

NATIONAL CENTRE IN HIV EPIDEMIOLOGY AND CLINICAL RESEARCH

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) was established in 1986 by the Australian Government to fulfil a number of key roles in Australia's fight against HIV/AIDS.

Located on the campus of St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, the Centre is directly affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales, and receives its core funding through the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.



Program Management Committee

Back row: Matthew Law, Basil Donovan, Sean Emery, Lisa Maher, David Cooper, John Kaldor

Front row: Anthony Kelleher, Annie Tung, Bronwen Turner, Greg Dore

Front: Andrew Grulich

NCHECR's primary functions relate to the coordination of national surveillance programs, clinical research and clinical trials. While its original focus was exclusively on HIV/AIDS, NCHECR's work has expanded to encompass hepatitis B and C, and sexually transmissible infections. NCHECR also conducts research into the transmission, prevention and natural history of these infections. NCHECR's research program has increasingly taken on a regional focus, with major collaborative programs in Thailand and Cambodia. Other functions of NCHECR include the training of health professionals, and input into the development and implementation of health policy and programs.

NCHECR carries out its functions by working with an extensive range of collaborators, including State and Territory Health Departments, public and private clinical units, national and international organisations, and the corporate sector including the pharmaceutical industry. It also works closely with the other national HIV research centres.

Dissemination of NCHECR's research output is undertaken through publication in scientific journals and a range of surveillance reports.

The Director is supported in the overall management of the Centre by the Executive Committee. As well as the Director, Executive Committee members are the Deputy Director, the Manager of Finance and Administration and the Head of the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program.

The Centre conducts its research through seven scientific Programs:

- Surveillance
- Therapeutic and Vaccine Research
- HIV Epidemiology and Prevention
- Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research
- Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention
- Biostatistics and Databases
- Immunovirology and Pathogenesis

The Program Heads, along with the Director, the Deputy Director, the Manager of Finance and Administration and the Business Manager, form the Program Management Committee, which is responsible for the conduct of the Centre's workplan. Externally, the Centre's work is overseen by a Scientific Advisory Committee.



The Annual Surveillance Report marked its tenth year of publication in 2006 with an expanded edition that provided comprehensive information from a range of sources on the occurrence of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia. A prominent feature of the report was the increase over the past half decade in the number of HIV diagnoses in Australia, with a notable divergence among the States in time trends. Recognition of the emerging importance of genital chlamydia led to the initiation of a new national surveillance system, which will be jointly led by NCHECR and other partners.

The year saw NCHECR again make major contributions to a number of national and international clinical trials of HIV therapy. Undoubtedly the most significant was the SMART study, the largest HIV trial ever completed, which terminated prematurely due to increased mortality in the interruption arm. The results have already had substantial implications for HIV treatment strategies, and continue to generate debate. Initiated in 2006 was STEAL, a comparison of two different types of combination therapy and the first trial to be entirely coordinated and sponsored by NCHECR. During 2006 NCHECR also opened recruitment in Sydney for international trials of the preventive and therapeutic use of an HIV vaccine based on an adenovirus vector.

In the Asia-Pacific region, NCHECR was centrally involved in the development of a new HIV clinic in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and the development of a safety trial of antiretroviral drugs as potential HIV prevention agents. It also began collaborative clinical research in Papua New Guinea. The TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD) and the Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD), both coordinated through NCHECR, were selected to participate in the US National Institutes of Healthfunded cohorts collaboration known as IeDEA.

The Health in Men (HIM) cohort of over 1,400 HIV-negative gay men continued to produce major findings, particularly in relation to sexually transmissible infections, including the first demonstration of the role of herpes simplex type 1 as a co-factor in HIV transmission. NCHECR also played a central role in a major study of cancer in renal transplant recipients that showed for the first time that a wide range of tumour types could be linked to chemical immunosuppression.

NCHECR completed its first clinical trial of treatment for viral hepatitis in 2006. This trial, based largely in Thailand, examined treatment outcomes in people with HIV and hepatitis co-infection. Recruitment and follow up continued for the study of the treatment and natural history of acute hepatitis C infection among injecting drug users, which now represents the largest series of its kind in the world.

In the area of viral hepatitis prevention, work continued on the ongoing evaluation of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC), and a new study of injecting-related injury and disease that was initiated through the evaluation of the MSIC. The three-country project on the role of resilience in protecting against blood-borne viruses and sexually transmissible infections in Indigenous people completed a round of stakeholder consultations at three Australian sites.



Researchers from the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre, the University of California, San Francisco, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney and NCHECR working on HIV prevention studies in Thailand

Several major new observational database projects were initiated in the areas of HIV natural history, drug resistance and hepatitis C infection during 2006. NCHECR also became involved in the development of web-based data entry systems for clinical trials that should provide new options for study management in coming years. The third national projections report on hepatitis C infection was completed and released in the latter part of 2006.

In the laboratory, a number of new technical methods were established, including some that may be patented. The successful application for a grant to study RNA silencing will allow further exploration and development of a novel technology that may have significant therapeutic application in the future.



David Cooper cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremony of the new premises of the Social Health Clinic (SHC) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with (left to right) Dr Toeung Pich Da, SHC; Dr Vonthanak Saphonn, Deputy Director, National Institute of Public Health, Cambodia; Mr Christopher Murray, Director of the Pharmaceuticals Division of F Hoffman-La Roche Ltd; Dr Mam Bun Heng, the Royal Government of Cambodia's Secretary of State for Health and Ms Lisa Filipetto, Australian Ambassador to Cambodia

Marking its twentieth year during the course of 2006, NCHECR has continued to expand the scope of its research, endeavouring to provide new information that will assist in the prevention and treatment of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections. With two decades of achievement behind us, and the promise of much more to come, we are more cognisant than ever of the crucial role played by our dedicated staff and the total dependence of our research on the commitment of our research collaborators and the people who agree to join our studies.

David Cooper, Director

John Kaldor, Deputy Director



The following sections describe NCHECR achievements and activities within Programs during 2006. Each project report lists any sources of funding beyond the NCHECR core grant that were used to fund the activity, as well as NCHECR personnel and external collaborators involved with the project.

The Director, David Cooper directly supervises the Heads of the Programs in Therapeutic and Vaccine Research, Immunovirology and Pathogenesis and Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research, but is only named under the project summaries in this section for those projects that he takes specific responsibility for as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator.

The Deputy Director, John Kaldor, supports the Director, and directly supervises the Surveillance Program, and the Heads of the Programs in HIV Epidemiology and Prevention, Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention and Biostatistics and Databases, but is only named under the project summaries in this section for those projects that he takes specific responsibility for as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator.



Executive Committee
Bronwen Turner, John Kaldor, Sean Emery, David Cooper

Surveillance Program

Highlights

The Surveillance Program continued to monitor the pattern of transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and C, and specific sexually transmissible infections in Australia in 2006, in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, State and Territory health authorities and collaborating networks. Detailed analyses and interpretation of recent trends in new diagnoses of HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections, and estimates of HIV and hepatitis C prevalence and incidence in higher and lower risk population subgroups, were published in HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 2006. This was the tenth successive issue of the Annual Surveillance Report, and included a Foreword by Dr Michael Wooldridge, Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis. The Annual Surveillance Report 2006 was formally released by Professor Steve Wesselingh, Director, Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, at the 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine in Melbourne in October 2006.



John Kaldor

In 2006, the Annual Surveillance Report included for the first time an analysis of recent trends in the population rate of diagnosis of HIV/ AIDS, chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis by Indigenous status and area of residence; information on country/ region of birth reported

by several State and Territory health jurisdictions for cases of newly acquired hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection; and information on cases of hepatitis C infection, diagnosed among children aged less than 13 years and notified by paediatricians through the Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit.

The findings published in the *Annual Surveillance Report 2006* of an increasing number of new diagnoses of HIV infection and an increasing number of diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection were cited in a number of local and national media reports. Media reports also highlighted the apparent differences in the recent trends in HIV diagnoses between New South Wales and Victoria.

In 2006, 1,961 injecting drug users (IDU) participated in the Australian Needle and Syringe Program (NSP) Survey, the primary surveillance mechanism

for monitoring HIV, hepatitis C and associated risk behaviours in IDUs. Representatives from most States and Territories also renewed their commitment to implementing enhanced surveillance for viral hepatitis, providing for better delineation of risk factors and appropriate targeting of interventions. Advances in data collection and management in 2006 included the introduction of a scannable questionnaire for the Australian NSP Survey.

An evaluation of the performance characteristics of two assays for diagnosing incident HIV infection was presented at a satellite meeting of the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto. In a population predominantly affected by subtype B, testing of cases of HIV infection, newly diagnosed at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, with two assays for diagnosing incident HIV infection (the sensitive/ less sensitive or "detuned" assay and the BED IgG capture assay), indicated that the assays had similar performance characteristics. The assays may be used to provide a more complete indication of the pattern of incident HIV infection than is available through surveillance for newly acquired HIV infection, which is dependent on frequent negative HIV antibody testing prior to HIV diagnosis.

Projects

National surveillance coordination and information dissemination

Support for national surveillance committees

The National HIV Surveillance Committee, the National Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Committee and the Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee each co-ordinate ongoing national surveillance activities within their terms of reference including the development of new initiatives in case surveillance, new analyses of surveillance data, development of standardised surveillance procedures, and communication with and feedback of surveillance outputs to organisations directly involved in surveillance activities.

Status: In 2006, the National HIV Surveillance Committee completed the development of new HIV/AIDS case notification forms, and ethics committee approvals were sought through State and Territory health authorities to support national monitoring of HIV-1 subtype among cases of newly diagnosed HIV-1 infection. The National Viral Hepatitis and Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committees made significant progress towards achieving consensus on the introduction of standard minimum datasets for enhanced surveillance of newly acquired hepatitis B, newly acquired hepatitis C and sexually transmissible infections. The Sexually Transmissible Infections Surveillance Committee also finalised a review of the prevalence of gonorrhoea in Australia.

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Basil Donovan, Melanie Middleton, Jiong Li, Libby Topp

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report

Detailed analyses and interpretations of national surveillance data on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections are published in HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections in Australia Annual Surveillance Report.

Status: Ongoing. The *Annual Surveillance Report* was published for the tenth successive year.

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Handan Wand Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

Australian HIV Surveillance Report

The Australian HIV Surveillance Report provides quarterly updates on the number of new diagnoses of HIV infection and AIDS and estimates of HIV incidence and prevalence through a network of sexual health clinics.

Status: Ongoing. The *Australian HIV Surveillance Report*, in its current format, has been published each quarter from July 1990.

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Handan Wand Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

Surveillance for HIV/AIDS

Monitoring cases of AIDS

The past pattern of HIV transmission, the pattern of illness associated with advanced HIV immunodeficiency and the impact of antiretroviral treatment on the pattern of illness is monitored through national AIDS surveillance.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Handan Wand **Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

Monitoring cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection

The pattern of HIV transmission is monitored through national surveillance for newly diagnosed HIV infection, providing information on more recent patterns of HIV transmission than does AIDS surveillance.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Handan Wand

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

Monitoring diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection

Diagnoses of newly acquired HIV infection are monitored to provide an indication of the current pattern of HIV transmission in Australia.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Ann McDonald

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

Monitoring perinatal exposure to HIV

The extent and outcome of perinatal exposure to HIV in Australia, including risk factors for perinatal HIV transmission, is monitored to indicate the rate of mother-to-child HIV transmission, the impact of interventions for reducing the risk of perinatal HIV transmission and HIV prevalence among childbearing women.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Ann McDonald

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

Monitoring long-term outcome of newly acquired HIV infection

The long-term outcome of HIV infection is monitored among cases with a known date of HIV acquisition that have progressed to AIDS.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Handan Wand

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

Monitoring HIV transmission through specialised tests for incident HIV infection

Specialised tests for diagnosing incident HIV infection are evaluated by comparison with the results of national surveillance for newly acquired HIV infection.

Status: Ongoing
Personnel: Ann McDonald

Collaborators: NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV; State and Territory health authorities; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections

Monitoring HIV subtypes among new HIV diagnoses

HIV subtypes are monitored among cases of HIV infection for which antiretroviral drug resistance testing has been carried out, and then linked to demographic and exposure information held on the National HIV Database.

Status: Application for ethics committee clearance through State and Territory health authorities continued during 2006.

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; networks involved in surveillance for HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible infections **Funding:** Australian Centre for Hepatitis and HIV Virology Research

Monitoring survival following HIV/AIDS diagnosis in Australia

The date and cause of death among people with diagnosed HIV infection and AIDS is obtained through linkage to deaths registered with the National Death Index, and the pattern of survival following HIV/AIDS diagnosis analysed and modelled.

Status: Risk factors for survival following HIV and AIDS were assessed. Parametric survival models were used to project mortality into the future.

Personnel: Ann McDonald, Matthew Law, Fatemeh Nakhaee (PhD student)

Collaborators: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; State and Territory health authorities

Assessment of self-report of HIV exposure history

Documentation of self-report of exposure to HIV is obtained through structured sexual history taking among cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection whose exposure was attributed to sources other than male homosexual contact.

Status: Ongoing. The form for documenting HIV exposure history was extensively revised.

Personnel: Ann McDonald

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; Australian

Institute of Health and Welfare

Surveillance for viral hepatitis

Monitoring cases of newly diagnosed viral hepatitis

The pattern of transmission of viral hepatitis is monitored through national surveillance for newly diagnosed hepatitis B and hepatitis C infection, and newly acquired infections notified to the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Additional information on newly acquired hepatitis B and C notifications and country of birth is obtained directly from State and Territory health authorities.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Jiong Li, Libby Topp, Lisa Maher **Collaborators:** State and Territory health authorities; Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

Monitoring perinatally acquired hepatitis C infection and outcome in children

Clinicians on the Australian Paediatric Surveillance (APSU) mailing list are asked to notify newly diagnosed hepatitis C positive children as per case definition and complete a written de-identified questionnaire. The questionnaire asks clinicians to report hepatitis C risk factors, maternal hepatitis C risk factors, clinical assessment and management of positive cases. A follow up questionnaire is completed annually.

Status: Ongoing
Personnel: John Kaldor

Collaborators: Suzanne Polis; Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit; The Children's Hospital at Westmead; Royal Children's

Hospital; Princess Margaret Hospital

Monitoring long-term outcomes of chronic hepatitis B and C

Data is obtained from the Australian and New Zealand Liver Transplant Register on number and underlying cause (hepatitis B and C, other) for liver transplants performed.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Greg Dore

Collaborator: Australia and New Zealand Liver Transplant Register

Surveillance for sexually transmissible infections

Australian Collaboration for Chlamydia Enhanced Sentinel Surveillance (ACCESS)

ACCESS involves the establishment of six separate chlamydia sentinel surveillance networks, each providing unique information on testing uptake and prevalence of chlamydia infection in a range of priority populations; young heterosexuals, men who have sex with men, Indigenous people, pregnant women and sex workers.

Status: In development.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor **Collaborators:** Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health; National Perinatal Statistics Unit, UNSW;

National Serology Reference Laboratory

Surveillance in selected populations

Needle and syringe program surveys

Annual cross-sectional surveys are conducted during a designated week in October at selected needle and syringe program (NSP) sites throughout Australia. All clients attending participating sites during the survey week are asked to complete a self-administered questionnaire, and to provide a capillary blood sample for HIV and hepatitis C antibody testing. NCHECR maintains the national database on behalf of the Collaboration of Australian Needle and Syringe Programs, and develops and carries out analyses of NSP data and prepares surveillance reports and papers for publication.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Kathleen Glenday, Jiong Li, Jenny Iverson, Libby Topp,

_isa Maher

Collaborators: State and Territory health authorities; NSPs involved in HIV/hepatitis C surveillance; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs (ANEX); Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL); Justice Health

Saliva validation study

Validation of saliva testing as an alternative to capillary blood for hepatitis C antibody testing using venous blood, dried blood spots and saliva samples collected from injecting drug users. Also includes the collection of survey data exploring the acceptability of different testing methods.

Status: A final report of the study was submitted to the funding body.

Personnel: Rosie Thein, Bethany White, Anna Doab, Joanne

Holden, Carolyn Day, Greg Dore, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: Philip Cunningham, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Ingrid van Beek, Craig Rodgers, Kirketon Road Centre; Alex Wodak, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: NSW Health Department

Monitoring hepatitis C incidence among injecting drug users

Incidence of hepatitis C is monitored among injecting drug users attending the Kirketon Road Centre. All injecting drug users who are hepatitis C antibody seronegative and have had repeat testing are included in the analysis.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Jiong Li, Libby Topp, Lisa Maher **Collaborators:** Virginia Macdonald, Shona Blair, Ingrid van Beek, Kirketon Road Centre

Monitoring HIV prevalence and incidence through sexual health clinics

HIV prevalence and incidence is monitored among people seen at sexual health clinics who are voluntarily tested for HIV antibody as part of their clinical care.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Ann McDonald

Collaborators: Collaborative group on sentinel surveillance in

sexual health clinics

Monitoring HIV antibody prevalence among prison entrants in Australia

HIV transmission among people entering Australian prisons is monitored through reports received from State and Territory Departments of Corrections of the number of people received into prisons each quarter, the numbers who were voluntarily tested for HIV antibody and the numbers with diagnosed HIV infection.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Ann McDonald

Collaborators: State and Territory Departments of Corrections

Monitoring HIV and viral hepatitis among blood donors

Newly emerging patterns of transmission of HIV and viral hepatitis are monitored among blood donors, a subgroup of the population at low risk of infection who are compulsorily tested for blood-borne viruses.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Melanie Middleton, Ann McDonald, Libby Topp

Collaborator: Australian Red Cross Blood Service



Back row: Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Libby Topp, Jenny Iversen, Andrew Grulich, Basil Donovan, Lisa Maher Front: Handan Wand, John Kaldor

Behavioural surveillance for HIV risk factors among homosexual men

Repeated community-based cross sectional surveys of the risk behaviour of homosexual men.

Status: In 2006, surveys were conducted in Sydney (3,732 completed questionnaires), Melbourne (1,988 completed questionnaires), Queensland (1,237 completed questionnaires), Perth (927 completed questionnaires) and Canberra (282 completed questionnaires).

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Andrew Grulich

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; State AIDS

Councils; State PLWHA organisations

Funding: NSW Health Department; Department of Human Services, Melbourne; Queensland Health; Western Australian

Department of Health, ACT Health

Behavioural surveillance for sexual health risk factors among homosexual and bisexual women

Repeated community-based cross sectional surveys of the risk behaviour of homosexual women.

Status: Over 500 women completed a questionnaire for this study in 2006, and a report on the findings was in preparation.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage

Collaborators: AIDS Council of New South Wales; National Centre

in HIV Social Research

Funding: AIDS Council of New South Wales

International

Monitoring and surveillance of HIV voluntary counselling and testing sites in Indonesia

A pilot study to establish procedural feasibility for measuring the extent and outcome of HIV testing at voluntary counselling and testing sites.

Status: Pilot study protocol development and implementation began.

Personnel: John Kaldor

Collaborators: GRM International Pty Ltd; Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research and Public Health; Government of

Indonesia; Nurlan Silitonga

Funding: AusAID

Development of HIV surveillance plan for Papua New Guinea

Provision of technical assistance to the Papua New Guinea National Department of Health to develop a comprehensive surveillance plan.

Status: Consultations were held in Papua New Guinea and a draft plan was prepared.

Personnel: John Kaldor

Collaborators: Macfarlane Burnet Centre for Medical Research and Public Health; Government of Papua New Guinea; World

Health Organisation

Funding: World Health Organisation

Surveillance Program sentinel surveillance network of sexual health clinics

Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic

Site principal: John Patten Site coordinator: Henry Magon

Clinic 275

Site principal: Russell Waddell

Gold Coast Sexual Health Service

Site principal: John Chuah

Site coordinator: Wendy Fankhauser

Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Catherine O'Connor

Site coordinator: Ben Allam

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

Site principals: Christopher Fairley, Ian Denham

Sydney Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Basil Donovan Site coordinator: Eleanor Freedman

Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Highlights

January 2006 will be remembered as the time when the SMART study was found to have attained its primary objective several years in advance of projections. As the largest randomised study ever conducted in the context of HIV treatment, we are rightly proud of our contribution to this significant piece of work.

NCHECR was also proud of its leadership role in commencing work on the STEAL and FLASH trials during 2006. STEAL because it represents the first occasion that NCHECR has completely sponsored a research project of this sort, and FLASH because it represents another example of how NCHECR can broker support for research among the private and public sectors to address a question of immediate clinical relevance to Australian patients with HIV infection. Both studies are also remarkable for the ferocity with which they recruited. FLASH was in gestation for quite some time but once opened for recruitment, it randomised over 100 subjects in a little over six weeks. STEAL completed recruitment of over 350 subjects in just eight months at 31 investigational sites in Australia. The benefit of these remarkable achievements is that completion and reporting of these studies will be equally brisk.

The ASK-500 protocol concluded in 2006. The study provided supporting data for use of nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor sparing regimens comprising ritonavir boosted dual protease inhibitors in patients with extensive prior exposure to antiretroviral therapy.

Work also commenced on a new treatment naïve protocol called ALTAIR that will be conducted in 14 countries in Australasia, South East Asia, North, Central and South America, the Middle East and Europe. This protocol is funded by Gilead Sciences, but run entirely by NCHECR (including sponsorship) on behalf of a protocol steering committee.

At the other end of the developmental cycle Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program (TVRP) personnel began preparations for an early phase evaluation of pharmacokinetic characteristics of a new generation CCR5 inhibitor (P04112), with additional investigations of immunologic phenomena in collaboration with colleagues in the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program.

Recruitment into the STEP study commenced, and further preparations continued, in collaboration with colleagues from the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program and at HIV-NAT, on a

randomised phase I trial to examine the safety and immunogenicity of a clade A/E, DNA/fowl pox prime-boost vaccine strategy for prophylaxis.

The INSIGHT initiative continued to consume time and energy. INSIGHT was officially recognised as a clinical trials network of the Division of AIDS at the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Since that announcement work has continued to identify the immediate research agenda of INSIGHT. Through an iterative process, and in large part as a direct consequence of SMART, it appears likely that INISGHT will focus on research to inform clinical decision for early treatment of HIV infection.



Sean Emery

TVRP personnel, in collaboration with the Biostatistics and Databases Program, successfully implemented the MedDRA coding system for summarising adverse events in clinical trial databases. MedDRA is regarded globally as the gold standard for adverse event

reporting that brings a number of benefits to the reporting of clinical trials. Firstly, acquisition of raw data is improved since reported 'terms' are mapped to 'preferred terms' using a standard dictionary. Secondly, summation and analysis of adverse event data is improved since less time is consumed trying to consolidate often lengthy lists of events. Thirdly, the standard dictionaries are updated regularly with input from field users such as NCHECR.

In a similar development, TVRP and the Biostatistics and Databases Program collaborated on an Enterprise Adoption with PhaseForward to introduce electronic data capture for our prospective studies using the gold standard InForm technology. The enterprise adoption will guide NCHECR through a five year period of mentored and project-related learning, with the intent that at conclusion we will be able to completely integrate the design, build and implementation of an InForm solution to our research activities. Once again, this progressive adoption of new technologies represents a significant investment in resource terms to maintain our infrastructure at the cutting edge of conducting clinical research internationally.

Projects

Sean Emery, Head of the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program, has a supervisory role for all projects that fall within the Program, but is only named under the project summaries in this section for those projects that he takes specific responsibility for as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator.

Antiretroviral therapy

Studies recruiting during 2006

STEAL

A randomised, open-label trial to assess the safety and efficacy of switching to fixed-dose tenofoviremtricitabine or abacavir-lamivudine: the STEAL Study.

Status: Recruitment opened December 2005, and closed August 2006.

Sites: 31 Australia

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Enrolled/target: 350/350 patients

Personnel: Allison Humphries, Cate Carey, Wilma Goodyear, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Lina Safro, Simone Jacoby, Janaki Amin,

Sean Emery

PHIDISA I

A prospective epidemiological cohort study of HIV and risk-related co-infections in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

Status: Recruitment opened January 2004.

Sites: 6 military medical sites in Republic of South Africa

Enrolled/target: 5,120/unlimited

Personnel: Allison Humphries, Sean Emery

Funding: US National Institutes of Health; US Department of

Defense; South African National Defence Force

PHIDISA II

A randomised, open-label 2x2 factorial study to compare the safety and efficacy of different combination antiretroviral therapy regimens in treatment naïve patients with advanced HIV disease and/or CD4+ cell counts < 200 cells/µL.

Status: Recruitment opened January 2004.

Sites: 6 military medical sites in Republic of South Africa

Enrolled/target: 1,473/2,800

Personnel: Allison Humphries, Sean Emery

Funding: US National Institutes of Health; US Department of

Defense: South African National Defence Force



Maja Berilazic, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Wendy Lee

Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2006

SMART

A large, simple, trial comparing two strategies for management of antiretroviral therapy: this study is examining the impact of long-term HIV control by randomising patients to receive antiretrovirals to either maintain an undetectable viral load or maintain an acceptable CD4 count.

Status: Recruitment opened May 2002, and closed in January 2006. **Sites:** 22 Australia, 3 New Zealand, 1 Japan, 13 Argentina, 1 Chile,

1 Uruguay, 5 Thailand, 1 Israel

Enrolled/target: 170/200 Australia (includes 7 enrolled in New

Zealand), 5,472/6,000 internationally

Personnel: Fraser Drummond, Claudette Satchell, Sophie Gunn, Maria Arriaga, Robyn Munro, Chris Duncombe, Sean Emery,

David Cooper

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Studies in preparation during 2006

P04112, and the Immunology Substudy

A phase I study to examine the safety, efficacy, pharmacokinetics and immunological effects of SCPRI-P04112 in adults infected with HIV who are naïve to antiretroviral therapy or not currently taking antiretroviral therapy.

Status: Pending regulatory approval.

Sites: 1 Target: 12

Personnel: Sarah Pett, Anthony Kelleher **Funding:** Schering-Plough Research Institute

ALTAIR

A randomised open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of three different combination antiretroviral regimens as initial therapy for HIV infection.

Status: In development. **Sites:** 37 sites in 14 countries

Target: 300

Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Fraser Drummond, Claudette Satchell, Carlo Dazo, Kathy Petoumenos, Chris Duncombe, Sean Emery,

David Cooper

Funding: Gilead Sciences

Toxicology/Pharmacology studies

Studies recruiting during 2006

Facial Lipoatrophy Trial (FLASH)

A randomised, open-label study to assess the safety, efficacy and durability of immediate versus deferred subcutaneous injections of polylactic acid in individuals with antiretroviral-associated facial lipoatrophy.

Status: Recruitment closed January 2006.

Sites: 18

Enrolled/target: 101/100

Personnel: Dianne Carey, Wendy Lee, Kathy Petoumenos,

Sean Emery

Funding: NSW Health Department; AIDS Council of New South Wales; GlaxoSmithKline; Bristol-Myers Squibb (Australia); Abbott Australasia; Roche Australia Pty Ltd; Gilead Sciences; Merck

Sharp & Dohme, Australia; Sanofi-Aventis

Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2006

HAMA 001

HIV Infection and Metabolic Abnormalities

A prospective study of the effect of treatment with antiretroviral medications in HIV-infected individuals on the development of lipodystrophy, cardiovascular risk and bone metabolism.

Status: Recruitment opened March 2003, and closed June 2006.

Sites: 1

Enrolled/target: 49/80
Personnel: Paddy Mallon

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

SAMA 002

Seronegatives, Antiretrovirals and Metabolic Abnormalities Protocol 2

A three arm, prospective study to compare the effect of six weeks exposure to the combination of Kaletra® (lopinavir/ritonavir) and Combivir® (AZT/3TC) versus Kaletra® alone or Combivir® alone in HIV-negative healthy subjects on the development of abnormalities of lipid and glucose metabolism.

Status: Recruitment opened December 2004, and closed June 2006.

Sites: 1

Enrolled/target: 22/50
Personnel: Paddy Mallon

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

ASK-500

A 48-week, randomised study to describe the pharmacokinetic profile and durability of atazanavir-saquinavir-ritonavir once daily, and describe the pharmacokinetic profile of saquinavir-ritonavir using saquinavir 500mg formulation.

Status: Recruitment closed December 2005. Follow-up completed

May 2006.

Sites: 1 Australia Enrolled/target: 26/40

Personnel: Alan Winston, Claudette Satchell, Robyn Munro,

Sean Emery

Funding: F Hoffman-La Roche Ltd

Immune-based therapies and vaccines

Studies recruiting during 2006

The STEP Study

A study to compare a 3-dose immunisation with the Merck HIV vaccine (MRKAd5 HIV-1 gag/pol/nef) to placebo in adults at high risk of HIV infection.

Status: Recruitment opened June 2006, with one stratum fully recruited by November 2006.

Sites: 1

Enrolled/target: 2,940/3,000 volunteers globally

Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Sean Emery, Anthony Kelleher,

David Cooper

Funding: Merck Sharp & Dohme, Australia

STALWART

A randomised, open-label, phase II, international study of sc IL-2 with and without concomitant antiretroviral therapy in patients with HIV-1 infection and CD4+ cell counts >300 cells/µL: study of aldesleukin with and without antiretroviral therapy.

Status: Recruitment opened December 2005.

Sites: 20

Target: 65/200 (Australia, Argentina, Thailand)

 $\textbf{Personnel:} \ \textbf{Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers, Chris Duncombe,}$

Sean Emery, David Cooper

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

ESPRIT TOXIL-2

A randomised study to compare the safety and effectiveness of different regimens for supportive medication administered during cycles of IL2.

Status: Recruitment opened April 2006.

Sites: 11

Enrolled/target: 6/168

Personnel: Sarah Pett, Sean Emery

Studies closed to recruitment or completed during 2006

SILCAAT

A phase III, multicentre, randomised study of the biological and clinical efficacy of subcutaneous recombinant, human interleukin-2 in HIV-infected patients with low CD4+ counts receiving active antiretroviral therapy.

Status: Recruitment closed October 2002. Follow-up to be completed 2008.

Sites: 17 (12 Australia, 5 Argentina)

Enrolled/target: 293 (126 Australia, 167 Argentina)/125 Australia Personnel: Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers, Simone Jacoby, Mary-Ellen Harrod, Sean Emery, David Cooper Funding: US National Institutes of Health; Chiron Corporation

ESPRIT

A randomised, open-label, phase III, international study of subcutaneous recombinant interleukin-2 in patients with HIV infection and CD4 lymphocyte count greater than or equal to 300 cells/mm3.

Status: Recruitment closed May 2003. Follow-up to be completed 2008.

Sites: 48 (23 Australia, 3 Japan, 1 Singapore, 5 Thailand, 13 Argentina, 3 Israel)

Enrolled/target: 1,233 = 106% of enrolment target (205/247 Australia, 64/65 Israel, 365/300 Thailand, 20/20 Singapore, 554/494 Argentina, 25/35 Japan)

Personnel: Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers, Mary-Ellen Harrod, Simone Jacoby, Chris Duncombe, Sean Emery,

David Cooper

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

ESPRIT, FLUVAC Substudy

Status: Recruitment opened in 2000.

Sites: 8 Australia

Enrolled/target: 269/400, with 48 enrolments from 8 Australian sites **Personnel**: Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

ESPRIT, TEPVAC Substudy

Status: Recruitment opened in 2000.

Sites: 4 Australia

Enrolled/target: 67/450, with 8 enrolments from 4 Australian sites **Personnel:** Sarah Pett, Cate Carey, David Courtney-Rodgers

Funding: US National Institutes of Health



Back row: Lina Safro, Carlo Dazo, Cate Carey, Claudette Satchell

Middle: Mary Ellen Harrod

Front: Simone Jacoby, David Courtney-Rodgers

Studies in preparation during 2006

HVDDT vaccine (AE#1)

A randomised, placebo-controlled, double blind, phase I clinical trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a candidate prophylactic pHIS-HIV-AE DNA prime and rFPV-HIV-AE boost HIV vaccination strategy.

Status: In development.
Sites: 1 HIV-NAT

Target: 24

Personnel: Rebekah Puls, Anthony Kelleher, Wendy Lee,

Chris Duncombe

Miscellaneous

Studies in preparation during 2006

PIPET A

A prospective study to examine the effectiveness and safety of neuraminidase inhibitors in index cases with presumed pandemic influenza infection.

Status: In development.

Sites: To be decided, submitted at 6 sites in Australia, Hong Kong

and Singapore

Target: To be decided

Personnel: Mary Ellen Harrod, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Wendy Lee,

Anthony Kelleher, Sean Emery, David Cooper

Funding: NHMRC

PIPET B

A prospective study to examine the effectiveness and safety of neuraminidase inhibitors in volunteers who receive short-term prophylaxis against pandemic influenza.

Status: In development.

Sites: To be decided, submitted at 6 sites in Australia, Hong Kong

and Singapore

Target: To be decided

Personnel: Mary Ellen Harrod, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Wendy Lee,

Anthony Kelleher, Sean Emery, David Cooper

Funding: NHMRC

PIPET C

A prospective study to examine the effectiveness and safety of neuraminidase inhibitors in volunteers who receive long-term prophylaxis against pandemic influenza.

Status: In development.

Sites: To be decided, submitted at 6 sites in Australia, Hong Kong

and Singapore

Target: To be decided

Personnel: Mary Ellen Harrod, Kymme Courtney-Vega, Wendy Lee,

Anthony Kelleher, Sean Emery, David Cooper

Funding: NHMRC



Back row: Rebekah Puls, Sarah Pett Front row: Fraser Drummond, Dianne Carey

Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program (TVRP) clinical trials network (Australian/New Zealand sites)

Each site listed below has recruited and followed at least one subject in a TVRP research protocol during 2006.

Australian sites

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra Sexual Health Clinic, Canberra Hospital

Site principal: Ashley Watson

Site coordinators: Ruth Primrose, Rendry del Rosario

New South Wales

407 Doctors

Site principals: David Baker, Marilyn McMurchie Site coordinators: Robyn Vale, Tina Busic

AIDS Research Initiative

Site principal: Cassy Workman Site coordinator: Vanessa Rees

Albion Street Centre

Site principals: Don Smith, Julian Gold Site coordinators: Jega Sarangapany, Jason Gao

Bigge Park Centre, Liverpool Hospital

Site principal: John Quin

Site coordinators: Gary Keogh, Catherine MacGill

Burwood Road General Practice

Site principal: Nicholas Doong Site coordinator: Jeff Hudson

Clinic 16, Royal North Shore Hospital

Site principals: George Kotsiou, Linda Dayan

Site coordinator: Joanne Holahan

Holdsworth House General Practice

Site principal: Mark Bloch

Site coordinators: Ruth Hutchison, Colin Anderson,

Ken Kunkel, Shikha Agrawal, Teo Franic

Immunology and Infectious Diseases Clinic, John Hunter Hospital

Site principal: Michael Boyle

Site coordinators: Pauline Dobson, Leah Carrall

Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principal: David Cooper

Site coordinators Richard Norris, Karen MacRae, John

McAllister, Martina Rafferty, Robert Fielden

Prince of Wales Hospital

Site principals Kate Clezy, Jeff Post Site coordinator: Suzanne Ryan

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Site principal: Roger Garsia Site coordinator: Marry Moussa

Taylor Square Private Clinic

Site principal: Robert Finlayson

Site coordinators Robyn Richardson, Sophie Dinning

Waratah Clinic, St George Hospital

Site principal: Pam Konecny Site coordinator: Robyn Dever

Westmead Hospital

Site principal: Dominic Dwyer Site coordinator: Margaret Piper

Queensland

AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health

Site principal: Mark Kelly

Site coordinators Jo Murray, Paul Negus

Clinic 87, Nambour General Hospital

Site principal: David Sowden

Site coordinators Alan Walker, Colleen Shields,

Stephen Nash

The Dolls House, Cairns Base Hospital Sexual Health Services

Site principal: Darren Russell

Site coordinators Joanne Leamy, Chris Remington

Gladstone Road Medical Centre

Site principal: David Orth
Site coordinator: David Youds

Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic

Site principal: John Chuah

Site coordinators Tammy Schmidt, Denise Lester

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Site principal: Anthony Allworth

Site coordinators Natalie Gerns, Janelle Zillman

South Australia

Flinders Medical Centre

Site principal: Mark Boyd Site coordinator: Robyn Gilligan

O'Brien Street Practice/The Care and Prevention Programme, Adelaide University

Site principals Gary Rogers, William Donohue

Site coordinator: Michael Curry

Royal Adelaide Hospital

Site principal: David Shaw Site coordinator: Lyndal Daly

Victoria

Carlton Clinic

Site principals Richard Moore, Jonathan Anderson

Site coordinator: Kaye Lowe

Clinical Research Section, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital

Site principal: Jennifer Hoy

Site coordinators Janine Roney, Cath Magness, Sally Price, Rachel Liddle, Melissa Bryant

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Tim Read

Site coordinators Julie Silvers, Helen Kent

Middle Park Clinic

Site principal: Ian Chenoweth Site coordinator: Helen Wood

Northcote Clinic

Site principal: Nicholas Medland Site coordinator: Helen Wood

Prahran Market Clinic

Site principal: Norman Roth Site coordinator: Helen Wood

Royal Melbourne Hospital

Site principal: Alan Street Site coordinator: Janine Roney

The Centre Clinic

Site principal: Nicholas Medland Site coordinator: Helen Wood

Western Australia

Fremantle Hospital

Site principal: John Dyer

Site coordinators Jacqueline Kerth, Nataasha

Lethbridge, Samantha Libertino

Royal Perth Hospital

Site principal: Martyn French

Site coordinators Esther Edward, Claire Forsdyke,

Allison Cain, Jenny Skett

New Zealand sites

Christchurch Hospital

Site principal: Alan Pithie

Waikato Hospital

Site principal: Graham Mills Site coordinator: Christine Tuffery

Wellington Hospital

Site principal: Tim Blackmore Site coordinator: Jennifer Masters

HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Highlights

The HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program (HEPP) conducts research into the transmission and prevention of HIV and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in homosexual men, and work on the natural history of HIV.



Andrew Grulich

The main focus of work on the natural history of HIV infection continues to be on the development of cancer in immune deficient individuals. Scientists in HEPP conduct a range of work on the intersection of infection, immunity and cancer to inform our knowledge of

the types of cancer that might be expected to occur at increased rates in people with HIV. This work reached a new stage of maturity in 2006, with the publication of the first results of the NSW Cancer Council-funded project on cancer in kidney transplant recipients. These results, published in one of the worlds top ranking general medical journals, the Journal of the American Medical Association, demonstrated that a much wider than previously appreciated range of cancers occurred at greatly increased rates in this immune deficient population. This gives rise to a concern that the range of cancers occurring at increased rates in people with HIV may be similarly broad. In 2006, preparations were made for the linkage of national HIV and cancer data to examine this hypothesis in people with HIV. This included the submitting of more than 20 ethics applications to State and Territory cancer and HIV registers. To extend our knowledge of immune deficiency and cancer to another population, preparations were also made to link a national register of individuals with primary (congenital) immune deficiency with national cancer data. Work commenced on the international pooled analysis of immune risk factors for non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL). This project pools data on over 12,000 cases of NHL and over 16,000 controls from three continents. In 2006, the analysis began with an examination of the association between auto-immune disease and risk of NHL. In addition. results were published from the NSW non-Hodgkin lymphoma case-control study showing that STIs were unlikely to be responsible for a substantial proportion of cases of this cancer in the general population.

In 2006, NHMRC project grant funding for an extension of the Health in Men (HIM) Study commenced. This study, conducted in collaboration with the National Centre in HIV Social Research and community partners, continues to be an influential study of homosexual men's sexual health, and one of the key policy references in sexual health in Australia. There were six peer reviewed publications from the study in 2006. The study provided the first cohort data which pointed to the oro-genital transmission of herpes simplex type 1 (HSV-1), and documented a very high incidence of HSV-1 infection, of around 10% per year, in young gay men. These data suggest that public health strategies targeted against genital herpes need to target HSV-1, as well as HSV-2. Data on the interaction between STIs and HIV infection were presented orally at the XVI International AIDS Conference in Toronto. These data demonstrated an association between anal STIs, including gonorrhoea, warts, and possibly HSV-1, and risk of HIV infection, and suggest that screening for anal STIs may be an important means of prevention of HIV. Other data from the HIM cohort demonstrated a rise in the practice of serosorting among this cohort of HIV-negative gay men.

Other important behavioural research on risk factors for HIV infection published in 2006 included the first documentation of high levels of risk behaviour among Indigenous homosexual men. In preparation for the investigation of circumcision as a potential means of HIV risk reduction, data from analyses of demographic predictors of circumcision in the Health in Men study were published.

2006 was the first full year in which STI research, led by Professor Basil Donovan, was incorporated into HEPP. Projects undertaken included work on the effect of prostitution laws on the health of sexworkers and a description of the sexual health of Australian prisoners.

A grant was awarded by the US National Institutes of Health to develop a study of pharmacokinetics and safety of antiretroviral drugs as potential HIV prevention agents, in collaboration with the Thai Red Cross, the University of California, San Francisco and the University of Radboud in the Netherlands.

HEPP personnel were also involved in developing and initiating the first of a series of safety trials of the candidate microbicide SPL7013.

Projects

Andrew Grulich, Head of the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program, has a supervisory role for all projects that fall within the Program, but is only named under the project summaries in this section for those projects that he takes specific responsibility for as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator.

HIV transmission and prevention research

HIV vaccine preparedness cohort study (Health in Men study)

A vaccine preparedness cohort study of HIV-negative homosexual men.

Status: Of 1,427 men enrolled in the study, 850 men were interviewed and tested for HIV during 2006.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW

 $\textbf{Funding:} \ \textbf{NHMRC;} \ \textbf{NSW} \ \textbf{Health Department;} \ \textbf{Becton Dickinson}$

Pty Ltd

Interaction between sexually transmissible infections and HIV infection in the HIM (Health in Men) study

A cohort study to examine the interaction between sexually transmissible infections and HIV incidence among initially HIV-negative homosexual men.

Status: More than 90% of enrolled HIM participants consented to sexual health screening, including tests for gonorrhoea and chlamydia, as well as herpes simplex virus 1 (HSV1) and herpes simplex virus 2 (HSV2).

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin, Basil Donovan, David Templeton (PhD student)

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW

Funding: NHMRC; NSW Health Department; Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd; GlaxoSmithKline Australia

Circumcision and sexually transmissible infections and HIV infection in the HIM (Health in Men) study

A cohort study to examine the interaction between circumcision and incidence of sexually transmissible infections and HIV among initially HIV-negative homosexual men.

Status: All 1,427 men enrolled in the study had been previously asked about their circumcision status, and in 2006 850 were tested for HIV.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin, Basil Donovan. David Templeton (PhD student)

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW

Funding: NHMRC; NSW Health Department; Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd; GlaxoSmithKline Australia

Post-exposure prophylaxis and HIV infection in the HIM (Health in Men) study

A cohort study to examine the use of non-occupational prophylaxis against HIV, and its association with future HIV seroconversion among initially HIV-negative homosexual men.

Status: All 1,427 men enrolled in the study were asked about their use of post-exposure prophylaxis during the annual interview s for 2006.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin, Mary Poynten **Collaborators:** National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW

Funding: NHMRC; NSW Health Department



Back: Garrett Prestage, Jack Bradley Front: Brian Acraman, Patrick McGrath

Behavioural risk factors for HIV infection in the HIM (Health in Men) study

A cohort study to examine behavioural risk factors for HIV infection among initially HIV-negative homosexual men.

Status: Of 1,427 men enrolled in the study, 850 were interviewed about their sexual risk behaviours during 2006.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; AIDS Council of NSW

Funding: NHMRC; NSW Health Department

Risk factors for HIV seroconversion

A study of risk factors for HIV infection among people with newly acquired HIV infection.

Status: During 2006, 20 men with recent primary HIV infection were enrolled in Sydney and Melbourne, making a total of 158 enrolled in the study. In Queensland, ethics permission was obtained.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin
Collaborators: PHAEDRA investigators (see *Immunology*and Pathogenesis Program); National Centre in HIV Social
Research; Queensland Health; Queensland Association of Healthy

Communities; Queensland Positive People

Funding: US National Institutes of Health, Queensland Health

Periodic surveys of HIV risk behaviour

A study of sexual risk behaviour, HIV and STI testing, and illicit drug use among gay men in Australia.

Status: In 2006, 8,166 surveys were completed in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra and Perth.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; State AIDS Councils; State PLWHA organisations; State Health Departments

Funding: State and Territory Health Departments

Demographic, socio-economic and behavioural risk factors for AIDS in the HAART era: a pilot study

A cross sectional analytic study of new AIDS diagnoses in NSW between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2005, designed to assess demographic, socio-economic and behavioural risk factors for AIDS.

Status: A total of 281 AIDS cases diagnosed in NSW were invited to participate in 2006. By end 2006, approximately 70% of questionnaires forwarded to doctors had been returned.

Personnel: Marianne Jauncey, Ann McDonald, Melanie Middleton, Andrew Grulich

Collaborator: Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health

Department

Funding: NSW Health Department

Group sex study

A study to investigate the motivations and circumstances of group sex behaviour among gay men, particularly those behaviours that may contribute to HIV transmission.

Status: Questionnaire and methods were finalised. Data collection to commence in early 2007.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage

Collaborators: The University of Sydney; AIDS Council of New

South Wales

Funding: NSW Health Department

Assessment of HIV incidence and HIV risk behaviors among clients seeking HIV testing at the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre Anonymous Clinic, Bangkok, Thailand

This study determines HIV incidence and risk factors for HIV infection and identifies populations at risk, using a self-completed questionnaire survey and an HIV antibody and BED test conducted among attendees of the Thai Red Cross anonymous HIV testing clinic.

Status: Study commenced 2005. Data collection completed 2006.

Site: Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre

Enrolled/target: 499/500

Personnel: Iona Millwood, John Kaldor

Collaborators: Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre; University

of California, San Francisco

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Law and sexworker health (LASH)

A study designed to determine the relationship between prostitution laws and their policing, and the health and welfare of sexworkers.

Status: Data collection commenced.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Chris Harcourt, Kate Demaere,

John Kaldor

Collaborators: Faculty of Law, UNSW; Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic

Funding: NHMRC

Health and sexual health knowledge in the unregulated sector of the Victorian sex industry

A study designed to determine the drivers of the unregulated sex industry in Victoria.

Status: Data collection commenced.

Personnel: Basil Donovan, Chris Harcourt, John Kaldor

Collaborators: Melbourne Sexual Health Centre; Microbiology Department, Royal Hospital for Women; School of Population

Health, The University of Melbourne

Funding: Department of Human Services, Melbourne

The sexual behaviour and sexual health of Australian prisoners

This study is designed to describe sexual health of Australian prisoners, including their knowledge, attitudes and behaviour in relation to sexual health. It also examines the impact of condoms in New South Wales (condoms distributed since 1996), compared with Queensland (no condoms distributed). Computer-assisted telephone interviews are conducted with representative samples of both male and female prisoners in New South Wales and Queensland, as well as qualitative face-to-face interviews with inmates and ex-inmates.

Status: Data collection commenced.

Personnel: Basil Donovan

Collaborators: Justice Health; National Centre in HIV Social Research

Funding: NHMRC

Chlamydia incidence and reinfection (CIRIS)

A study designed to determine the prevalence and incidence of chlamydia in a representative sample of young Australian women.

Status: In development. **Personnel:** Basil Donovan

Collaborators: School of Population Health, UNSW; Melbourne Sexual Health Centre; Canberra Sexual Health Centre; Sydney

Sexual Health Centre

Young women's health study

A pilot longitudinal study of the health of young women in Cambodia who report exchange of sex for money.

Status: Protocol development continued.

Sites: 1 Target: 100

Personnel: John Kaldor

Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs; Combined Women's Development Association;

University of California, San Francisco **Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

HIV prevention trials

HIV incidence and risk factors among people attending HIV voluntary counselling and testing services in Bangkok, Thailand

This study involves collection and analysis of demographic and behavioural data among clients of an HIV counselling and testing centre in Phnom Penh.

Status: Recruitment completed 2006.

Sites: 1

Enrolled/target: 406/1,000 **Personnel:** John Kaldor

Collaborators: Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre; University of California, San Francisco; Philip Cunningham, St Vincent's

Hospital, Sydney

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Willingness to participate in prevention research survey (Thailand)

This study measures willingness to participate in prevention trials using a cross sectional survey conducted in selected population groups at risk of HIV infection.

Status: Study commenced 2005. Data collection completed 2006.

Sites: 1

Enrolled/target: 806/800

Personnel: Iona Millwood, John Kaldor

Collaborators: Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre; University of California, San Francisco; Philip Cunningham, St Vincent's

Hospital, Sydney

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Community participatory activities in preparation for HIV prevention trials in women in Thailand

This study is designed to provide a framework for community discussion of HIV prevention methods and research in Thailand.

Status: The Thai Red Cross Community Advisory Board was convened in 2006, and monthly meetings held from June.

Site: Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre Personnel: Iona Millwood, John Kaldor

Collaborators: Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre; University

of California, San Francisco

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Clinical development program to evaluate the safety and acceptability of the candidate vaginal microbicide SPL7013 (VMDC)

A series of studies under the VivaGelTM Microbicide Development Consortium (VMDC) program designed to comprehensively evaluate the clinical safety of 3% SPL7013 gel (VivaGelTM). Topical microbicides such as VivaGelTM are products that are designed to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV and other pathogens.

Status: Laboratory and community preparation took place at the Thai site. The Melbourne site male study commenced in September.

Sites: Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre; Melbourne Sexual

Health Centre

Enrolled/target: 34/36 (Melbourne)

Personnel: Mary Poynten, Matthew Law, Lisa Maher, Iona Millwood,

Handan Wand, John Kaldor

Collaborators: Starpharma Pty Limited; Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research; Melbourne Sexual Health Centre;

Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre **Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

Clinical studies to evaluate the pharmacokinetics and safety of oral tenofovir and tenofovir/ emtricitabine among HIV-negative Thai women

Two clinical studies designed to evaluate first, the pharmacokinetics and second, the safety of oral tenofovir and tenofovir/emtricitabine among HIV-negative Thai women. Use of antiretrovirals in HIV-negative individuals to prevent HIV transmission is also known as "pre-exposure chemoprophylaxis".

Status: A one year planning grant was awarded in August 2006 from US National Institutes of Health to support study planning and preparations including community engagement and development of the study protocols. Community activities have begun and study synopses prepared.

Site: 1 Thailand

Personnel: Louise Causer, Iona Millwood, John Kaldor **Collaborators:** Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre; University of San Francisco; University of Radboud, The Netherlands

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Normal range study

This study assesses normal ranges of key haematological and biochemical markers in healthy blood donors in Cambodia to act as a reference for safety studies.

Status: Recruitment completed.

Sites: 1

Enrolled/target: 219/200 Personnel: John Kaldor

Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs;

University of California, San Francisco **Funding:** US National Institutes of Health

HIV incidence and risk factors among people attending HIV voluntary counselling and testing services in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

This study involves collection and analysis of demographic and behavioural data among clients of an HIV counselling and testing centre in Phnom Penh.

Status: Recruitment completed.

Sites: 1

Enrolled/target: 1,519/2,200 Personnel: John Kaldor

Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs; University of California, San Francisco; Philip Cunningham,

St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

HIV natural history research

Anal intraepithelial neoplasia (AIN) and anal human papillomavirus (HPV) infection in homosexual men

A prevalence study of AIN and anal HPV infection in a community sample of HIV-negative and HIV-positive homosexual men.

Status: Preliminary data analyses were performed.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Claire Vajdic, Garrett Prestage,

Marina van Leeuwen

Collaborators: Dorevitch Pathology - Mayne Health; Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Centre; St Vincent's Hospital,

Sydney; Cytyc Corporation Australia Pty Ltd

Funding: UNSW

Cancer in people with long standing HIV infection

A data linkage study examining rates and risk factors for cancer in people with HIV. A particular focus of the study is to examine rates of cancer in those with long-term mild immune deficiency.

Status: Ethics approval was granted by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and State and Territory cancer registries. Linkage algorithms were developed.

Personnel: Claire Vajdic, Marina van Leeuwen

Collaborators: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; AHOD investigators (see *Biostatistics and Databases Program*)

NSW lymphoma case-control study

A population-based case-control study examining the environmental, occupational, immunological and infectious risk factors for non-Hodgkin lymphoma in people without HIV.

Status: Blood samples were analysed for polymorphisms of cytokine genes, DNA repair and vitamin D receptor genes. Job history analyses were undertaken in relation to magnetic fields and ionising and non-ionising radiation. Data on HCV status of cases and controls was included in an international pooled analysis.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Claire Vajdic

Collaborators: St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; The University of Sydney; Monash University; National Cancer Institute, USA

International pooled analysis of immune risk factors for lymphoma

A pooled analysis of case-control studies of immune risk factors for lymphoma.

Status: All twelve member studies sent data on a pooled total of 12,982 cases and 16,441 controls, and preliminary results were prepared for auto-immune disease as a risk factor for non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Claire Vajdic, Michael Falster

Collaborators: University of Southern California; German Cancer Research Centre; Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwest University; Centre for Study and Prevention of Cancer; Aviano Cancer Centre; Catalan Institute of Oncology; University of California, San Francisco; David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles; University of York; British Columbia Cancer Registry; School of Medicine, Yale University

Funding: Leukaemia Foundation of Australia

Cancer in kidney dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients

A project to link the Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Register (ANZDATA) with the national cancer register to allow the identification of cancers that occur at increased rates, and the identifications of risk factors for development of cancer.

Status: Standardised incidence ratios for all cancer types for the three key exposure periods, prior to dialysis, during dialysis, and after transplantation, were calculated. Analysis of risk factors for specific cancers commenced.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Claire Vajdic, Matthew Law, Marina van Leeuwen

Collaborators: Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA); University of Otago; Westmead Hospital

Funding: NSW Cancer Council

Cancer in primary immune deficiency

A project to describe the incidence of malignancies in people with primary (congenital) immune deficiencies and to compare this with the incidence of malignancy in people with HIV/AIDS and in those with organ transplants.

Status: Local ethics approvals were obtained, and plans were made for the obtaining national ethics approval and proceeding to data linkage.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Claire Vajdic, Matthew Law, Marina van Leeuwen

Collaborator: Australian Primary Immunodeficiency Disease

Register, The University of Sydney **Fundina:** NHMRC fellowship

Australian Long-Term Nonprogressor Study

A cohort study, established in 1994, of people with slowly progressive HIV disease.

Status: 110 participants have been recruited to the study since it began in 1994. 35 participants remained untreated at the end of 2006, with a CD4+ count above 350cells/µ.l.

Personnel: Linda Gelgor, Melanie Middleton, Anthony Kelleher, John Kaldor, David Cooper

Collaborators: Long-Term Nonprogressor Study Group, including clinical sites in Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne; Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney



Back row: Ann McDonald, Louise Causer, Melanie Middleton, Michael Falster, