

Menzies Centre^{for} Health Policy



The University of Sydney

DIRECTORS' REPORT

March – June 2009

What's New	1
Research	2
Grant Applications	2
Current projects	2
Menzies Centre for Health Policy Nous Group Survey	2
The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study	2
What is influential public health research?	3
Health Economics Capacity Building Grant	3
Ford Foundation projects in Indonesia	3
Health policy development in the Pacific	3
Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study	4
Initiative for Cardiovascular Health Research in the Developing Countries	4
Miscellaneous	4
Visitors	4
Research Students	5
Research - Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS)	6
SCIPPS Management	6
Grant Applications	6
Papers	6
Work in progress	7
Research - The Diabetes Unit	8
Projects	8
Grant Applications	8
University of Sydney Institute for Sustainable Solutions (USISS)	9
USISS Events	9
Oxford Health Alliance (OxHA)	9
Students	10
Health Policy Analyses and Commentary	11
Education	12
Publications and Presentations	13
Peer Reviewed	13
Reports and Discussion Papers	15
Industry Publications	16
Media/ Public Engagement	16
Menzies in the News	17
Presentations/Conferences	18
Events	20
Appendix 1 – List of Menzies Centre for Health Policy Staff	22

What's New

- The Menzies Foundation Administrative Review was conducted in March. The panel noted that the Menzies Centre for Health Policy is 'now fully functioning, with excellent progress in the important areas of Governance, Centre Policy, Priorities and Global Budgeting. With recent new arrangements, the potential complexities of managing two independent but integrated nodes have largely been overcome'. The panel made recommendations about financial reporting, the role and composition of the Centre Board and an application to the Ian Potter Foundation for financial support.
- Associate Professor David Dunt will conduct the formal review of the Menzies Centre commencing in June. David is an outstanding health policy research worker with an international reputation. He is a public health specialist and epidemiologist with major interests in health program evaluation and health services research. David is head of the Centre for Health Policy, Programs and Economics that sits within the School of Population Health at The University of Melbourne. The review will: assess the performance of the Menzies Centre against its broad objectives; assess the effectiveness of the governance and operational arrangements for the Menzies Centre; and provide recommendations for future strategies and approaches.
- Dr Lesley Russell, Menzies Foundation Fellow, will relocate to Washington DC early July. Whilst continuing her Fellowship through to August 2010, Dr Russell has also accepted a placement in the Health Team at the Center for American Progress (see <http://www.americanprogress.org/>) and a Visiting Professorship in the Department of Health Policy at George Washington University (see <http://www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/healthpolicy/index.cfm>). She will take up these positions at the beginning of July and expects to be back in Sydney late September-early October for two weeks.
- Interviews have been conducted for two positions: a Research Officer to support Stephen Leeder and Lesley Russell, and a Research Officer for SCIPPS, to replace Beverley Essue. Very strong applications were received for both positions
- Following the planning meeting in February, three working groups have been established to consider threats and opportunities for the Menzies Centre's future sustainability and success: Strategic Planning (Chair: Stephen Leeder); Funding (Chair: Robert Wells); and Communications (Chair: James Gillespie).
- Stephen Leeder will be on leave from the end of June for a month. Before commencing his leave, he will attend an APRU World Institute meeting in Baltimore to present a proposal for a multi-centre collaborative program to reduce morbidity from CVD. Dr Jim Gillespie will be Acting Director during Stephen's absence

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 students visitors pursuing projects that align with the research strengths and interests of Menzies Centre staff.

Grant Applications

- Jennifer Hunter has submitted a NICM seed funding grant application, under the supervision of Stephen Leeder.
- Stephen Leeder is listed as a CI on an NHMRC project grant application that will support a health complaint management system in Vietnam.
- Stephen Leeder is listed as an AI on an NHMRC project grant application that will investigate CPAP (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) and snoring.
- Lesley Russell has applied to Medicines Australia for a \$5,000 grant to look at how GPs respond when they become aware that patients are not compliant with their medication regimes because of cost. Lesley has been informed verbally that this application is very likely to be successful.
- Robert and Stephen will meet with the CEO of the Ian Potter Foundation in mid June to outline a proposal to build on current work on chronic disease policy.
- The NHMRC are expected to seek applications for Centres of Excellence in Public Health and Centres of Excellence in Health Services Research mid year. The Menzies Centre will make an application that will focus on chronic disease policy.

Current projects

Menzies Centre for Health Policy Nous Group Survey

- The second health survey will be conducted in late 2009. James Gillespie is negotiating an agreement with the Nous Group about the conduct and funding of this survey.

The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study

- The Childhood Asthma Prevention Study (CAPS) is the first and only 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. Children in the CAPS cohort at 8 years are currently being followed up to examine the longer-term effectiveness of the interventions using skin prick tests, airway hyperresponsiveness (AHR) spirometry and genetic studies. An NHMRC project grant has also been awarded to the research group to investigate sex-related changes in asthma during the transition through puberty in the CAPS birth cohort. The cohort has yielded important insights into early childhood dietary behaviour and collateral studies conducted by Professor David Celermajer using ultrasound has shown vessel changes early in life attributable to diet. A recent meeting discussed six new papers that are in production.

What is influential public health research?

- Stephen Leeder and James Gillespie are Chief Investigators on an NHMRC Project grant that will look 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.

Health Economics Capacity Building Grant

- Stephen Leeder is a Chief Investigator on an NHMRC Capacity Building grant that will provide training and development for a team of health economists to research chronic diseases. The program, 'Using health economics to strengthen ties between evidence, policy and practice in chronic disease' 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?

Ford Foundation projects in Indonesia

Peter Heywood has received funding from the Ford Foundation to conduct a number of projects that examine the health system in Indonesia.

- **A study of the district health system in a sample of districts in Java**

This project seeks to analyse the nature and current functioning of the health system at the district level in Java and to make recommendations on how the performance of the system may be improved.

The Ford Foundation annual report has been submitted for the Ford Foundation Grant No. 1070-0419 "Proposal to study the district health system in a sample of districts in Java.

- **A study of the characteristics of health personnel and facilities in five districts in West Java, Indonesia**

Following preliminary results of the first project, provincial and district authorities requested more information on the background characteristics of the health personnel and facilities. This additional information is being collected and analysed for one province only, West Java.

- **Design and preparation of a pilot project to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality through demand side interventions in West Java Province, Indonesia**

This project seeks to design a demand-side voucher system to encourage expectant mothers to deliver in health facilities. The project seeks to identify access barriers and develop social marketing tools which can be implemented in a later pilot project.

Health policy development in the Pacific

- Joel Negin is conducting a consultancy project for the Australian International Health Institute, "Pacific Focus": Understanding Health Policy Development and Capacity in the Pacific.
- Joel has been supported by Anne Marie Thow and a casual research assistant (a current MIPH student). The project is due to finish in mid June. Interviews are being arranged and information is being collected on funding sources for NCDs in the region.

Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study

- Julie Schneider and Bamini Gopinath, postdoctoral researchers employed to support the study, are preparing papers for publication on vision and hearing impairment policy. Several papers have been accepted for publication and have been presented at conferences. Two Partnership Grant proposals around these themes have been submitted.

Initiative for Cardiovascular Health Research in the Developing Countries

- A study conducted in China, India, Argentina, Zambia and an eastern bloc nation, estimating the costs of 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 oversighting committee. It complements his work in 2003-4 examining the macroeconomic effects of CVD

Miscellaneous

- Milton Lewis has been invited to assess two overseas research grant project proposals submitted to the Wellcome Trust, London and Hong Kong Research Grants Council.
- A proposal for a multi-centre collaborative program to reduce morbidity from cardiovascular disease has been submitted to the APRU World Institute under the leadership of Stephen Leeder and George Rubin.
- Research work that Lesley Russell has conducted with the University of Sydney Pharmacy Faculty on how pharmacists can improve medication management for chronically ill patients has been rewritten and submitted for publication in the *Journal of Pharmacy Practice* after an earlier presentation of the research was rejected for publication by the *Medical Journal of Australia*.
- With Professor Ian Hickie (BMRI) and Sebastian Rosenberg ((BMRI and MHCA), Lesley Russell has made a submission to the Department of Veterans Affairs to have access to their linked MBS and PBS data to assess the utility of primary mental health care services as applied to the veteran population.
- Lesley Russell is working with Dr Catherine Hawkins, Northern Rivers Rural Medical School, to expand a research project on pharmacists' role in managing chronic disease to Orange.

Visitors

- Steven Lewis visited the Menzies Centre for Health Policy from 2 to 27 March. He has been a health planner, health research granting agency administrator, health services researcher and research director, and independent health policy and research consultant since 1974. He was awarded a Menzies Centre for Health Policy Fellowship to work with the Centre to generate new research ideas, projects and connections with the Centre. Notable outcomes:
 - Lewis S. Nations that share a crisis of care, *The Australian*, 25 April 2009.
 - Paper submitted and now accepted with the *Medical Journal of Australia*: Why Health Reform?
 - Collaboration on the Centre's submission to the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission
- Professor Gur Ofer visited the Centre from 9 March – 17 April. He is a professor of Economics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In addition to extensive work on the Soviet Economy, he has worked and published in the areas of the welfare state and health economics in Israel and other countries. During 1995-2008 he served as the head of the Israel National Institute for Health Policy and Health Services Research. During his visit, Professor Ofer was a speaker at two MCHP seminars:

Menzies Centre ^{for} Health Policy



The University of Sydney

- Strengthening The Governance of Australia's Healthcare System: Option C - How Others Do it and How Could We Do It?, 15 April 2009
- International collaborative health research: making partnerships a reality, 24 March 2009
- The Menzies Centre for Health Policy is hosting a WHO Fellow in 2009. Xie Dongfang who has been awarded a Fellowship to work on a supervised 'Health Technology Assessment' research project under the supervision of Stephen Leeder and Masoud Mirzaei. The research project will have a special focus on applicability within the context of the Chinese health system.
- Professor Larry Gostin, an outstanding US public health law and ethics academic, from Georgetown University, will arrive in Sydney in mid June for several busy months. Larry will be hosted by the Menzies Centre for Health Policy, University of Sydney Law School and US Studies Centre.
- Professor John Wyn Owen will be visiting in August and will deliver the keynote address at the Emerging Health Policy Research Conference on 19 August.

Research Students

- Menzies Centre staff now supervise 10 PhD students (Leeder 4 students and Gillespie 3 students as principal supervisor; Gillespie 3 students as associate supervisor). One candidate, Anne Marie Thow, is in Geneva undertaking an internship lasting two months, examining how policy is made in the international context of WHO,

Research - Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study (SCIPPS)

SCIPPS Management

- *Management Meeting Teleconference 13 May 2009:*

The main focus of the meeting was to discuss the progress to date on the design and implementation of interventions.

SCIPPS ANU has lodged a request to the 45 and Up Study to carry out a project related to chronic illness and data linkage. As well, they propose to carry out an investigation into pathways to admission, with a view to carrying out a root cause analysis in order to better understand why people with a chronic illness are admitted to hospital when they present at the Emergency Department. Both these projects are in the early stages of design.

