Healthy Development Adelaide (HDA)

A Research & Innovation Cluster in South Australia

Advancing an understanding of healthy development to ensure the physical, psychological and social health of infants, children and adolescents

Promoting & facilitating multidisciplinary research

The Foundation of a Healthy Society

www.adelaide.edu.au/hda

background document: April 2017
Introduction

HDA plays a key role in South Australia linking research, service delivery and policy development. Through these linkages HDA promotes, facilitates and enables multidisciplinary research that advances understanding of healthy development and ensures the physical, psychological and social health of infants, children and adolescents.

HDA was established in 2004 as an initiative of the University of Adelaide. HDA is currently led by Professor Michael Sawyer (Women's and Children's Health Network / University of Adelaide) and Professor Claire Roberts (Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide). The inaugural Convenors were Professor Robert Norman (Robinson Institute, University of Adelaide) 2004 - 2013; and Professor Caroline McMillen (UniSA) 2004 - 2011.

HDA is supported by a partnership of South Australian organisations that includes the Robinson Research Institute, Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation, University of South Australia, Flinders University, Department for Education and Child Development, Women’s and Children’s Health Network, Repromed, Novita Children’s Services and Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children (SAHMRI).

HDA currently has 309 Research members (senior researchers, early career researchers and PhD students) and 377 Associate (non-research) members. Our membership base is drawn from the University of Adelaide, University of South Australia, Flinders University, relevant institutions (local, national and international), government, and the general community.

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

The Research Context and Target Areas

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

A Good Start to Life: Preconception to Birth
- Healthy Reproduction: Early Growth and Birth: Pregnancy and Families

The First Steps: Birth to 5 years
- Healthy Babies: Growth and Child Health: Healthy Parenting

Learning to Climb: Childhood to Adolescence
- Adolescent Development: Health Risk Behaviours: Gender and Sexuality

Excellence in Research Collaboration

HDA’s role, profile and reputation within the state has been well established and our contribution was acknowledged by winning the Excellence in Research Collaboration category at the 2009 South Australian Science Excellence Awards.
**WHO WE ARE**

HDA was established to foster research relevant to the healthy development of children and adolescents. HDA has been developing relationships with cross-disciplinary teams with expertise to tackle the bigger research questions and to enable researchers to work more effectively across universities, government, research organisations and the community.

HDA has been building the blocks that can enable researchers to exchange ideas, build collaborative relationships and work together for the benefit of Australian society. HDA continues to advance as the prominent *Health Research & Innovation Cluster* in South Australia.

**HDA Convenors**

**Professor Michael Sawyer**  
*OAM, MBBS, PhD, Dip Child Psych., FRANZCP, FRCPC*  
*Head: Research & Evaluation Unit, Women’s & Children’s Hospital, Women’s & Children’s Health Network / Professor: Discipline of Paediatrics, University of Adelaide*

Michael Sawyer is currently the Honorary Medical Advisor for Australian Rotary Health. Prior to this appointment he was Chair of the Australian Rotary Health Research Committee and a Director on the Australian Rotary Health Board. He has also previously been Head, Department of Paediatrics and Associate Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Adelaide. In 2008, Michael was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the field of child and adolescent mental health as a researcher and educator. Michael’s research has focused on the quality of life of children with chronic illness and the epidemiology of child and adolescent mental disorders. Michael was chief investigator in the first Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing and a lead investigator in the recently completed second survey.

**Professor Claire Roberts**  
*Lloyd Cox Professorial Research Fellow, Research Leader, Placenta Development Group, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide*

Claire Roberts is well known internationally for her placenta research and is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Placenta Associations and the President of the Australian New Zealand Placenta Research Association. Claire’s research focuses on cellular and molecular interactions in placental differentiation, invasion and function and their impacts on fetal and maternal health.

**HDA Staff**

**Anne Jurisevic**  
*HDA Executive Officer*  
*Overseeing the event program, memberships, partnerships, newsletter, and website*

**Khloe Xu**  
*HDA Support Officer*  
*Overseeing the scholars and travel grant programs*
HDA’s Role
HDA plays a key role in South Australia linking research, service delivery and policy development. Through these linkages HDA promotes, facilitates and enables multidisciplinary research that advances understanding of healthy development and ensures the physical, psychological and social health of infants, children and adolescents.

HDA’s Vision
A major facilitator in South Australia of research and service innovation that advances understanding of healthy development and ensures the physical, psychological, mental and social health of infants, children and adolescents.

