

Menzies Centre for
**Health
Policy**



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



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Directors' Report

July - October 2010

Professor Stephen Leeder, University of Sydney
Mr Robert Wells, Australian National University

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What's New

- The University of Sydney Vice-Chancellor has committed strategic funds to enable the Menzies Centre for Health Policy (Sydney) to foster and promote the formation and function of the Sydney Health Policy Network during 2010 and 2011. The Sydney Health Policy Network will harness relevant intellectual resources from across the University and provide a structure to promote cross-disciplinary health policy research, education and advocacy. This is in line with the University's strategic plan to develop a small number of major cross-disciplinary initiatives in research and education that will have visible impact in addressing the complex problems facing our nation and our world.
- The second Menzies-Nous Survey on Attitudes to the Health Care System went to the field in July 2010. It focused on the experience of primary and aged care, and will provide an early view of attitudes to proposed national health care reforms. Analysis of the results has been completed, and the two reports – on general attitudes and on aged care – will be launched in Canberra on 23 November, with presentations of results the following week in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.
- Dr Lesley Russell completed her employment at the Menzies Centre in August 2010 and has since been awarded an honorary appointment at the University of Sydney.
- Dr Jennifer Smith-Merry has been appointed as visiting scholar at the Menzies Centre (Sydney). Dr Smith-Merry is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Edinburgh and plans to progress her research on public mental health policy.
- Dr Fred Hersch has been awarded an honorary associate title at the Menzies Centre (Sydney). Dr Hersch will continue his honours research project looking at cardiovascular disease prevention in resource poor settings and more broadly explore the response to the challenge of non communicable disease from a global health perspective.
- Jeanie McKenzie commenced in October as Senior Research Fellow, Health & Sustainability. Jeanie will coordinate the Medical Foundation funded program, 'Preventing Cardiovascular Disease in Pacific Island Countries: An Environmental Approach'.
- Two new PhD students commenced in Semester 2 under the supervision of Stephen Leeder. Ashley McAllister is investigating why welfare-to-work policies have been unsuccessful among those with chronic disease – specifically mental illness. Shauna Downs has been awarded a University of Sydney International Postgraduate Research Scholarship and will research chronic disease in the developing world. Shauna Downs is looking at the relationship between the food supply and the nutrition transition in India, identifying potential food policies to improve diets and reduce chronic disease.
- An EOI submitted by the Menzies Centre (Sydney) for the NSW Health preferred supplier panel tender was successful. The application detailed the Menzies Centre's strengths in qualitative research and health policy services. The Menzies Centre will be on a preferred panel of suppliers until September 2013 and may be recruited to assist with the evaluation of the Department's activities.
- Stephen Leeder has been appointed Theme Leader of the Sydney Medical School's Chronic Disease Research Theme.
- Two University of Sydney International Program Development Fund grants have been awarded to the Menzies Centre. The Health and Sustainability Unit will further develop a research network following the inaugural WUN Public Health and Climate Change Workshop hosted by the University of Bristol in February 2010, by holding a follow-up workshop in Sydney in early 2011. The other award will support a process evaluation and policy study of a community based cardiovascular disease (CVD) reduction program in rural China.

Research

Research is a core activity of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy. Menzies Centre staff collaborate extensively with government agencies, area health services, non-government organisations, independent institutes and with industry, locally and internationally, on a wide range of research and consultancy projects. Staff at the Menzies Centre mentor and supervise research students enrolled at both The Australian National University and the University of Sydney. The Menzies Centre also hosts academic and student visitors pursuing projects that align with the research strengths and interests of Menzies Centre staff.

Research is grouped into the following work areas. Current projects for each work area are listed below and updated in detail on the following pages. Work in areas without specific projects is captured in Publications and Events. Please see relevant sections later in this report.

- **Chronic Disease and Aged Care**
 - Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study
 - Health and Sustainability Unit (formerly The Diabetes Unit)
 - The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study
 - Health Economics Capacity Building Grant
 - Improving Health Literacy in Seniors with Chronic Illness
 - Calvary Health Care Bethlehem Palliative Care Study
 - Preventing Poor Outcomes for People with Chronic Illness
- **Dental and Oral Health**
- **e-Health**
- **Global Health**
 - Initiative for Cardiovascular Health Research in the Developing Countries
 - Ford Foundation projects in Indonesia
 - Health policy development in the Pacific
 - Oxford Health Alliance Asia Pacific Regional Centre
 - Health Sector Aid Effectiveness in the Pacific
 - Securitisation and Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis: Global and Australian Perspectives
 - USA/Australian Health Issues
- **Health Care Financing**
 - Impact of the cost of medicines GP survey
- **Health Reform**
- **Health Surveys**
 - Survey on Attitudes towards the Australian health system
 - What is influential public health research?
- **Indigenous Health**
- **Mental Health**
- **Obesity and Nutrition**
- **Prevention and Primary Care**
- **Sensory Impairment**
 - Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study
- **Sustainability**

Research continued

Chronic Disease and Aged Care

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study

Work in Progress

Evaluation of the Blue Mountains GP Network Chronic Disease Self-Management Project

SCIPPS Sydney agreed to partner with the Blue Mountains GP Network to conduct an evaluation of the Chronic Disease Self Management Project (including evaluating *Moving On*, a chronic disease self-management program) funded by the Department of Health and Ageing.

A Draft Report of the evaluation was submitted to the Blue Mountains GP Network and the Department of Health and Ageing in May 2010. A six month follow-up focus group was conducted with *Moving On* participants in October 2010. Additional material was also collected from local GPs by the Project at this time. A Final Report incorporating additional GP and follow-up focus group material will now be produced.

Evaluation of HealthOne Mt Druitt

HealthOne Mt Druitt (HOMD) is a system of managing people with chronic illness that integrates both primary and community health services.

SCIPPS Sydney has been working in close collaboration with the Mount Druitt Community Health Centre and HealthOne staff to conduct a mixed method evaluation of HOMD. The qualitative component is progressing on schedule. Justin McNab has completed interviews with SWAHS managers and staff who are HOMD steering committee members. Jim Gillespie is interviewing relevant NSW Health and SWAHS policy makers. Interviews with HOMD patients and their carers are scheduled for Nov/Dec 2010. A detailed plan for the quantitative analysis has been designed in collaboration with a SWAHS staff member. Data collection and analysis is scheduled for early 2011.

Care Navigation

The aim of the RCT is to determine if there is any difference between standard care and Care Navigation (a new model for the management for individuals with chronic illness) for individuals with chronic illness who present to Nepean Hospital emergency department.

The Care Navigation RCT commenced at Nepean Hospital in mid-May. Natalie Plant has been working at Nepean Hospital recruiting patients to the study. As at Monday 18 October, 332 people have been recruited to the study, providing an anticipated completion date for the recruitment phase of the study of 18th January, 2011.

