 10-year Anniversary celebration: Professor John Spencer and Professor Johann de Vries cut the cake. Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson and Professor Johann de Vries present their speeches.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Professor John Spencer at his farewell. Festschrift presenters: Professor Johann de Vries, Dean, School of Dentistry, and Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson, Director, ARCPOH.
Establishment of the Indigenous Oral Health Unit (IOHU) at the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH)

The establishment of the new Indigenous Oral Health Unit was successfully completed with some corporate as well as University support.

The Official Launch of the Indigenous Oral Health Unit

The new Indigenous Oral Health Unit (IOHU) was formally opened on Friday 16 December 2011.

Guests included Professor Pascale Quester (Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President), Professor Justin Beilby (Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences), Dr Susan Cartwright (Scientific Affairs Manager, Colgate Oral Care), Dr David Scrimgeour (Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia), Dr Martin Dooland (Director, South Australian Dental Service), Mr Alwin Chong (Menzies School of Health Research), Dr Katherine O’Donoghue (Indigenous Dentists’ Association), together with representatives from the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Yaitya Purryna Indigenous Health Unit, the Women’s and Children’s Health Network, Wilto Yerlo, the Rural/Remote Dental Alliance, and ARCPOH staff.

Colgate Oral Care has pledged its financial support for IOHU’s research, and has been involved in five other Indigenous oral health randomised controlled trials, mostly through the National Health and Medical Research Council. In the last five years, the group has been involved in five other Indigenous oral health projects, completed a government tender, established the oral health link in the Indigenous Australian Health InfoNet and collaborated with other investigators within the University. The researchers, including research higher degree candidates, have active ongoing collaborative relationships with colleagues in a range of academic, government, professional and industrial organisations. The University has gained a national and international standing for its research in this field and has extensive collaborative linkages.

Background

In the last five years ARCPOH researchers have received more than $10m in competitive grant funding for Indigenous oral health research: this includes 35 publications in the peer-reviewed literature, 2 books and 2 book chapters, as well as 15 presentations at national and international conferences on the topic of Indigenous oral health (7 invited). There are currently 2 PhD students, 1 (Indigenous) Masters student and 3 Honours students involved in Indigenous oral health research. The Indigenous Oral Health Unit aims to build on this expertise, raise the profile of the issue of Indigenous oral health around Australia, and encourage more Indigenous students to study oral health degrees.

At present there is one part-time staff member coordinating the unit, working on the website and seeking further funding sources. A national Indigenous Oral Health Workshop, led by the IOHU, is scheduled for September 2012.

ARCPOH researchers currently have competitive grant funding for four Indigenous oral health randomised controlled trials, mostly through the National Health and Medical Research Council. In the last five years, the group has been involved in five other Indigenous oral health projects, completed a government tender, established the oral health link in the Indigenous Australian Health InfoNet and collaborated with other investigators within the University. The researchers, including research higher degree candidates, have active ongoing collaborative relationships with colleagues in a range of academic, government, professional and industrial organisations. The University has gained a national and international standing for its research in this field and has extensive collaborative linkages.

Aims

The Indigenous Oral Health Unit (IOHU) seeks to undertake research and provide research education in Indigenous oral health that is internationally recognised to be of the highest quality.

It builds on the foundations set by the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH).

The specific aims and objectives of the Unit are to:

- continue and extend the Indigenous oral health research program (including monitoring and surveillance) and associated research education that is currently undertaken at ARCPOH and in association with colleagues elsewhere in Australia and overseas;
- extend and strengthen collaborative relationships with Indigenous oral health researchers in Australia and overseas, bringing distinguished and stimulating visitors to Adelaide and generally through ongoing interaction fostering a synergy that will increase IOHU’s scholarly output and enable capacity-building of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff;
- attract postgraduate research students of the highest potential, with a particular emphasis on Indigenous students;
- increase its national advisory role around Indigenous oral health, for example, in informing the National Advisory Council on Dental Health;
- extend its visibility in relation to advocacy around Indigenous oral health issues, for example, labour force and dental practice guidelines;
- maintain, increase and diversify the financial support for IOHU’s research, including necessary infrastructure.
Governance

The Indigenous Oral Health Unit is nested within the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH).

The Unit is governed by an Advisory Committee. The purpose of this Committee is to provide a consultative forum that can effectively drive strategic directions and external relationships with particular reference to the Unit’s Aims and Objectives. Advisory Committee representatives will be appointed on the recommendation of ARCPOH management by the IOHU Director. Normal membership term shall be two years, with renewal at the discretion of the approving body of IOHU’s establishment and Advisory Committee (ARCPOH management).

The composition of the Committee shall be made up of one representative each from:

- Chair: The University of Adelaide’s Yaitya Purynya
- South Australian Dental Service/SA Health
- Colgate Oral Care
- Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia
- Indigenous Dental Association of Australia
- Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health
- Indigenous Health InfoNet
- Rural/remote dental alliance
- ARCPOH management
- IOHU Director
- Indigenous general health researcher independent from any representative organisations
- Indigenous community representative independent from any representative organisations

Meetings shall be held twice a year.

The IOHU Advisory Committee falls under the umbrella of, and is responsible to, ARCPOH’s Advisory Committee and Management. The functions of the IOHU Advisory Committee are to:

- Facilitate co-operation between relevant partners in initiating, developing, carrying out and monitoring measures specified by IOHU’s Aims and Objectives
- Assist in the resolution of issues that may arise through delivery or otherwise of the IOHU’s Aims and Objectives
- Assist in the development and review of IOHU research plans
- Consult with ARCPOH’s management on any proposed changes to IOHU’s Aims and Objectives, or governance procedures or policies
- To keep under review:
  - the employment of IOHU staff for various projects;
  - funding sources and consulting opportunities;
  - teaching and Higher Degree Research supervision
- To assist in:
  - Raising the visibility of IOHU at a national and international level;
  - Maintaining the scientific and ethical integrity of IOHU’s work program;
- Such other functions as are prescribed or agreed upon by IOHU’s Director and Advisory Committee
- To assist in the formulation and dissemination (in appropriate languages) of policies, practices and procedures.
NHMRC Partnership Grant Success: National Child Oral Health Survey (NCOHS)

In late March 2011, the NHMRC announced the award of an NHMRC Partnership Project Grant for the project on the ‘Impact of health policy on the delivery of dental services and child oral health outcomes’, otherwise known as the National Child Oral Health Survey (NCOHS) 2011–12. The grant is for $1.25 million over four years. This brought to an end the search for funding to underpin NCOHS.

ARCPOH at the University of Adelaide will partner with all eight state and territory public dental authorities in the research project. The partners are committing a further $1.7 million to the national study, making the total funding for the study $3 million.

This project will study the use of dental services by children and adolescents in Australia and how use relates to oral health outcomes. Variation in the use of private dentists and the organisation and delivery of school dental services will be compared both within and across all states and territories so as to inform policy discussions on how to best improve child oral health.

"Despite a substantial level of resources—approximately $1 billion dollars annually—being directed to dental services for children in Australia in the last decade, their oral health is still a major public health problem," Professor Spencer said.

"After several decades of improvement, child oral health has worsened and inequalities have widened."

Latest statistics show that dental restorations and extractions are the most common reason for hospital admissions among Australian children under 14 years of age.

In 2006 nearly 27,000 children—8,114 of whom were pre-schoolers—were admitted to hospital for dental work.

"In this study we will be looking at how dental services for our children are organised and delivered, comparing the use of private dentists and school dental services and the outcomes for child oral health," Professor Spencer said.

"Public programs like the school dental services are not reaching as many children, yet private dental services may be out of the financial reach of many families."

The nationwide study will also document current levels of oral health and its variation across the child population.

"The challenge is to identify and eliminate barriers to dental health services in Australia, improving service delivery, reducing risks and promoting healthy diets," Professor Spencer said.

A representative sample of children aged 5–14 years will be drawn from all schools (public, religious and independent private) in all states and territories. Researchers at The University of Adelaide will partner with the public dental services in all states and territories in conducting the study. Information will be collected over 2011–13 as the study is rolled out one state/territory at a time.

The aims of the research are to:

> identify individual and family, community, and dental system factors associated with oral health outcomes of Australian children. Oral health outcomes include disease experience e.g. DMFS, as well as consequences of the way disease is managed e.g. untreated decay, missing or filled teeth and self-rated oral health

> compare oral health status of children treated solely through the public sector, solely through parent-purchased private dentistry, and the combination of public and private dental services

> compare the oral health status of children among Australia’s state/territory public dental programs
> compare the oral health status of children treated solely through private dentistry by variation in private insurance and voucher programs

> interpret and reflect on the research findings with policy makers and dental service providers at the national and state/territory level.

Ethics approval has been obtained from the University of Adelaide Human Research Ethics Committee (EC00195).

Partners (with the exception of Victoria) were invited to the NCOHS Inaugural Meeting on Wednesday, 29 June 2011, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, Seminar Room, Level 3, 122 Frome Street, ARCPOH, The University of Adelaide. Over the day a considerable range of topics were discussed so as to more fully inform the partners on the proposed arrangements and methodology.

Colgate Oral Care has agreed to support NCOHS through oral care gift packs for all examined children.

The ADA Federal Council were asked to provide support for NCOHS in two ways: in principle support for the child patients of ADA members being encouraged to participate in NCOHS; and, cash support for the editing of the examiner DVD and travel costs associated with training, refresher training and gold standard examinations involving ARCPOH staff. The ADA has indicated its willingness to further discuss financial support.

Individual states and territories have been invited to consider the inclusion of some ‘out-of-scope’ school i.e. special schools or remote Indigenous schools. Further, states/territories have been encouraged to make suggestions on data items to add to the core data collection.

One state is already in the field (Qld). Four partners have indicated their intention to be in the field in the first half of 2012 (SA, ACT, NT, NSW), and one in the second half of 2012 (WA). The timetable for Victoria is unknown and discussions with Tasmania were put on hold pending on their further advice.
Grant success: Centre of Research Excellence in Dental Health Services Research

ARCPOH researchers have been awarded a Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in the area of Health Services Research, under the leadership of Assoc. Professor David Brennan, titled ‘Dental health services research for improved oral health outcomes’. The CRE has been funded by NHMRC for five years (2012 to 2016). The chief investigators are Associate Professor David Brennan, Dr Loc Do, Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson and Professor John Spencer. The grant provides five year funding for five research staff and two PhD students. The grant will support a number of projects using existing data sets as well as new initiatives.

The CRE builds on the dental health services research activity of the investigators, to generate new knowledge to improve oral health outcomes and to inform oral health policy. It will develop Australia’s researchers and research capacity in this important area of health services research. The CRE will pursue the three research themes of expenditure and financing of dental care, dental practice performance, and dental services and health outcomes.

Title: Dental health services research for improved oral health outcomes

Chief Investigators:
Assoc. Prof. David Brennan
Dr Loc Do
Prof. Kaye Roberts-Thomson
Prof. John Spencer

Application ID: 1031310

Duration: 5 years
(1 January 2012 to 31 December 2016)

Funding: $2,464,677 in total
($492,935 per annum)

The CRE was proposed to build on the dental health services research activity of the investigators, generating new knowledge to improve oral health outcomes and to inform oral health policy. It will develop Australia’s researchers and research capacity in this important area of health services research. An overview of the research themes and data resources is listed below.

Overview of research themes

> Expenditure and financing of dental care: this theme of research spans considerations of how to best fund dental care in ways that can improve access to dental services taking into account considerations of equity, affordability of dental care, and allocative and efficiency issues.

> Dental practice performance: this theme of research seeks to understand what works best in dental practice configurations and number and mix of personnel to produce optimal outcomes for patients.

> Dental services and health outcomes: this research theme examines the health outcomes of dental service provision spanning types of public programs, comparisons of private and public sector dental care, and what works in the private sector such as level of insurance cover.

Overview of data resources

The CRE will have access to a substantial range of data resources including a long-term time series of cross-sectional studies and a suite of specific research projects to support the investigation of the research themes. In addition, further data collection is planned to be undertaken under the support of the CRE. In order to extend the scope of the research undertaken by the CRE it is planned to pursue further data collection in the area of dental practice performance (to investigate dental personnel and the impact on dental practice, and further work on outputs and outcomes of practice) and research on sector-specific oral health outcomes.

Grant success: Career Development Award

A Career Development Fellowship was awarded to Dr Loc Do which provides funding for four years. ARCPOH now has four holders of NHMRC fellowships or awards.

Scholarship Awards

> Vidya Rao was awarded an Adelaide Scholarships International Award commencing 2011 and Xiangqun Ju an Adelaide Postgraduate Award.

> Sue Gardner won a University of Adelaide Divisional Scholarship.

Recognition of Journal Article

Dr Liana Luzzi and Emeritus Professor John Spencer won the Australian Dental Journal annual award in recognition of an outstanding paper in the scientific article category published in the Journal in 2011:


Promotion

The following staff were awarded promotions in December 2011:

> Lisa Jamieson to Associate Professor (Level D)
> Eleanor Parker to Level C
> Kamila Plutzer to Level B
Publications

AIHW Dental Statistics and Research Series


AIHW DSRU Research Reports


ARCPOH published papers

DATA WATCH:


JOURNAL ARTICLES:


Arrow P. A comparison of articaine 4% and lignocaine 2% in block and infiltration analgesia. Aust Dent J.


Brennan DS and Singh KA. Compliance with dietary guidelines in grocery purchasing among older adults by chewing ability and socio-economic status. Gerodontology.


Singh KA and Brennan DS. Chewing disability in older adults attributable to tooth loss and other oral conditions. Gerodontology.


Submitted for Publication


Armfield JM, Mejia GC and Jamieson LM. Socioeconomic and psychosocial correlates of oral health. Community Dent Oral Epidemiol.


Crocombe LA, Mahoney GD, Spencer AJ and Waller M. Will improving access to dental care improve oral health-related quality of life? Military Medicine.


Teusner DN, Brennan DS and Spencer AJ. Dental insurance, attitudes to dental care and dental visiting. J Pub Health Dent.
Presentations

Faculty of Health Sciences Research, 11 January 2011, University of Talca, Talca, Chile
Latin American strategy of The University of Adelaide. Mejia GC.

IV Biostatistical and Dentistry Meeting, 12–14 January 2011, University of Talca, Talca, Chile
Workshop on New Trends in Epidemiologic Studies. Mejia GC.
The use of conceptual models to aid epidemiologic analyses of social determinants. Mejia GC.

Australia: early childhood caries study. Hedges J.

89th General Session and Exhibition of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), 16–19 March 2011, San Diego, California, United States of America
Symposium: Challenges and opportunities for clinical adoption of evidence-based information in cariology
Challenges and opportunities in fluoridation. Armfield JM.

Oral Session: Behavioural epidemiologic and health services research – pain, anxiety and distress
Agreement and concordance of three dental fear and anxiety measures. Armfield JM.

Oral Session: Behavioural epidemiologic and health services research – child oral health

Symposium: Oral health literacy: from conceptual research to practice
Oral health literacy interventions among Indigenous Australians. Jamieson LM.

Poster Session: Behavioural epidemiologic and health services research – oral health literacy, knowledge, attitudes and behavior

Poster session: Clinical topics in prosthodontics research
Impact of marginal contact of partial dentures on periodontal parameters. Mack F*, Amarasena H, Jayasingha R and Anandamoorthy T.

Poster Discussion Session: Behavioural epidemiologic and health services research – carries prevent, oral cancer
Long-term effect of randomised trial to prevent childhood caries. Plutzer K.

Oral Session: Behavioural epidemiologic and health services research – keynote address and social inequalities and oral health
Keynote address: A population perspective on oral health inequalities. Spencer AJ.

Symposium: Measuring socio-economic inequality in oral health: population oral health perspectives and methodological and practical oral health considerations (Chair: AJ Spencer and S Gansky)
Evaluating over time trend in socioeconomic inequality in dental caries experience in children. Do LG*, Mejia G and Spencer AJ.

Panel discussion. Spencer AJ.

Journées dentaries internationals du Québec, 27–31 May 2011, Montreal, Canada
Invited address: Characteristics, consequences and causes of dental fear. Armfield JM.

Association des dentistes de santé publique due Québec, 31 May 2011, Montreal, Canada
Invited lecture: Water fluoridation facts and fibs. Armfield JM.

WA Dental Health Service, Mid-year managers’ meeting, June 2011, Perth, Western Australia
Social acceptability of dental appearance and fixed orthodontic treatment. Arrow P.

Dental Hygiene Symposium, 2 July 2011, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia
Oral health research among Aboriginal populations. Kapellas K.

School of Dentistry Continuing Professional Development, Dental Practice Update, 12–13 August 2011, Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia
Managing patients with disabilities. Pradhan A.

School of Dentistry Research Day, 26 August 2011, Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide, South Australia
Plenary Lecture: A population perspective on oral health inequalities. Spencer AJ.
A four year follow-up of a computer assisted system for triaging access to public dental care. Jones K* and Chartier A.
Exploring dental behaviours of carers: psycho-social factors. Pradhan A* and Spencer AJ.
Barriers to accessing dental care for rural dwellers. Teusner D* and Harford J.
51st Australian / New Zealand Division Annual Meeting, International Association for Dental Research (IADR), 26–28 September 2011, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia


Access to dental care and rural oral health. Crocombe L*, Stewart JF, Brennan D, Slade G and Spencer AJ.

Exploring dental behaviours of carers: psycho-social factors. Pradhan A* and Spencer AJ.

Periodontal health in an urban Indigenous population. Roberts-Thomson KF*, Amarasena N, Do L and Bartold PM.

Informing dentistry about oral health and dental services delivery in Australia. Spencer AJ.


Poster Session 2: Fluoride and oral health for school children

Poster Session Coordinator: Do L.

Session 3: New technology in prevention and treatment for school children

Population approaches to preventing caries in children. Roberts-Thomson K.

32nd Annual Meeting, National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA), 10–13 November, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Going on the record: exploring identity in Indigenous research. Merrick J.

8th Tasmanian Annual Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) Symposium: Making a difference – building the health of primary health research in Tasmania, 11 November 2011, The University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

Rural oral health and access to dental care. Crocombe L*, Stewart JF, Brennan DS, Slade GD and Spencer AJ.

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), 75th Anniversary

Scientific Symposium ‘Research for a Healthy Future’, 29 November – 1 December 2011, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia

Trend in socioeconomic inequality in child oral health in Australia. Do L.

7th Health Services and Policy Research Conference, 5–7 December 2011, Adelaide, South Australia

Projected impact on demand for dental visits of a social dental insurance scheme. Chrisopoulos S.

A four year follow-up of a computer assisted system for triaging access to public dental care. Jones K (poster).

Barriers to accessing dental care for rural dwellers. Teusner DN* and Harford JE.

* presenter