HDA’s Objectives
Establish HDA as a facilitator for engagement between universities, health and education services, research networks and other key bodies responsible for the health and education of infants, children and adolescents in South Australia.

Develop effective communication and multidisciplinary interactions that encourage new research and service directions to improve the health and wellbeing of young people in South Australia.

Encourage multidisciplinary research training programs in Healthy Development in South Australia.

Build a positive image and profile of Healthy Development Adelaide to attract community, government and corporate support.

HDA Steering Group

HDA Convenors
Ms Naomi Dwyer
Chief Executive Officer
Women’s and Children’s Health Network

Mr Samuel Luddy
Manager Strategic Data Development
Department for Education & Child Development

Professor Maria Makrides
Head, Healthy Mothers Babies and Children
South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute

A/Professor Pammi Raghavendra
Disability and Social Inclusion Unit
Flinders University

Professor Janna Morrison
Head, Early Origins of Adult Health Research
University of South Australia

Mr Greg Ward
Executive Director
Channel 7 Children’s Research Foundation / Chief Executive
Novita Children’s Services

Professor Sarah Robertson
Director, Robinson Research Institute
University of Adelaide

Dr Hamish Hamilton
General Manager
Repromed

HDA Executive Committee

The Executive Committee “oversees the planning and organisation of HDA Thematic Evenings, HDA Oration, HDA Scholars Program (top-up scholarship assessment, mentoring & practicum placements); HDA Career Development Events; and HDA Travel Grant awards”

Chaired by Prof Claire Roberts (University of Adelaide); Prof Janna Morrison (UniSA), A/Prof Pammi Raghavendra (Flinders University), Anne Jurisevic (HDA Executive Officer), Khloe Xu (HDA Support Officer)
WHAT WE DO

1. HDA EVENTS

Organisation and implementation of an extensive and varied event program covering high priority research and career development topics in the form of thematic evenings, oration, seminars, symposiums, workshops and forums.

Our events provide effective communication and interactions across disciplines that provide the opportunities for networking and multidisciplinary research collaborations. They are well attended by a broad array of researchers, students, government and health service personnel and educators, organisations, teachers and the general community.

**ORATION**

*HDA’s high profile event of the year where a senior HDA member is awarded the Healthy Development Adelaide Award for achieved excellence in research contributing to healthy development.*

In 12 years (2005-2016)....118 events have been held with ~15,000 people registering.

* A comprehensive view of HDA events can be found at www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/news

2. HDA TRAVEL GRANTS

88 travel grants have been awarded to HDA Members (early career researchers) and PhD students supporting overseas conference travel since 2008.

*Travel reports published in the HDA Newsletters and on the website.*

3. HDA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

21 Scholars have been awarded PhD Scholarships (competitive selection from the APA scholarship pool) with additional financial stipends (per student for 3 years) on the basis of individual merit and the multidisciplinary nature of the project.

A unique research training program that includes:-
- engagement to network in HDA’s event program - career development and research events
- mentors identified and established on needs identified basis by the Scholars
- translational research practicum placements offered to enhance and broaden their research training and career development

**HDA Scholars**

We thank the Channel 7 Children’s Research Foundation for their continued financial support.

Lucy Farrell
Discipline of Public Health, University of Adelaide

The social acceptability of childhood obesity prevention through law: an investigation of public attitudes and their social contexts
Olivia Octoman
Australian Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia
*Cumulative harm: the outcomes, risks and protective factors on chronic maltreatment*

Bing Wang
Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide
*The cost of illness study of invasive meningococcal disease (IMD) in Australian children and young adults*

Victoria Branson
School of Psychology, University of Adelaide
*Designing, evaluating, and utilising a holistic measure of adolescent stress*

Verity Booth
School of Health Sciences, University of South Australia
*Databases of physical activity in Australian children: an audit, an online repository, and recommendations on survey instruments*

*A full list of our current scholars can be found at [www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/students](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/students) and past scholars at [www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/people/alumni](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/people/alumni)*
4. HDA AWARDS

- **Healthy Development Adelaide Award**
  Awarded annually to HDA members who have achieved excellence in research contributing to healthy development. Award recipients have included Prof Graeme Hugo, Prof Alastair MacLennan, A/Prof Manny Noakes, Prof Barbara Pocock, Prof Eric Haan, Prof Maria Makrides, Prof John Lynch, Prof Vivienne Moore, Prof Jennifer Couper, Prof Robert Norman, Prof Fiona Arney and Prof Tim Olds.

- **HDA Leadership Awards 2010**
  Two senior HDA members were awarded a HDA Leadership Award of $2,000 each for their significant and steadfast contributions to HDA. The HDA Leadership Awards were an outcome from the SA Science Excellence Awards 2009.

  **Professor Claire Roberts**
  Senior Research Fellow, The Robinson Institute, University of Adelaide
  “I feel very honoured to have this bestowed upon me. I think that HDA is a fantastic organisation and I greatly value its cross disciplinary and cross institutional nature and the way in which it brings together such a broad range of researchers, government and community stakeholders in this highly important field of Development”.

  **A/Professor Pat Buckley**
  Dean: Research and Research Education, Division of Health Sciences, UniSA.
  “I am delighted to accept this award - I’ve certainly seen HDA become a significant and meaningful research cluster since it started up, and I’ve very much enjoyed playing a role in that”

- **HDA Collaboration Awards 2010**
  The following HDA members were awarded a HDA Collaboration Award of $1,000 each towards their collaborative research endeavours in the area of healthy development. The HDA Collaboration Awards were an outcome from the SA Science Excellence Awards 2009.

  - Dr Janna Morrison, Senior Research Fellow, Sansom Institute for Health Research, UniSA
  - Dr Lisa Smithers, Research Fellow, Sansom Institute for Health Research, UniSA
  - Dr Kate Ridley, Senior Lecturer, School of Education, Flinders University

- **HDA Women’s Excellence in Research Award**
  Initiated in 2016 and awarded annually to HDA mid-career members. Dr Alice Rumbold (Inaugural winner, 2016), NHMRC Career Development Fellow, Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide was awarded the inaugural award of $1,000 and a plaque for excellence of research achievement by women working in the field of developmental health.

- **HDA Student Scholarship Awards**
  Initiated in 2016 and awarded annually to high school students to assist towards higher research career. Students are awarded Scholarships of $1,000 each over a 2 year period, during their year 11 and 12. The students will also receive a HDA Mentor as part of their award.

  - Simon Lieu, Playford International College (formerly Fremont-Elizabeth City High School)
  - Kayla Freer, Christies Beach High School
  - Nathan Henderson, Christies Beach High School
  - Jessica Hann, Playford International College
  - Chloe Richards-Hart, Christies Beach High School
WHO WE REACH

“Multidisciplinary research advances our understanding of the overall impact of research relating to infants, children and adolescence.”

1. HDA RESEARCH MEMBERS

HDA’s membership encompasses 24 research disciplines with senior and early career researchers, and PhD students collectively dedicated to bringing together multidisciplinary aspects of research related to investigation and improvement in developmental health spanning embryo, infant, child and youth health.

- biochemistry
- biomedical engineering
- demographics
- dentistry
- economics
- education
- endocrinology
- epidemiology
- ethics
- genetics
- immunology
- indigenous health
- law
- nutrition
- paediatrics
- pharmacology
- physiology
- politics
- psychology
- psychiatry
- public health
- reproductive health
- sociology
- virology.

HDA’s membership has steadily increased from 80 in 2004 to over 300 in 2016. Interest in HDA continues to grow steadily that include membership requests to involvement in committees and events.

An A-Z membership listing can be found at www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/people

2. HDA ASSOCIATE (non-research) MEMBERS

HDA currently comprises of over 375 non-research members. Our associate members are interested in areas relating to the health and wellbeing of infants, children and/or adolescence in a non-research capacity and/or attend HDA events out of work/personal interest.

Sectors include (but not inclusive) to health, education, government, private company, and the community.

A Full listing of our associate members organizations can be found at www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/people

3. HEALTH SERVICE & GOVERNMENT

We receive a strong interest from the health service and government sectors.

4. GENERAL COMMUNITY & ORGANISATIONS

Our reputation and brand of events cater to the general community also and is wide reaching to various organizations. HDA’s mailing list continues to grow to incorporate all of the above sectors.
HDA Partners

In 2008, HDA officially became a Research and Innovation Cluster in South Australia with partners financially contributing to HDA initiatives and programs. We are grateful to our Partners and acknowledge their valued support which allows us to further strengthen and broaden our aims to continuously improve the health and wellbeing of young children in South Australia.

HDA was established in 2004 by the University of Adelaide

Contributing since 2009 towards our HDA Scholars with PhD top-up scholarships

Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children
HDA will continue to strive to advance our role as the prominent health Research & Innovation Cluster in South Australia

For further information contact:

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