SCIPPS Sydney:

- HealthOne Mt Druitt (HOMD) has agreed to work with SCIPPS on the evaluation of the chronic and complex illness component of their work. Representatives of SCIPPS have been invited to join the monthly meetings of the HOMD Steering Committee. The first meeting was held on Monday, 18 May.
- Care Navigation – Stephen Leeder, James Gillespie and Clive Aspin met with program managers at SWAHS to begin planning the process of evaluating Care Navigation. Steve Jan will be liaising with clinicians and managers to agree on the evaluation process.
- *Strategic planning meeting, Canberra, 17 March*

The main focus of the meeting was to plan the work program of SCIPPS for the next two and a half years. Much of the day's discussion focussed on the design and implementation of interventions that SCIPPS would run. This was discussed further in the teleconference on 13 May.

- *Report to NHMRC*

The annual and financial reports were submitted to the NHMRC in March.

Grant Applications

- SCIPPS Sydney has agreed to partner with the Blue Mountains GP Network to conduct the evaluation of a training package that is being proposed as part of the Chronic Disease Self Management/Lifestyle and Risk Modification Program, to be funded by the Department of Health and Ageing. If the grant is successful, the training will take place in April 2010 with an evaluation to take place soon after.

Papers

- *Papers in draft*
 - Health learning (led by Jim)
 - The role of carers (Beverley)
 - Transport (Kate)
 - Health professionals (Laurann)
 - Comparison of health policy in New Zealand and Australia related to co-morbidity (Clive)

- Social construction of time and management of chronic illness (Paul)

Work in progress

- Translation of research findings into policy relevant interventions. The purpose of the interventions is to develop and test policy and systems interventions that would be able to add to the evidence available to policy makers in the design of chronic illness models.
- Evaluation project with The Canberra Hospital on the Chronic Illness Co-ordination program which will be linked to the operational evaluation of the project. The SCIPPS project will look at the impact of the intervention from the perspectives of the clinical staff with whom the co-ordinators have worked, and the people who are enrolled in the program. The project will also look at a linked data study to identify the pattern of whole system use for this group of people, looking back some years to see what patterns may have emerged in their use of services; and a root cause analysis of the pathway to admission for the people enrolled in the program, for which ethics approval is being prepared.
- Support for diabetes management in general practice, where SCIPPS will be involved in the evaluation of a pilot project in which specialist endocrinologist and nursing staff will work with general practices to test whether this is a potential option for testing on a wider scale. The lead clinician with the interest in this study is working on identifying interested practices.
- Development of a study using the 45 and Up data set to explore patterns of service utilisation by people with cardiac disease and/or diabetes, and the links between those patterns, particularly the use of the Medicare items relating to the management of chronic illness, and health outcomes. An initial bid for access to the data has been submitted so that the full costs of the project can be determined.
- Discussions with ACT Health have continued about the involvement of SCIPPS in the evaluation of aspects of the Chronic Disease Strategy, but no further commitments have been identified.
- A 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. This project is underway and participants are being recruited to the study.
- The first stage design for three policy studies is being worked up by Robert Wells, Jim Gillespie, Paul Dugdale and Laurann Yen.

Research - The Diabetes Unit

The Diabetes Unit is a primarily self-funded entity established at the Australian Health Policy Institute in June 2005 as a new iteration of its predecessor, the Australian Centre for Diabetes Strategies which was located at the Prince of Wales Hospital - University of New South Wales. The Diabetes Unit augments and complements the Menzies Centre's existing strengths and supports its strategic direction by:

- *Establishing and maintaining an Oxford Health Alliance presence and focus of activity for the Asia-Pacific Region;*
- *Pursuing activities in health services research and development, population health improvement, and generating or synthesising the evidential and consensual base on which policy for the prevention and care of diabetes and related chronic diseases can be founded.*

Due to the appointment, in mid 2008, of the Director, Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri, as leader of the Health Theme for the University's new Institute for Sustainable Solutions, The Diabetes Unit has been able to increase its focus on chronic disease prevention and the link between the causes and consequences of chronic diseases and aspects of climate change, and ways in which these might be addressed as an integrated 'package'.

The Diabetes Unit conceptualises its role as a conduit between thinking and doing (theory and practice). Its approach is pragmatic and cognisant of the multiplicity of needs, perspectives and forces prevailing across all levels of society, so that its work is a bridge between academia, the broader chronic disease community, and civil society.

Projects

- *Type 2 Diabetes NHMRC Guidelines*

Seham and Maria have finalised the four guidelines which have completed public consultation and the NHMRC independent review process and have now been submitted to the full council of the NHMRC Council for its consideration for final endorsement at its June 10 meeting.

- *The World Diabetes Foundation Pacific Islands Capacity Building Project*

The final report was submitted to the WDF at the end of May. A one-week attachment for the Project Coordinator and Project Officers from Vanuatu and Nauru to work with Renee Slade was held 27 May - 3 June, 2009. This was an excellent opportunity for in-country staff to develop further skills in data analysis, preparation of evaluation reports and patient education. Future project proposals was also discussed and drafted during their time here.

- *IDF Global Survey on National Diabetes Plans (NDP)*

Results have been presented to the IDF Executive Board in Brussels, and have been incorporated into a book chapter on National Diabetes for inclusion in the 2009 edition of the Diabetes Atlas which will be launched at the 20th World Diabetes Congress in Montreal in October, 2009.

Grant Applications

- The Healthy University Proposal has been resubmitted to University of Sydney Institute for Sustainable Solutions.
- A NSW Research and Workforce Development Programme on Healthy Built Environments application was submitted in April.
- Ruth Colagiuri has prepared a concept paper on health and climate change and is using this to seek program funding.
- A tender has been prepared for a new Type 2 Guidelines contract with Diabetes Australia.
- NHMRC Project Grant (ID 632646) application for 2010 for 3 years funding for *Managing diabetes in primary care: understanding communication between GPs & patients varying in education and literacy.* (Ruth Colagiuri CI)

Menzies Centre ^{for} Health Policy



The University of Sydney

- NHMRC Project Grant for application for funding 2010 (ID 585495) for 2 years funding for joint project with Dr Ian McRae, ANU *How cost effective are financial incentives to general practitioners to improve adherence to diabetes guidelines?* (Ruth Colagiuri AI):
- NHMRC Partnership Projects 2008 (ID 571437) for 2009 for 4.5 years funding for *Longer term outcomes and costs of the Sydney Diabetes Prevention Program: does ongoing lifestyle reinforcement influence diabetes risk?* (Ruth Colagiuri AI):
- Submitted a grant application to the World Diabetes Foundation for 3 years funding for a project, *Dealing with Diabetes: Building Sustainability Through Health in the Solomon Islands*.
- With Kate Corcoran, submitted funding proposal for a *Root Cause Analysis of Acute Hospital Admissions For People With Chronic Diseases* to the current round of Perpetual Trust Grant process.
- Submitted a concept paper and request for funding to the Parliamentary Secretary for the Pacific Islands, Mr Duncan Kerr, for a workshop to converse and consult with Ministries of Health from Pacific Island countries about the utility of addressing chronic disease prevention and aspects of climate change as an integrated package.

University of Sydney Institute for Sustainable Solutions (USISS)

- Thinker in Residence: Ruth has proposed Professor Stig Pramming as the 2009 TIR for the Health Theme.
- USISS Theme Leaders are developing criteria for a new VC award in sustainability for students and staff.
- As a result of the strategic planning meeting for the Faculties of Health convened by Bruce Robinson and organised by Ruth in early February, a request has been put to the University to seek (bequest) funding for 5 PhD scholarships for each of the 4 USISS Themes - hopefully to commence in 2010. Ruth is currently preparing a workplan for the Health Theme.

USISS Events

- *Summit: Climate Change and Health*: Discussions with Doctors for the Environment Australia continue re co-hosting a summit on climate change and health in Sydney, tentatively scheduled for mid-November 2009.
- *Climate Coolers*: The Campaign seeks to enlist 1 million women across Australia to each abate at least one tonne of carbon. The Institute has formed a strategic partnership with the Campaign which was launched by the Chancellor, Professor Marie Bashir, on May 19.
- *Focus on the Future* lecture by Paul Gilding: “Economic Growth Version 1.0 is Finished: The great disruption has begun”, hosted by the DVC Research and held April 29. Paul Gilding is an Australian writer and activist for action on climate change and sustainability.
- The first public USISS event for 2009 titled ‘Yes, we can – catalysing hope for a sustainable future’ was held on April 14.

Oxford Health Alliance (OxHA)

- Adoption of Sydney Resolution: Following an invited presentation by OxHA Asia-Pacific Centre on The Sydney Resolution at the Nepean Division of General Practice (NDGP) Strategic Planning day, the NDGP Board has adopted The Sydney Resolution.

Menzies Centre ^{for} Health Policy



The University of Sydney

Students

Two students will shortly commence work on OxHA projects:

- A 3rd year medical student, Derrick Wong will use the OxHA Law and Health workstream and website (3four50) to do his honours thesis on identifying and analysing existing and emerging models for applying the law to change average health behaviours. Derrick graduated and worked in Canada as a lawyer prior to entering the USyd graduate medical program.
- Dr Arnagretta Hunter (a fully fledged cardiologist with a passion for health and sustainability) will shortly commence her MPH dissertation on implementation and policy implications of aspects of the Sydney Resolution.

Health Policy Analyses and Commentary

Reports from the National Hospitals Reform Commission and Preventative Taskforce are due in 2009. A major infrastructure program will be announced for health and other reviews such as the Maternity Services Review will generate rich dialogue about health policy. The Menzies Centre will play an important contributor of evidence and commentary in these debates.

- A submission has been made to the NHHRC commenting on the 3 structural models outlined in its interim report.
- Stephen is chairing the Sydney West Area Health Service Review of Research and Education.
- Stephen has been invited to join the Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW 'Climate Change Science Research Network'.
- Stephen met with NSW Health Minister John Della Bosca to discuss the government's response to the Special Commission of Inquiry into Acute Care Services in NSW Public Hospitals (Garling report).
- Lesley has commenced work on an analysis of the 2009-10 Health Budget. The findings from this work will be presented as part of a public seminar on June 17.
- An analysis of the 2009-10 Indigenous Budget has been completed and widely distributed. It is now available on the MCHP website.
- Clive Aspin and Lesley have successfully helped the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council employ a staff person to help with policy development.
- Lesley has been invited by the NHMRC Centre for Sleep Health at the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, University of Sydney to be involved with organising a National Insomnia Strategy Meeting to discuss the prevalence and management of insomnia in Australia and to identify priorities for health policy, healthcare delivery and research related to insomnia.
- Lesley is working with the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia to develop an economic analysis of the value of investment in regional cancer centres, and to offer strategic advice on presenting this analysis to the Commonwealth Government.

Menzies Centre ^{for} Health Policy



The University of Sydney

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.

Sydney:

- 6 x 2-day workshops have been held in Semester 1 for the Master of Health Policy subjects: Introduction to Health Policy; Evidence into Policy; Economics and Finance for Health Policy.
- Baxter Healthcare have confirmed support for a \$9,720 student scholarship in 2009. This scholarship will support 50% of the Master of Health Policy course fee. Dr Craig Hore was awarded the 2009 Baxter Healthcare scholarship.
- Beverley Essue has been appointed as the Associate Lecturer – Health Policy. She commenced employment and her PhD on 2 March.
- Renee Slade delivered a lecture to the Master of International Public Health students entitled “Climate change and its impact on health” as part of the Foundations of International Health Unit.

Publications and Presentations

Peer Reviewed

- **Heywood P**, Harahap NP. Health facilities at the district level in Indonesia, *Australia and New Zealand Health Policy*, 18 May 2009, 6:13 doi:10.1186/1743-8462-6-13
- **Thow AM**. Trade liberalisation and the nutrition transition: mapping the pathways for public health nutritionists, *Public Health Nutrition*, Published online by Cambridge University Press 12 May 2009. doi:10.1017/S1368980009005680
- Mitchell P, Gopinath B, McMahon CM, Rochtchina E, Wang JJ, Boyages SC, **Leeder SR**. Relationship of Type 2 diabetes to the prevalence, incidence and progression of age-related hearing loss, *Diabetic Medicine*, Volume 26, Issue 5, Date: May 2009, Pages: 483-488
- **Bloom A**. Introduction. In: Interculturele belastbaarheidsbepaling, by Ine Vink. Houten, *Bon Stafleu van Logbum*, May, 2009.
- **Heywood P**, Harahap NP. Public funding of health at the district level in Indonesia after decentralization – sources, flows and contradictions, *Health Research Policy and Systems* 2009, 7:5.
- **Mirzaei M**, Truswell A S, Taylor R, **Leeder SR**. Coronary heart disease epidemics: not all the same, *Heart* 2009;95 9;740-746; originally published online 18 Dec 2008; doi:10.1136/hrt.2008.154856
- Wang JJ, Rochtchina E, Tan AG, Cumming RG, **Leeder SR**, Mitchell P. Use of Inhaled and Oral Corticosteroids and the Long-term Risk of Cataract, *Ophthalmology*. 2009 Apr;116(4):652-7. Epub 2009 Feb 25.
- **Colagiuri R**, **Eigenmann C**. A National Consensus on Outcomes and Indicators for Diabetes. *Diabet Med*. 2009 Apr;26(4):442-6.
- Gopinath B, **Schneider J**, Rochtchina E, **Leeder SR**, Mitchell P. Association Between Age-Related Hearing Loss and Stroke in an Older Population. *Stroke*, Apr;40(4):1496-8. Epub 2009 Feb 26.
- **Eigenmann C**, **Colagiuri R**, Skinner TC, Trevena L. Are Current Psychometric Tools suitable for Measuring Outcomes of Diabetes Education? *Diabet Med*. 2009 Apr;26(4):425-36.
- **Girgis S**, Adily A, Velasco MJ, Garden FL, Zwar NA, Jalaludin BB, Ward JE. Smoking patterns and readiness to quit—a study of the Australian Arabic community, *Aust Fam Physician*. 2009 Mar;38(3):154-61.
- Asaria P, Beaglehole R, Chisholm D, Gaziano TA, Horton R, **Leeder S**, Lim SS, Mathers C, Reddy S, Strong K, Voute J. Chronic disease prevention: the importance of calls to action. *Int J Epidemiol*. 2009 Mar 2. [Epub ahead of print]
- Gopinath B, Rochtchina E, Wang JJ, **Schneider J**, **Leeder SR**, Mitchell P. Prevalence of Age-Related Hearing Loss in Older Adults: Blue Mountains Study, *Arch Intern Med*. 2009 Feb 23;169(4):415-6.
- **Heywood P**, Harahap N. Human resources for health at the district level in Indonesia: the smoke and mirrors of decentralization. *Human Resources for Health* 2009, 7:6 doi:10.1186/1478-4491-7-6
- **Wells R**. Rural health research. *Aust. J. Rural Health* (February 2009) 17, 1

In Press

- Fong C, Wang JJ, Rochtchina E, Schneider J, Jakobsen K, Smith W, Mitchell P. Survey effect on use of eye care by older people with correctable visual impairment. *Ophthalmic Epidemiology* 2009; in press (accepted 30 Jan 2009).
- Gopinath B, Wang JJ, Schneider J, Burlutsky G, Snowdon J, McMahon C, Leeder SR, Mitchell P. Depressive symptoms among older hearing impaired adults: the Blue Mountains Study. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society JAGS*; In press (accepted 31 Jan 2009).
- Lewis M. Review of Kate Blackmore, *The Dark Pocket of Time: War, Medicine and the Australian State, 1914-1935* (2008) in *Health and History* (in press).

Submitted

- Schneider J, Leeder SR, Gopinath B, Wang JJ, Mitchell P. Frequency, course and impact of correctable visual impairment. *Survey of Ophthalmology*.
- Colagiuri R, Short R, Buckley A. *National Diabetes Programmes: History and Current Status in Diabetes Atlas*. Fourth edition, 2009.
- Vinkeles Melchers N, Gomez M, Colagiuri R. Do Socioeconomic Factors Influence Supermarket Content and Shoppers' Purchases? Submitted to *The Health Promotion Journal of Australia*, March 2009.
- Falconer DG, Buckley A, Colagiuri R. Counting the cost of diabetes in Vanuatu. Submitted to *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice*. Submitted to *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice* December 2008.
- Leeder SR, Hull C, Colagiuri R, Ward M. Confronting the new epidemics in our cities. In: Pearson C (Editor). *Urban Health: A Global Perspective*. Jossey Bass. New York.
- Yen L, Gillespie J, Jeon Y-H, Brien J, Jan S, Kljakovic M, Lehnbohm E, Pearce-Brown C, Usherwood T. Health professionals, patients and chronic illness policy: a qualitative study.
- Jeon Y-H, Jowsey T, Yen L, Glasgow NJ, Essue B, Pearce-Brown C, Kljakovic M, Mirzaei M, Usherwood T, Jan S, Kraus S, Aspin C. Achieving a balanced life in the face of chronic illness: a qualitative study of patient experience Submitted to *Qualitative Health Research*
- Jeon Y-H, Kraus S, Jowsey T, Glasgow NJ. The experience of living with chronic heart failure: a narrative review of qualitative studies, Submitted to *BMC Research*
- Jowsey T, Jeon Y, Dugdale P, Glasgow NJ, Kljakovic M, Usherwood T. Co-morbidity: Challenges for chronic illness care and policy in Australia, *ANZ Journal of Health Policy*
- Mirzaei M, Essue B, Jeon Y-H, Aspin C, Dugdale P, Usherwood T, Leeder SR. Managing chronic illness: The experiences of patients and carers with health services and the health system. *ANZ Journal of Public Health*

In preparation:

- Schneider J, Gopinath B, McMahon C, Britt H, Usherwood T, Leeder S, Mitchell P. Australian General Practitioners: Hearing what counts for older patients? For *MJA*.
- Schneider J, Leeder SR & Mitchell P. Correctable visual impairment in older Australians: health policy implications. For *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*.

- Walker K, O'Dea K, Gomez M, Girgis S, Colagiuri S. Diabetes prevention: the evidence for diet and exercise?
- Chung G, Aponte E, Mirzaei M, Gillespie J, Colagiuri R. A Comparison of care coordination models in policy actions for Type 2 diabetes in Australia.

Reports and Discussion Papers

- **Russell L.** Analysis of the Australian Government's 2009-2010 Indigenous Budget, 25 May 2009.
- **Colagiuri R, Girgis S, Gomez M,** Walker K, Colagiuri S, O'Dea K. Evidence Based Guideline for the Primary Prevention of Type 2 Diabetes. *Diabetes Australia and the NHMRC*, August 2008. Final draft submitted May 2009.
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- Submission to the National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission Interim Report: A Healthier Future for all Australians - Interim Report December 2008
- **Russell L.** What's new in mental health: A brief summary of recent reports, publications and issues around mental health programs. Prepared for National Advisory Council on Mental Health, March 2009.
- Hynd A, **Russell L.** Recession and depression. Analysis of impact of increases in PBS co-payments on prescriptions for antidepressant medications. February 2009.
- **Russell L.** An updated analysis of the Medicare Better Access mental health program. February 2009.
- **Russell L.** Obesity – the biggest issue in US Health, February 2009.
- A major discussion paper “Poverty, Climate Change and Health in the Pacific” authored by Lesley Russell has been completed and circulated. This paper was done as part of my joint work with the US Studies Centre. It has been well received by the Australian Minister for Climate Change and Water, the Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs, and the Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, senior staff in the NZ State Department and the US Ambassador to Fiji. It will serve as a discussion paper for a US conference on the impact of the environment on public health scheduled for June and organized by Resolve (see <http://www.resolve.org/>)

Industry Publications

- Leeder S, Russell L. This is the budget, not health policy, *Australian Medicine*, 1 June 2009.
- Leeder S. Something to celebrate, *Australian Doctor*, 22 May 2009.
- Leeder S. After the fires, *Australian Medicine*, 20 April 2009.
- Ruth Colagiuri, Si Thu Win Tin, Diabetes in Nauru: the price of economic wealth and westernization, *Diabetes Voice*, Volume 54; Issue 1: March 2009
- Leeder S. Wish list for a caring system, *Australian Doctor*, 17 March 2009.
- Leeder SR. Promising report leaves general practice dangling. *Australian Doctor*, 24 February 2009.

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- Russell L. Is the Federal Dept behind the times on mental health?, *Croakey*, 18 May 2009.
- Russell L. How the bean counters beat the policy wonks, *Croakey*, 18 May 2009
- Russell L. Missed chance to fund change, *The Canberra Times*, 15 May 2009.
- Gillespie J. Health care on critical list, *The Canberra Times*, 14 May 2009.
- Russell L. Swine flu points out flaws in pandemic policy, *Crikey*, 14 May 2009.
- Leeder S. Remember the big picture: Prof Stephen Leeder on the budget, *Croakey*, 12 May 2009.
- Leeder S. What I recently told Minister Roxon's office, *Croakey*, 12 May 2009.
- Wells R, Yen L. Prevention and primary care gain some positives, *The Canberra Times*, 11 May 2009.
- Russell L and Leeder S. Comments in "The Federal budget and health: a Croakey survey", *Croakey*, 6 May 2009.
- Russell L. No easy remedy to cure infection, *The Canberra Times*, 1 May 2009.
- Leeder S. Flu fears divert us from the main game, *Crikey*, 30 April 2000.
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- Russell L. Cardiac gap in NT is disgrace, *The Canberra Times*, 27 March 2009
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- Boxall AM, Russell L. Refocusing Maternity Care. *Australian Policy Online*, 25 February 2009.
- Russell L. Health-care report not quite what the doctor ordered. *The Canberra Times*, 18 February 2009.
- Leeder S. Health's chance in a sick economy, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 February 2009.

Menzies in the News

- East M. Indigenous item uptake 'abysmally low', *Australian Doctor*, 5 June 2009. **Dr Lesley Russell** is quoted in this article.
- Cresswell A. Aboriginal Medicare ignored, *The Australian*, 26 May 2009. **Dr Lesley Russell** is quoted in this article. This story was also picked up by *SBS Radio News*.
- Cronin D. Popularity test: PM's numbers take a dive, *Canberra Times*, 19 May 2009. **Mr Robert Wells** is quoted in this article.
- Budget and health care, with Paul Barclay, Australia Talks, *ABC Radio National*, 14 May 2009. **Dr Jim Gillespie** joins the discussion. The government's budget is targeting private health insurance. They plan to means test the 30 per cent rebate and increase the Medicare levy surcharge. Listen to the broadcast at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/australiatalks/stories/2009/2568867.htm>
- McIntosh E. The Global Financial Crisis Are you insulated?, *Medical Observer*, 8 May 2009. **Mr Robert Wells** and **Dr Jim Gillespie** are quoted in this article.
- Podger A. Slice and dice differently for a fitter health system, *Australian Financial Review*, 6 May 2009. The Menzies Centre for Health Policy is mentioned in this article.
- Swine flu prevention fight intensifies, *Lateline*. with Karen Barlow, 30 April 2009. **Professor Stephen Leeder** joins the discussion: The World Health Organisation is one step short of declaring a pandemic as the fight against swine flu intensifies. Read the transcript at <http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2008/s2557582.htm>
- Kennedy C. Medibank pitches 'care package' plan, *Australian Doctor*, 24 April 2009. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.
- McKeith, S. Gritting your teeth will cost, *Australian Financial Review*, 3 April 2009. **Dr Jim Gillespie** is quoted in this article.
- Guest D, Ryan S. Fears obstetrics rebate could be cut back, *The Australian*, 2 April 2009. **Dr Lesley Russell** is quoted in this article.
- Colver S. Pay-for-performance 'fad' won't work, *Australian Doctor*, 26 March 2009. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this article.

- Public hospitals, RearVision, *ABC Radio National*, 25 March 2009. **Dr Jim Gillespie** joins the discussion on the history of public hospitals in Australia - where did our public hospital system come from and why is it in crisis?.
- McKenzie S. Health Reform: the options, *Medical Observer*, 13 March 2009. **Dr Russell** is quoted in this article.
- Private health insurance and the financial crisis, LifeMatters, *ABC Radio National*, 12 March 2009. **Dr Jim Gillespie** speculates on the future of private health insurance in Australia.
- McKenzie S. Government must walk the talk on reform, *Medical Observer*, 27 February 2009. **Dr Russell** is quoted in this article.
- Cash woes hit home, *Herald-Sun*, 20 February 2009. **Dr Jim Gillespie** is quoted in this article.
- Twenty per cent financially "stressed": study, *Australian Associated Press General News*, 19 February 2009. **Dr Jim Gillespie** is quoted in this article.
- Quotable, *Trans Tasman Political Letter*, 19 February 2009. **Professor Stephen Leeder** is quoted in this letter.

Presentations/Conferences

- Leeder S. Advance Australia *where?* Realising Prevention, *Centre for Continuing Education*, 23 May 2009.
- Leeder S. Advance Australia *where?* Thinking about health, *Centre for Continuing Education*, 23 May 2009.
- Professor Leeder chaired a session at Physicians Week on 20 May entitled: "Discussion of The public health consequences of the global financial crisis" session. Ross Gittins and Stephen Jan were the speakers.
- Colagiuri R. Chronic Diseases and Climate Change: Different Drums - Same Orchestra, School of Public Health and Community Medicine Seminar, *UNSW*, 20 May 2009.
- Colagiuri R, Colagiuri S. International Developments and Community-based Prevention Pilots, Physicians Week, 19 May 2009.
- Leeder S. Deconstruct or Reconstruct? Redefining the Foundations of our Health System?, *ACHSE 2009 State Conference*, 30 April 2009.
- Leeder S. Successful Interventions for Heart Health, *Gulf Cooperation Council Conference on Economics of Cardiovascular Disease*, 19-21 April 2009, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Leeder S. Efficient Allocation of Resources for Heart Health, *Gulf Cooperation Council Conference on Economics of Cardiovascular Disease*, 19-21 April 2009, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Leeder S. The Economical Argument for Primary Prevention, *Gulf Cooperation Council Conference on Economics of Cardiovascular Disease*, 19-21 April 2009, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain.
- Aspin C, Chronic Disease Management from the Perspective of People Living with Chronic Illness: Insights from SCIPPS, *Chronic Disease Management Conference*, 6-7 April, 2009
- Gomez M, Socio-economic status (SES) mediated differences in the healthfulness of the content of supermarket shelves, *Obesity Forum – University of Sydney*, 7 April 2009.

Menzies Centre ^{for} Health Policy



The University of Sydney

- Colagiuri R. *Healthy people, places and the planet – what can division do to contribute?*, NSW Divisions of General Practice forum, 2 April 2009.
- Colagiuri R. Building National Diabetes Programs Around Guidelines, *Strategies for practical and legal implementation of the IDF Guidelines in Europe*, Ancona, Italy, 12-13 March
- Leeder S. Health care in Australia, *HPOL500 workshop*, 13 March 2009.
- Leeder S. Funding models and arrangements: New Zealand and Australia, *The Pathology Workforce Crisis*, Sydney, 12 March 2009.
- Leeder S, Roberts M. An integrated service of care for people with chronic illness, *Improving Patient Flow for Enhanced Patient Outcomes*, Waters Edge, Sydney, 10 March 2009.
- Leeder S. How can we contribute to cost-effective health care?, *Health Financing Course, Institute of Actuaries of Australia*, Canberra, 1 March 2009
- Colagiuri R, Applying the Sydney Resolution Locally – *Nepean Division of General Practice (NDGP) Strategic Planning Day*, 7 February 2009.

Events

In 2009 the Menzies Centre for Health Policy will deliver regular seminars that address contemporary health policy issues. The Menzies Centre will partner with Minter Ellison to continue the Health Conundrums series and host the inaugural S.T. Lee Lecture. The Menzies Oration and Emerging Health Policy Researchers Conference are regular features of the events program and attract widespread interest. Recent events include:

Recent Events

- **We have the maps but can we follow the tracks? Our journey to being the healthiest country by 2020, 28 April 2009**

Speakers:

- Mike Daube, Professor of Health Policy and Director, Public Health Advocacy Institute of WA at Curtin University of Technology; Deputy Chair of the Preventative Health Taskforce, and President of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA)
- Fran Baum, Professor of Public Health and Director, Southgate Institute for Health, Society and Equity & South Australian Community Health Research Unit at Flinders University; commissioner on the WHO's Commission on Social Determinants of Health
- John Catford, Dean of the Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences, and Professor of Health Development at Deakin University
- Dr Tony Hobbs, Chair, National Primary Health Care Strategy External Reference Group
- Honourable Dr Geoff Gallop, Commissioner, National Health and Hospitals Reform Commission

This seminar was hosted by the Oxford Health Alliance Asia-Pacific Centre and the Menzies Centre for Health Policy.

- **Strengthening The Governance of Australia's Healthcare System: Option C - How Others Do it and How Could We Do It?, 15 April 2009**

The Menzies Centre for Health Policy and the Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health at the ANU conducted a public forum on Wednesday 15 April to consider Option C in more detail. For example what has been the experience of other countries?

Speakers:

- Professor Gur Ofer, Head, the Israel National Institute for Health Policy and Health Services Research.
- Professor Just Stoelwinder, Just Stoelwinder is Chair of Health Services Management, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University and Director of Medibank Private Limited.
- Mr George Savvides, Chief Executive Officer, Medibank Private Limited.
- Mr Shaun Gath, Chief Executive Officer of the Private Health Insurance Administration Council.
- Professor Henry Ergas, Chairman of Concept Economics. Prof Ergas is also an external Professor in the Faculty of Economics at Monash University, Melbourne and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Economics at the National University of Singapore.

Menzies Centre ^{for} Health Policy



The University of Sydney

- Mr Robert Wells, Co-Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy & Director of the Australian Primary Healthcare Research Institute, The Australian National University.
 - Dr Francesco Paolucci, Research Fellow, Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health College of Medicine and Health Sciences, The Australian National University.
 - Dr Jim Gillespie, Deputy Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy, University of Sydney.
- **e-health from here to eternity: turning talk into a reality, 1 April 2009**

This seminar was part of the Health Conundrums series organised with and sponsored by Minter Ellison. **Dr Lesley Russell** introduced the seminar.

Speakers:

- *Adam Powick*, Deloitte - overview of the national e-health strategy, what is behind it and what is needed to make it a reality.
 - *Dr Chris Pearce*, GP - the reality of e-health exploring the pluses and minuses. Looking at the conflict between patient-owned health care records and GP records.
 - *George Margelis*, Intel - provide a vendor perspective. What will encourage the IT industry to invest in e-health? Exploring cases from overseas.
- **International collaborative health research: making partnerships a reality, 24 March 2009**

Panel Members:

- Professor Gur Ofer, Harvey M. and Lyn P. Meyerhoff Professor of Soviet Economics, Departments of Economics and of Russian Studies, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel
- Michael Dibley, Associate Professor in International Public Health, School of Public Health/The George Institute for International Health, University of Sydney
- A/Professor Ruth Colagiuri, Director, Diabetes Unit, Menzies Centre for Health Policy
- Dr Clive Aspin, Chief Investigator, Mauri Tu Mauri Ora, International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership, and Research Director, SCIPPS, Menzies Centre for Health Policy

The seminar was Chaired by Professor Stephen MacMahon, Principal Director, The George Institute for International Health.

Appendix 1 – List of Menzies Centre for Health Policy Staff

Directors

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

Menzies Foundation Fellow: Dr Lesley Russell

University of Sydney

- Deputy Director: Dr Jim Gillespie
- Manager: Amanda Dominello
- Administrative and Research Officer: Yvonne Inall
- Events and Communication Officer: Diana Freeman
- Research Officer: Vacant
- Research Fellow: Mr Joel Negin

Research Students:

- PhD Student: Anne Marie Thow
- PhD Student: Abdolvahab Baghbanian
- PhD Student: Surianti Sukeri

Visitors:

- WHO Fellowship: Xie Dongfang

The Diabetes Unit:

- Director: Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri
- Executive Assistant: Jesu Schlogl
- Research and Project Officer: Maria Gomez
- Senior Research Officer: Dr Seham Girgis
- Project and Research Officer: Renee Slade

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study:

- Research Director, SCIPPS: Dr Clive Aspin
- Research Fellow, SCIPPS: Dr Masoud Mirzaei
- Research Officer, SCIPPS: Natalie Plant
- Program Support Officer, SCIPPS: Kate Corcoran

Blue Mountains Eye and Hearing Study:

- Postdoctoral Researcher: Julie Schneider

Australian National University

- Deputy Director: Professor Judith Whitworth
- Business Manager: Laura Vitler

Serious and Continuing Illness Policy and Practice Study

- Ms Tanisha Jowsey, Research Officer
- Ms Laurann Yen, Visiting Fellow