Nepean Hospital's Human Resources and Ethics Committee (HREC) have agreed to allow concurrent Care Navigation to be provided off-study for patients who, for medical reasons (e.g. dementia), will never become eligible for the RCT. Natalie will be submitting a request to Nepean Hospital's HREC for Care Navigation to be available to all patients (excluding those randomised to 'standard care') once the recruitment target of 500 participants has been achieved.

Recruitment of additional Aboriginal patients and carers to SCIPPS

Analysis of the interviews undertaken with Indigenous people has been completed and four papers have resulted: one paper is ready for publication, one paper is at final draft stage, and the other two papers are in draft form.

Research continued

45 and up data-linkage study

The 45+ data linkage study has now commenced, and the first paper is a descriptive paper outlining the characteristics of people from the study identifying themselves as having one of the three sentinel conditions - heart disease, diabetes or respiratory disease - whose GP has submitted a Medicare claim for items related to chronic illness management. The initial work will be reported at the Sax Institute users conferences at the end of October, and it is anticipated that this paper will be submitted at the end of November.

Impact of chronic illness on socio-economic well being of senior Australians

The findings from this study have been submitted for publication in two papers: one on the costs of chronic illness following a presentation at the AHES conference early in October; and the second on the impact of chronic illness on workforce participation and the need for assistance with household tasks and personal care by older Australians. There are a number of other papers that would be valuable to draw from this study that would inform policy and health system design. The study has led to the design for the SCIPPS survey on Time Use and Co-ordination for people with chronic illness.

GP Survey

Data collection has been completed for the survey study of GPs to explore the 'no symptoms-no disease' hypothesis. Practice experience suggests that for many patients the lack of frank symptoms of the disease leads to a belief that the disease has 'gone away' and may lead to less than optimal management. Data analysis is underway.

Publications

Published Papers

1. Yen L, Gillespie J, Jeon Y-H, Kljakovic M, Brien J, Jan S, Lehnbohm E, Pearce-Brown C, Usherwood T. Health professionals, patients and chronic illness policy: a qualitative study (2010). *Health Expectations* Jun 9. [Epub ahead of print].
2. Aspin C, Jowsey T, Glasgow N, Dugdale P, Nolte E, Leeder S. Health policy responses to rising rates of multi-morbid chronic illness in Australia and New Zealand. *Aust N Z J Public Health*. 2010 Aug;34(4):386-93.

Papers in Press

1. Essue B, Jowsey T, Jeon Y-H, Mirzaei M, Pearce-Brown C, Aspin C, Usherwood T, and the SCIPPS Team. Informal care and the self-management partnership: implications for Australian health policy and practice. *Australian Health Review*

Papers Accepted for Publication

1. Jowsey T, Gillespie J, Aspin C. Effective communication is crucial to self-management: The experiences of immigrants to Australia living with diabetes, *Chronic illness* - November 2011 edition
2. Cheung KK, Mirzaei M, Leeder S. Health policy analysis: a tool to evaluate in policy documents the alignment between policy statements and intended outcomes. *Australian Health Review*

Papers in Submission

1. Jowsey T, Yen L, Wells R. National Health and Hospital Reform Commission Final Report and patient-centred suggestions for reform. *MJA* (submitted Dec 2009)

Research continued

2. Mirzaei M, Aspin C, Essue B, Dugdale P, Jeon Y-H, Dugdale P, Usherwood T, Leeder S. A patient-centred approach to health service delivery: Improving health outcomes for people with chronic illness. *Australian Journal of Primary Health* (submitted Oct 2010)
3. Essue B, Kelly PJ, Leeder SR, Jan S. We can't afford my chronic illness! The household economic impact of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and comorbidity in Western Sydney, Australia. *MJA*

Health and Sustainability Unit (formerly The Diabetes Unit)

The Health and Sustainability Unit is dedicated to policy development and implementation; strategic planning for population health; health services research and development; chronic disease prevention and sustainability and health – particularly the influence of the way we live and manage our societies now on climate change and the unprecedented growth in obesity and chronic diseases.

The Health and Sustainability Unit sees its role as a conduit between theory and practice, and works as a bridge between academia, the broader chronic disease community and the general population. It employs a pragmatic approach and is mindful of the diverse needs, perspectives and prevailing forces that affect health across all levels of society.

What's New

Highlights within the Health and Sustainability Unit (HSU) include:

- The commencement of Jeanie McKenzie as Senior Research Fellow, Health & Sustainability, who will coordinate the Medical Foundation funded program, 'Preventing Cardiovascular Disease in Pacific Island Countries: An Environmental Approach'.

Grant Applications - Success

International Development Program Funding (IDPF)

HSU's submission "WUN Public Health & Climate Change Network: Combining Climate Change & Chronic Disease Prevention" to the University of Sydney's International Program Development Fund (IPDF) for 2011 has been successful.

The proposal seeks to further develop the research network following the inaugural WUN Public Health and Climate Change Workshop hosted by the University of Bristol in February 2010, by holding a follow-up workshop in Sydney, early 2011. The objectives of the 2011 workshop are to progress the PH&CC agenda by identifying discrete research opportunities and priorities and possible funding sources for joint research projects.

Grant Applications - Submitted

World Universities Network (WUN) Research Development Fund

An application entitled WUN Global Health Justice Network: Public Health and Climate Change - Combining Climate Change and Chronic Disease Prevention will be submitted shortly.

This program arises from and is an extension of the WUN Global Health Justice Network, led out of the University of Bristol. It builds a new direction and research focus for this network based on relationships already fostered by a Bristol-funded international workshop hosted in February 2010, while simultaneously bolstering the activity and output of the network.

Research continued

WHO Collaborating Centre

An application led by Professor Adrian Bauman was submitted for the World Health Organisation (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Physical Activity Nutrition and Obesity (PANO). Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri is named as an Associate Director on the application.

Current Projects

The team continues to work in collaboration with internal and external organisations on key projects such as:

Systematic Review of Health Urbanisation

Work is continuing on this systematic review in collaboration with Sydney South West Area Health Service to identify effective interventions that have been tested to evaluate the impact of transport and urban design on health outcomes and identify the gaps in research.

SCIPPS Transport Review

The objective of the project is to add to the pool of knowledge about health service barriers for people with chronic diseases and inform health policy development aimed at reducing these barriers in Australia by undertaking a structured review of the peer-reviewed literature. A report on this review is currently being finalised for submission to a peer reviewed health journal.

ADS Guideline for Type 1 Diabetes

The HSU has been sub-contracted by the Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) to assist with the development of an NHMRC Guideline on Type 1 Diabetes in children, adolescents, and the extension of these guidelines into adulthood

ADS Position Statement for Diabetes and Driving

HSU has been sub-contracted by the Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) to develop a position statement for health professionals on driving and diabetes encompassing a targeted systematic literature review, international guideline comparison and coroners cases. The literature review has been completed and a report and a position statement are being finalised. The position statement will be submitted for publication in the Medical Journal of Australia.

National Diabetes Programmes

The Guide to National Diabetes Programmes has been completed and will be published by the International Diabetes Federation shortly. In addition to the traditional approach to diabetes and related NCD prevention and care, this handbook includes advocacy, policy and public health considerations for a more 'ecological' approach to primary prevention and highlights the link between chronic diseases and economic and environmental sustainability.

Teaching

In 2010, for the first time the University of Sydney offered a Master of Sustainability. The HSU is coordinating the Health and Populations Unit of Study (SUST5004) which was offered as four intensive workshops during Semester 2 2010.

Research continued

Publications

Peer Reviewed:

- Colagiuri R, Short R, Buckley A .The status of national diabetes programmes: A global survey of IDF member associations. *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice*. 2010, 87:137-142.
- Colagiuri S & Colagiuri R (2010). How evidence-based medicine has shaped international guidelines over the past 25 years. *Medicographia*. June 2010, (Accepted).

Invited Presentations

Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri presented at the following meetings:

- 27-28 Jul 2010, "Trade and NCDs". Law & Non-communicable Diseases Workshop, University of Melbourne.
- 18 Aug 2010, "Knowledge and skills: Making Diabetes Education More Systematic and Accountable". Symposium for Behavioural and Social Research in Diabetes, in Melbourne.
- 30 Aug 2010, Diabetes and Poverty: Determining Achievement of the MDGs Workshop, The 63rd Annual United Nations Department of Public Information /Non-Governmental Organisations Conference, Melbourne.
- 7 Sept 2010, "Public Health & Urban Policy". University of Sydney, SPH Public Health Connections Seminar Series.
- 25 Aug 2010, "Planning and Public Health" and Roundtable on "transforming cities to cater or population growth". Shanghai Expo, Australian Pavilion, Shanghai, China.
- 1 Sept 2010, "Patient centred care: a survey of IDF members association". ADS-ADEA Conference, Sydney.
- 16-20 Oct 2010, "Sustaining Diabetes Prevention and Care in Uncertain Times", Intl Diabetes Federation, Western Pacific Region Conference, Korea.

Future Events

Thinker in Residence

Prof Stig Pramming will be joining HSU in December to conduct a "Thinker in Residence" program on health and sustainability.

The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study

The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study (CAPS) is the first and only Australian randomised controlled trial of the effectiveness of both house dust mite avoidance and modification of dietary intake of fatty acids, both implemented from birth, for the prevention of asthma and other allergic disease during childhood. The study started in 1997 and recruitment of 616 subjects was completed in January, 2000.

The cohort ages 11 1/2 and 14 years are currently being followed-up. This part of the study will look at longer term outcomes of the interventions as well as examining sex-specific differences in the natural history of asthma and allergic disease during the transition through puberty. Data collection is proceeding on schedule.

Research continued

Health Economics Capacity Building Grant

Stephen Leeder is a Chief Investigator on a 5 year NHMRC Capacity Building grant that will provide training and development for a team of health economists to research chronic diseases. The program, Health Economics Research, Modelling, Evaluation and Strategy (HERMES) 'Using health economics to strengthen ties between evidence, policy and practice in chronic disease', is a collaboration between the George Institute, School of Public health and the Menzies Centre for Health Policy. It will address issues such as: What is the value for money from investment in different treatments? How do such diseases affect the economic circumstances of families? How do we ensure that strategies to address illness work in practice and can be sustained? How do these issues get put on the policy agenda?

Beverley Essue and Joel Negin are Team Investigators on the grant and it is progressing well. The following achievements and outputs are noted for this reporting period:

Publications:

- Negin J, Cumming R. Quantifying HIV prevalence in older adults in sub-Saharan Africa: extrapolating from existing data. Bulletin of the World Health Organization Forthcoming.
- Negin J, Wariero J, Cumming R, Mutuo P, Pronyk P. High rates of AIDS-related mortality among older adults in rural Kenya. Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes Forthcoming.
- Negin J, Roberts G, Lingam D. The Evolution of Primary Health Care in Fiji: Past, Present and Future. Pacific Health Dialogue Forthcoming.
- Snowdon W, Negin J, Moodie M. Building an economic case for food interventions in the Pacific. Pacific Health Dialogue Forthcoming.

Awards:

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Doctoral Research Award (2010-2013), 'The economic impact of chronic illness on households and the implications for health and social policy development.'

Conference presentations:

- Household economic hardship and chronic illness: a qualitative inquiry. Emerging Health Policy Research Conference – Sydney. 11 August 2010 – oral presentation.
- Measuring the household economic impact of illness: a discussion of methods. Australian Health Economics Society Conference (AHES) – Sydney. 30 September-1 October 2010 – oral presentation.

Improving Health Literacy in Seniors with Chronic Illness

Jim Gillespie, Clive Aspin and Steve Leeder received a grant from National Seniors Australia. The study aims to gain an understanding of how seniors living with chronic illness navigate the health system and gain access to information about available care and management options to assist them in managing their conditions. The study will approach the issue of patient care and quality of life from the patient's perspective, giving a voice to individuals who often are disenfranchised in the development of care plans. The SCIPPS data has been reanalysed to identify strategies to improve health literacy. The results will be discussed with patients, carers and health professionals enrolled in HealthOne Mt Druitt. A report and seminars will be held to present the results in the first half of 2011.

Research continued

Calvary Health Care Bethlehem Palliative Care Study

Jim Gillespie, Angela Beaton, Cathie Hull and Beverley Essue have been commissioned to provide Calvary Health Care Bethlehem (CHCB) with a descriptive analysis of their specialist model of palliative care. The project will track the patient journey through the CHCB community-based and hospital-based palliative care service, and provide a descriptive analysis of the interplay between multidisciplinary services and their costs. This project aims to make important contributions to national policy in this area. The first phase of the project (literature review and preparation) is underway. The project is now in the recruitment phase.

Preventing Poor Outcomes for People with Chronic Illness

This project is being funded by a two-year grant from the Ian Potter Foundation. A one-year project will be delivered by the ANU team and the USyd team will commence a one-year project in mid-2011.

Work on the Canberra project has commenced. Bob Wells, Ian McRae, Jim Gillespie and Laurann Yen are working with two part-time research fellows, Michelle Banfield and Karen Gardner on the project. Michelle and Karen are currently engaged on the initial policy search, to understand how issues of co-ordination have been addressed from a policy perspective. We have decided to concentrate on information from the Commonwealth and three states, NSW, Victoria and Queensland. The initial work will provide a chronology and a map of policy initiatives which will be used to set up key informant interviews.

Global Health

Initiative for Cardiovascular Health Research in the Developing Countries

A study conducted in China, India, Argentina and Zambia, estimating the costs to families of heart disease and stroke suffered by one member, is in the final write-up stage. This study has been coordinated from Delhi and Stephen Leeder has chaired the overseeing committee. It complements his work in 2003-4 examining the macroeconomic effects of CVD. Several key publications are currently being prepared and insights from this study may lead to a revision of policy for financing health care and social support for people with CVD in developing countries. The University of Sydney hosted a visitor from the Indian centre of the study, Dr Harikrishnan, for two weeks in June. Dr Harikrishnan is working on a revision of the monograph *A Race Against Time*, first published in 2004.

Ford Foundation projects in Indonesia

Professor Peter Heywood received funding in 2008 from the Ford Foundation to conduct a number of studies. All projects have concluded with the exception of: *Design and preparation of a pilot project to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality through demand side interventions in West Java Province, Indonesia*

Considerable progress continues to be made with this project and it is expected to conclude in November 2010. Recent publications are listed below:

Research continued

- Titalley CR, Hunter CL, Heywood P, Dibley MJ. Why don't some women attend antenatal and postnatal care services?: a qualitative study of community members' perspectives in Garut, Sukabumi and Ciamis districts of West Java Province, Indonesia, *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 2010, 10:61doi:10.1186/1471-2393-10-61
- Titalley DR, Hunter CL, Dibley MJ, Heywood P. Why do some women still prefer traditional birth attendants and home delivery?: a qualitative study on delivery care services in West Java Province, Indonesia, *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 2010, 10:43

Health Sector Aid Effectiveness in the Pacific

Joel Negin is conducting research funded by the Knowledge Hub on Health Policy & Finance at the Nossal Institute for Global Health on health sector aid effectiveness in the Pacific.

The 2009 projects focused on sector wide approaches in Samoa and the Solomon Islands and tracking of funding flows for non-communicable disease and HIV/AIDS. The work has been extended in 2010 to investigate regional health sector governance mechanisms. The research is being done in collaboration with the World Bank and Secretariat of the Pacific Community partners.

Publications

- Negin J, Robinson HM. Funding for HIV and Non-Communicable Diseases: Implications for Priority Setting in the Pacific Region, Health Policy and Health Finance Knowledge Hub Working Paper Series, *Nossal Institute for Global Health* at the University of Melbourne, Australia, Number 1, March 2010.
- Negin J. Sector-Wide Approaches for health: an introduction to SWAs and their implementation in the Pacific region, Health Policy and Health Finance Knowledge Hub Working Paper Series, *Nossal Institute for Global Health* at the University of Melbourne, Australia, Number 2, March 2010.
- Negin J. Sector-Wide Approaches for health: a comparative study of experiences in Samoa and the Solomon Islands, Health Policy and Health Finance Knowledge Hub Working Paper Series, *Nossal Institute for Global Health* at the University of Melbourne, Australia, Number 3, March 2010.
- Negin J. Sector-Wide Approaches for health: lessons from Samoa and the Solomon Islands, Health Policy and Health Finance Knowledge Hub Working Paper Series, *Nossal Institute for Global Health* at the University of Melbourne, Australia, Number 4, March 2010.

Securitisation and Multi-drug Resistant Tuberculosis: Global and Australian Perspectives

Jim Gillespie and Joel Negin are looking at new issues around an old disease that has re-emerged in a new and less treatable form. Multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis (MDR TB) – a more virulent variant with higher mortality rates – has emerged recently as a result of inadequately administered treatment programs for TB. It is closely linked to the prevalence of HIV and AIDS and 'low quality treatment programs'. The project is looking at the policy context of WHO's TB DOTS policy and the emergence of MDR TB as a policy problem on Australia's borders to identify productive responses. Several publications are being prepared on the development of the DOTS program, border protection and MDR TB in the Torres Strait and a commissioned book chapter on 'securitization' of illness.

Research continued

Process Evaluation of Cardiovascular Disease Interventions in Anhui Province China

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy has been awarded \$16,000 under the University of Sydney IPDF program to undertake a process evaluation and policy study of a community based cardiovascular (CVD) reduction program in rural China. The project will be conducted in collaboration with Lanzhou University, Gansu Province, China. CVD is a serious health, economic and social issue in rural China and an area of increasing need and research investment. The Menzies Centre has expertise in process evaluation and a knowledge exchange in this area will be of tremendous benefit to both Lanzhou and Sydney Universities.

This collaboration will provide excellent opportunities for staff and student exchange between the Menzies Centre for Health Policy and Lanzhou University. This one-year project is expected to commence in May 2011 and preparations for the project are underway.

USA/Australian Health Issues

Dr Lesley Russell, Honorary Associate, Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney and former Menzies Foundation Fellow, has spent the past 18 months in Washington DC where she has combined her Australian work (teaching, research into the impact of out-of-pocket costs on patients' health, policy analyses and commentary) with work on US health care reform and other health issues, primarily obesity and the public health effects of the Gulf oil spill.

See the Publications section later in this report for a list of Dr Russell's writings.

Health Care Financing

Impact of the cost of medicines GP survey

Lesley Russell, Angela Beaton and Tim Usherwood are working on a research project investigating how general practitioners help their patients in severe financial stress manage treatment costs. GPs in the Blue Mountains Division of General Practice and WentWest were surveyed between January and March 2010. Aspects of this work were presented at the Emerging Health Policy Conference (Beaton) and will be presented at the upcoming the Sydney School of Public Health Research Conference (Beaton). A manuscript reporting the results of this work is currently under preparation.

Research continued

Health Reform

New advisory role for MCHP

The Menzies Centre has been engaged by NSW Health over the next 13 months to provide independent policy advice on key significant areas of work required during the roll out of the COAG National Health and Hospitals Network Agreement in NSW. The Menzies Centre will: advise on new governance structures such as Local Hospital Networks; develop evidence based engagement and consensus approaches which will facilitate effective policy and program transition and reform implementation; deliver consultation forums around the health reform process and assist in both the development of decisions and in implementation; and conduct comparative jurisdictional analysis on effective governance and other health service delivery structures. A workshop to address these issues with senior NSW Health staff will be held in early November.

Health Surveys

Survey on Attitudes towards the Australian health system

The second Menzies-Nous Survey on Attitudes to the Health Care System went to the field in July 2010. It focused on the experience of primary and aged care, and will provide an early view of attitudes to proposed national health care reforms. Analysis of the results has been completed, and the two reports – on general attitudes and on aged care – will be launched in Canberra on 23 November, with presentations of results the following week in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

What is influential public health research?

Stephen Leeder and James Gillespie are Chief Investigators on an NHMRC Project grant that is looking at how population health research workers and policy makers communicate. The study addresses the question as to what the characteristics are of public health research that leads to policy change. The project commenced in early 2009. Interviews with researchers and most of the policy makers have been completed and the project has a substantial number of publications accepted and under review.

Prevention and Primary Care

Grant application

An application was submitted in the APHCRI - Centre of Excellence in Primary Health Care Research grant round, 'Western Sydney Centre for Excellence in Chronic Disease and Primary Care Research - Towards effective and equitable chronic disease prevention and management in marginalised communities'. If successful this funding application will bring together established researchers from the Universities of Sydney and Western Sydney, the Menzies Centre for Health Policy and the George Institute for Global Health, along with key service providers in greater western Sydney including WentWest Ltd, local divisions of general practice, community health services, Refugee Health and NSW Justice Health. The aim of the proposed Centre is to develop, trial and rigorously evaluate solutions for the safe, effective, cost effective and equitable prevention and management of chronic disease in partnership with disadvantaged and marginalised communities. The Centre will be based in greater western Sydney.

Research continued

The Centre's core research program during the first four years will be in three phases. Phase one will establish six to seven Community Research Partnership Groups (CRPGs) in marginalised communities, including partnerships with local Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and with Justice Health. Each CRPG will work together to identify health care priorities and develop solutions for their community. Phase two will synthesise the work of the CRPGs into an Integrated Chronic Disease Prevention and Management System (ICDPMS) and will evaluate the ICDPMS across greater western Sydney in a cluster randomised controlled trial measuring effectiveness as well as service use and cost. A process evaluation will explore the views of consumers and health care providers about the benefits and problems encountered with the Model, and their suggestions for improvement. Phase three will refine the Model in light of the process and outcome findings of the RCT and disseminate the Model and research findings nationally and internationally. The Centre will also have a strong focus on building research capacity by engaging doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers.

Sensory Impairment

Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study

The Vision-Hearing project, a new NHMRC Partnership grant that pilots a screening model for the detection of dual sensory impairment among clients presenting to low vision services, has been underway since April 2010. The project, led by Stephen Leeder (CIA) and Julie Schneider, received \$318,000 in NHMRC funds in addition to financial and in-kind support from partner organisations, Vision Australia and the Audiological Society of Australia.

Julie Schneider is managing the project from the Menzies Centre. Recruitment of participants commenced from August 2010 following employment of a research audiologist at Vision Australia in June.

To date, 75 clients have been recruited to the study. All have presented with some hearing loss based on the study screening criteria (≥ 25 dB hearing loss at one or more octave frequencies between 500 and 8000Hz). Thirty participants (40%) reported to have previously accessed hearing services and to currently own hearing aids. However, 40% of these reported not to use their aids. The remaining 45 participants have been recommended for a full hearing assessment and will be followed up as part of the study. Fifteen hearing service providers, including eight Australian Hearing offices and seven private practitioners have registered with the project, indicating their willingness to receive clients for complete assessment and provide data back to the study on hearing rehabilitation outcomes.

Research continued

Research Students

Anne Marie Thow

Using trade and tax policy to improve population nutrition: global agendas, politics and policy making

Anne Marie submitted her PhD thesis for review in August. A nutritionist with a masters in public policy, she investigated the implications of global macro-economic policy for diets, and the potential to use trade and tax policy to improve population nutrition in the Pacific. Prior to beginning her PhD, Anne Marie worked at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and at the Fiji National Food and Nutrition Centre. She has also completed internships at the World Health Organization and International Food Policy Research Institute. Anne Marie now works as an Associate Lecturer for the Graduate Program in Health Policy at the University of Sydney.

Surianti Sukeri

Heavy Heart: the untold tale of economic and psychosocial impact of CVD on patients and their families in Malaysia

Surianti is conducting a cross-sectional study of the economic impact of CVD on patients and their families in Malaysia. This study found that around 1 in 5 individuals with IHD in Malaysia report financially catastrophic levels of health care spending. However, the extent to which this translates into financial stress and economic hardship is low. It is likely that this is due not only to the financial protection from the costs of health care afforded by the highly subsidised health care system but also to the non-refusal policy that allows every patient to be treated regardless of their ability to pay. These initiatives should be seen as an exemplar for other developing countries.

Jennifer Hunter

Developing a minimum dataset for use in an Australian integrative medicine clinic

Jennifer has undertaken a systematic literature review of patient questionnaires for use in primary care integrative medicine clinics. From over 2000 questionnaires, 412 potential questionnaires were identified and a final shortlist 42 robust tools are recommended.

In-depth interviews are being conducted at a primary care integrative medicine clinic in Sydney. The aim is to explore practitioners' and patients' views about the use of questionnaires to measure holistic health.

Based on these findings a minimum dataset will be proposed that aims to measure a broad spectrum of domains including health care use, physical health outcomes, disease prevention, quality of life and positive definitions of health and wellbeing.

From this project, the long-term aim is to develop a standardised online database that is able to monitor health service use and patient outcomes. The database will provide a practical tool to support urgently needed evaluations of multidisciplinary primary care and integrative medicine clinics in Australia. Jennifer's project is supported by a National Institute of Complementary Medicine seed funding grant.

Ashley McAllister

This wall is too tall: why welfare-to-work policies do not work for those with chronic illness

Ashley is investigating why welfare-to-work policies have been unsuccessful among those with chronic disease – specifically mental illness. She is interested in identifying possible policy responses to increase the social and economic participation of those with mental illness.

Research continued

Shauna Downs

Food policies to reduce chronic disease in India

Shauna Downs is looking at the relationship between the food supply and the nutrition transition in India, identifying potential food policies to improve diets and reduce chronic disease. Her main interest is in the relationship between the food environment, the nutrition transition and chronic disease.

Adam Capon

The development of an environmental health policy for nanotechnology in Australia

Adam is being sponsored by NSW Health to complete the first major Australian study of the policy implications of the development of nanotechnologies. He has undertaken the first comprehensive review of the current regulatory and policy structures around public health chemicals policy in Australia and has planned quantitative and qualitative research around public health implications of nanotechnology. Adam will consult closely with the different Australian jurisdictions to develop workable policies.

Angela Littleford

NSW models of care that reflect innovation in ageing and chronic disease management and their links to policy

Angela has interviewed 30 health leaders from NSW and Australia to gain their views on the models of care that are delivering innovation in the areas of chronic disease management for older people. These models are then discussed in relation to policy. Data collection is complete and analysis of the data is underway using grounded theory methodology. From these interviews, innovative models of care have been identified. One such innovative model is Integrated Community Care for Older People and Angela has published the model in an international journal and will present the model at the Australian Association Gerontology Conference in November. She has also co-authored a book chapter on innovation using video-phone technology. Her study is in its third year.

John Hall

The global politics of Tuberculosis control: an analysis and critique of the international Tuberculosis Directly Observed Short Course (TB DOTS) policy, its development, and transfer to low income countries

John Hall is a public health physician with long experience of working in the Pacific Islands and other low resource settings. He is examining the reasons for widespread failures in health surveillance and implementation of externally funded programs. His main interest is the troubled relationships between global policies devised with little regard for local realities and the difficulty of implementing these interventions in setting with poor resources, inadequate trained workers and fragile governance structures.

Deborah Schaler

Patient complaint policy: improving the quality and safety of health systems

Deborah is undertaking a comparative study of patient complaint policy that seeks evidence that policy implementation leads to measurable improvement in the quality or safety of the health system. The study aims to better understand the limitations of current complaint policy in Australia, and identify areas where the policy and its place in a clinical governance framework can be strengthened to more effectively and efficiently improve patient safety and quality.

Research continued

The study will develop, trial and evaluate a new policy and model of complaint management for ACT Health (Canberra). Following investigation in her first year of study Deborah proposes that the model include a process for integrated analysis of complaint and incident data, takes a clinical risk management approach to complaints, and establishes links to quality improvement processes through an appropriate clinical governance framework.

Andrey Zheluk

HIV advocacy in the former USSR

The HIV epidemic in the Russian Federation has been driven by injecting drug use since the late 1990s. During the 2000s, the Russian government maintained a strong drug prohibitionist and anti harm reduction stance. Despite international funding for HIV harm reduction programs over the course of the decade, there was almost no change in the central government commitment of resources required to scale up HIV prevention and treatment programs for injecting drug users. Whereas each successive donor program sought to engage federal, provincial and local tiers of government to support of harm reduction, policy changes have thus far been insufficient to influence the course of the injecting drug use driven epidemic across Russia.

Andrey is investigating the role of project performance data collected during the implementation of a five-year Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) project to influence HIV and drug policy locally and nationally in Russia.

He is currently conducting field research on the following themes:

1. What is the prioritisation of HIV and drug use relative to other health problems in Russia?
2. What is the influence of informal institutions on HIV and drug policy change?
3. Is the municipal tier of government the most important influence on health policy change in Russia?
4. How much has "AIDS exceptionalism" influenced expectations of HIV and drug policy reform in Russia?

Academic and Student Visitors

Xiaohui Wang - SCIPPS Visiting Fellow

Wang Xiaohui, a Visiting Fellow from China, has spent the last 9 months working on a variety of projects at the Centre with Jim Gillespie and Steve Leeder. At the same time she has attended a number of workshops on health policy held by the School of Public Health at Sydney University. In August, Wang and Steve Leeder submitted an International Program Development Fund (IPDF) grant application on the evaluation of a health promotion project in Hefei in the province of Anhui in Eastern China inland from Shanghai. This application was successful and they were awarded \$16000 in September of this year. Wang will continue developing the evaluation plan for the IPDF grant over the next 3 months and will return to China in January 2011.

Nursing Policy and Outcome Center, Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University

The Menzies Centre (USyd) hosted a visiting delegation from the Nursing Policy and Outcome Center, Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai University. The delegation met Menzies Centre and University staff and presented at the Emerging Health Policy Research Conference on current nursing workforce projects which are critical in Thailand. The delegation were most interested in research and policy education, including the University's postgraduate health policy teaching programs.

Education

One of the principal objectives of the Centre includes training researchers to such a level that they will have the capacity to participate meaningfully in national and international research programs on health policy and to undertake research training activities and programs that are consistent with these objectives. The Menzies Centre has provided a focus for expanding postgraduate programs in health policy at the University of Sydney and a new Master of Public Health program at the Australian National University.

The University of Sydney

The Master of Health Policy offered three units in second semester, again relying on staff from the Menzies Centre, the School of Public Health, with the generous participation of policy practitioners.

HPOL5003 Analysing Health Policy (J Gillespie, S Leeder, Bev Essue, Christine Giles – enrolment: 35)

This unit looks at the wide variety of forms of evidence that is taken up in health policy formation. The first workshop, led by Steve Leeder, gives an introduction to critical appraisal techniques and formal methods of evaluating the quality and appropriateness of health and medical research. There was a valuable contribution from Masoud Mirzaei, now an honorary associate of the Centre, visiting from his post at University of Yazd, Iran. The second Workshop looked at public policy/political aspects of policy analysis, and started with a thought provoking session from The Hon Craig Knowles, former NSW health minister and currently chair of the Asthma Foundation. Christine Giles, general manager of the National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre, ran a particularly valuable workshop on the theory and practice of policy evaluation.

HPOL5007 Global Health Policy (J Gillespie and Anne Marie Thow – enrolment: 30)

The two Global Health policy workshops are taught in close conjunction with the Master of International Public Health Program. We used a variety of academic and insider presenters to look at the main institutions and processes of global health policy, then focused on the politics of priority setting in the current global financial crisis. The second workshop included an extended session on issues of governance in global health institutions, led by Dr Carmen Huckel Schneider, from the Sax Institute.

HPOL5009 Health Policy Project (Steve Leeder, Cathie Hull, Bev Essue, Amanda Dominello – enrolment: 5)

This is a limited enrolment 'capstone' research unit that draws together all the earlier units of the health policy program. Its enrolment will rise slowly as students work their way through the prerequisite HPOL core units. The Hon Craig Knowles led a stimulating discussion on politics, evidence and policy that helped students focus their policy analysis task on realistic issues.

Publications and Presentations

Peer Reviewed

- Titaley CR, Hunter CL, Heywood P, Dibley MJ. Why don't some women attend antenatal and postnatal care services?: a qualitative study of community members' perspectives in Garut, Sukabumi and Ciamis districts of West Java Province, Indonesia, *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 2010, 10:61doi:10.1186/1471-2393-10-61
- Schneider J, Leeder SR, Gopinath B, Wang JJ, Mitchell P. Frequency, Course, and Impact of Correctable Visual Impairment (Uncorrected Refractive Error), *Surv Ophthalmol.* 2010 Sep 16. [Epub ahead of print]
- Thow AM, Heywood P, Leeder S, Burns L. The global context for public health nutrition taxation, *Public Health Nutr.* 2010 Aug 16:1-11. [Epub ahead of print]
- Thow AM, Jan S, Leeder S, Swinburn B. The effect of fiscal policy on diet, obesity and chronic disease: a systematic review. *Bull World Health Organ.* 2010 Aug 1;88(8):609-14. Epub 2010 Feb 22.
- Titaley DR, Hunter CL, Dibley MJ, Heywood P. Why do some women still prefer traditional birth attendants and home delivery?: a qualitative study on delivery care services in West Java Province, Indonesia, *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 2010, 10:43
- Wilson LA, Quine S, Lewis M. 2010 Hiding under the blankets: reasons why parents cover infants' strollers and prams with blankets. *Neonatal Paediatric and Child Health Nursing.*13:2. July 2010

Papers in Press

1. Essue B, Jowsey T, Jeon Y-H, Mirzaei M, Pearce-Brown C, Aspin C, Usherwood T, and the SCIPPS Team. Informal care and the self-management partnership: implications for Australian health policy and practice. *Australian Health Review*

Papers Accepted for Publication

1. Jowsey T, Gillespie J, Aspin C . Effective communication is crucial to self-management: The experiences of immigrants to Australia living with diabetes, *Chronic illness* - November 2011 edition
2. Cheung KK, Mirzaei M, Leeder S. Health policy analysis: a tool to evaluate in policy documents the alignment between policy statements and intended outcomes. *Australian Health Review*

Papers in Submission

1. Jowsey T, Yen L, Wells R. National Health and Hospital Reform Commission Final Report and patient-centred suggestions for reform. *MJA* (submitted Dec 2009)
2. Mirzaei M, Aspin C, Essue B, Dugdale P, Jeon Y-H, Dugdale P, Usherwood T, Leeder S. A patient-centred approach to health service delivery: Improving health outcomes for people with chronic illness. *Australian Journal of Primary Health* (submitted Oct 2010)
3. Essue B, Kelly PJ, Leeder SR, Jan S. We can't afford my chronic illness! The household economic impact of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and comorbidity in Western Sydney, Australia. *MJA*

Publications and Presentations continued

Industry

- Leeder S, Beaton A. Making healthcare count until death do us part, *Australian Doctor*, 22 October 2010.
- Leeder S. Harnessing the goodwill of all to achieve better global health, *Australian Medicine*, October 2010.
- Russell L. Slow progress towards closing the gap, *Australian Medicine*, September 2010.
- Leeder S. PHAA Life Member Profile, *intouch*, August 2010
- Leeder S. When things go wrong, *Australian Medicine*, August 2010.
- Leeder S. While we're hanging, let's focus on health reform, *Australian Doctor*, August 2010.
- Leeder S. Chronic diseases...coming to a place near you, *Radius*, July 2010.
- Leeder S. Primary care: honoured in theory but hard to practise, *Australian Doctor*, 29 July 2010.

Media - Print

- Russell L. Judgment of an American president, *Canberra Times*, 23 October 2010
- Russell L. Money talks in the millionaire dash for US votes, *Canberra Times*, 18 October 2010.
- Russell L. It's deja vu for both parties, *Canberra Times*, 28 September 2010.
- Russell L. US in sorry state when it comes to abject poverty, *Canberra Times*, 22 September 2010.
- Leeder S. Roxon must recalibrate priorities, *The Australian*, 18 September 2010.
- Leeder S. Dog's breakfast on health, *The Age*, 19 August 2010.
- Russell L. Coalition's stance on IT has serious consequences, *The Canberra Times*, 16 August 2010.
- Leeder S. Co-payments keep patients at bay: healthcare reform, *The Australian*, 7 August 2010.
- Russell L. Health reform must include out-of-pocket expenses, *Canberra Times*, 28 July 2010.

Media - Interviews & Quotes 2010

- Can we afford to cure the incurable?, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 23 October 2010, 1542 words, (English). **Professor Stephen Leeder** contributes to this article.
- Feldhoff, S. Circumcision discussion, *ABC 891 Adelaide*, 20 September 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this story.
- Dayton L. Ageing population won't burden system: healthcare system, *The Australian*, 11 September 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.
- Brettingham-Moore C. US experience bodes well for super clinics: academic, *Medical Observer*, 24 August 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** is quoted in this article.

Publications and Presentations continued

- Cresswell, A. Deadlock bad news for Labor reform plans in health, *The Australian*, 23 August 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.
- Cresswell, A, Berkovic N. Tony Abbott nurses health vision, *The Australian*, 6 August 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.
- Burns L. Drive, *ABC 774 Melbourne*, 5 August 2010. Interview with **Professor Stephen Leeder** to discuss the Federal Government and Opposition's contrasting health policies
- Cresswell A, Berkovic N. Nurses, reformers spare no mercy on an 'unfortunate rethink', *The Australian*, 6 August 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.
- Eccles K. Money well spent? Mental Health Uncovered, *Medical Observer*, 23 July 2010. **Dr Lesley Russell** is quoted in this article.

Online

- Russell L. How researchers and journals fail to disclose conflicts of interest, *Croakey*, 22 September 2010.
- Russell L. Campaign mode, *Inside Story*, 15 September 2010.
- Sweet M. On poetry and health, *Croakey*, 10 September 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.
- Russell L. Some clever ideas we should steal from the US, *Croakey*, 19 August 2010.
- You may as well kiss goodbye to real health reform, whoever wins, *Croakey*, 17 August 2010. **Professor Stephen Leeder** contributes to this article.
- Russell L. Gillard's plans for compulsory child health checks slammed, *Crikey*, 12 August 2010.
- Russell L. Medical device companies fight back against damning results for spinal procedure, *Croakey*, 7 August 2010.
- Russell L. Is the obesity focus costing tobacco control?, *Croakey*, 30 July 2010.
- Russell L. How the US is cracking down on industry relationships, *Pharma-in-Focus*, 26 July 2010.
- Russell L. What the US is doing about conflicts of interest in health and medicine, *Croakey*, 21 July 2010.

Reports

- Issue B, Gillespie J, Leeder S. Caring for older Australians: Productivity Commission Submission, *Menzies Centre for Health Policy*, August 2010.
- Russell L. Closing the Gap on Indigenous Disadvantage: Progress towards this important goal, *Menzies Centre for Health Policy*, July 2010.

Publications and Presentations continued

Conference Presentations

- Leeder S. Debator (Affirmative), Translating research into practice: Epidemiologists should leave it to the policy makers, *AEA Annual Conference 2010*, 1st October 2010, Sydney.
- Leeder S. Connecting Care Communities: sustainable health information models; change management and health workforce, *CHIK Services Health-e-Nation 2010*, 9 September 2010, Sydney.
- Leeder S. What is a life worth? *Centre for Continuing Education*, 28 August 2010, Sydney.
- Leeder S. Panellist - Primary care and prevention, *Financial Review National Health Conference 2010*, 17 August 2010, Sydney.
- Russell L. What the Australian Government can learn from health reform in the US, *Financial Review National Health Conference 2010*, 17 August 2010, Sydney.
- Leeder S. Hospital Networks and sustainable service delivery, *Hospital Reform Summit 2010*, 16 August 2010, Melbourne.
- Beaton A. Death: No co-payment required, *Emerging Health Policy Research Conference*, 11 August 2010, Sydney.
- Leeder S. Preparing poster presentations, *Sydney School of Public Health*, 9 August 2010, Sydney.
- Leeder S. The Future of Research in Western Sydney, *Westmead Week*, 6 August 2010, Sydney.
- Leeder S. How Policy Works, *SEISMIC Policy Forum*, 4 August 2010, Sydney.

Events

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy delivers regular seminars that address contemporary health policy issues. The Menzies Oration and Emerging Health Policy Researchers Conference are regular features of the events program and attract widespread interest. The 2nd S T Lee Lecture was also held in Sydney.

Past Events

Global Response To Chronic Disease: From Apathy To Action

Thursday, 7 October 2010, University of Sydney

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy held the 2nd S.T. Lee Lecture on Thursday, 7 October.

The University of Sydney, by way of a gift, established the S.T. Lee Lecture Fund in 2008 to invite a distinguished scholar and/or practitioner on the subject of contemporary health policy to deliver an annual lecture. The S.T. Lee Lecture is named for Seng Tee Lee, a business executive and noted philanthropist. Dr Lee is director of the Lee group of companies in Singapore and of the Lee Foundation.

Guest Speaker: **Prof. K. Srinath Reddy**, President, Public Health Foundation of India

Emerging Health Policy Research Conference

Wednesday, 11 August 2010, University of Sydney

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy held its 5th annual Emerging Health Policy Research Conference. The conference showcased the work in progress of current doctoral and early career research workers.

Opening Keynote Speaker: **Professor John Shine FAA AO**, Executive Director, Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Conference Sessions:

- Translating Knowledge into Policy and Practice
- Clinical Safety
- Women's Health
- Improving Care Delivery
- Inequalities
- Regulate or Reform?
- Identifying Influential Actors in Policy Making
- Health Economics (Evaluations)
- Workforce Management

Panel: Health Policy in Action: taking advantage of international opportunities.

- Joel Negin, Lecturer, Sydney School of Public Health
- Anne Marie Thow, Associate Lecturer, Menzies Centre for Health Policy
- Dr Carmen Huckel-Schneider, Senior Analyst, Knowledge Transfer Program, Sax Institute

Evening Panel and Workshop: Research today improving health care tomorrow. Translating research and shaping policy for an agile self-improving health system (sponsored by Industry & Investment NSW).

Panel Chair: **Professor Mary O'Kane**, NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer

Events continued

Upcoming Events

Large System Transformation: What Is It and Can It Be Done?

Tuesday, 2 November 2010, University of Sydney

This presentation will report the preliminary results from a Canadian study that both reviewed the literature and obtained expert international opinion on the lessons learned to date about large system transformation. It will discuss both political and technical issues and propose a number of core elements that appear to be essential to change.

Guest Speaker: Professor Steven Lewis**

Panel Discussion:

- **Dr Paul Gross**, Health Group Strategies Pty Ltd, Australia and Greater China
- **Dr Richard Matthews AM**, Deputy Director-General, Strategic Development, NSW Health
- **Professor Cliff Hughes AO**, Chief Executive Officer, Clinical Excellence Commission
- **Professor Steven Lewis**

Discussion Moderator: **Professor Stephen Leeder**, Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy.

MCHP Oration 2010

Value for Money in Health Care: Why It's So Hard to Achieve and What to Do About it

Wednesday, 10 November 2010, Australian National University

This presentation will explore the reasons why diminishing marginal returns are the norm in health care. It will examine how scientific evidence, price, volumes, and incentives affect costs and marginal returns, and highlight areas that are particularly prone to high costs and low returns. Drawing on lessons from population health, health services research, and quality improvement, it will conclude with potential strategies to improve value for money in health care, recognizing the political and interest-based realities of contemporary systems and the need to build professional and public support for change.

Guest Speaker: Professor Steven Lewis**

*** Steven Lewis is a health policy and research consultant based in Saskatoon, and Adjunct Professor of Health Policy at the University of Calgary and Simon Fraser University. Prior to resuming a full-time consulting practice he headed a health research granting agency and spent 7 years as CEO of the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission in Saskatchewan. He has served on various boards and committees, including the Governing Council of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Saskatchewan Health Quality Council, the Health Council of Canada, and the editorial boards of several journals, including Open Medicine. He writes frequently on topics such as reforming and strengthening medicare, improving health care quality, primary health care, regionalization, and health policy and politics.*

Staff List

Directors

- Professor Stephen Leeder, The University of Sydney
- Mr Robert Wells, The Australian National University

University of Sydney

- Deputy Director: Dr James Gillespie
- Manager: Amanda Dominello
- Administrative and Research Officer: Yvonne Inall
- Events and Communication Officer: Diana Freeman
- Research Fellow (Health Policy) and Ian Potter Fellow: Dr Angela Beaton
- Research Fellow: Joel Negin

Research Students:

- PhD Student: Anne Marie Thow
- PhD Student: Surianti Sukeri
- PhD Student: Jennifer Hunter
- PhD Student: Adam Capon
- PhD Student: Angela Littleford
- PhD Student: John Hall
- PhD Student: Andrey Zheluk
- PhD Student: Ashley McAllister
- PhD Student: Shauna Downs
- PhD Student: Deborah Schaler

Visitor:

- SCIPPS Visiting Fellow: Xiaohui Wang

Health and Sustainability Unit:

- Director: Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri
- Acting Executive Assistant and Program Manager: Faith Papuni
- Senior Research Fellow: Jeanie McKenzie
- Senior Research and Evidence Manager: Dr Seham Girgis
- Research and Project Officer: Maria Gomez

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study:

- Research Fellow, SCIPPS: Justin McNab
- Research Officer, SCIPPS: Natalie Plant
- Program Support Officer, SCIPPS: Kate Corcoran

Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study:

- Postdoctoral Researcher: Julie Schneider

Australian National University

- Associate Director: Ms Laurann Yen
- Business Manager: Ms Marion Eluga

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study

- Senior Research Officer: Ms Tanisha Jowsey

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Directors' Report

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy is a collaborative Centre between The Australian National University and the University of Sydney. It aims to provide the Australian people with a better understanding of their health system and what it provides for them. The Centre encourages informed debate about how Australians can influence health policy to ensure that it is consistent with their values and priorities and is able to deliver safe, high quality health care that is sustainable in the long term.

The Menzies Centre:

- produces and publishes high-quality analyses of current health policy issues;
- delivers public seminars and education programs on a wide variety of health policy topics;
- undertakes comprehensive research projects on health policy issues.

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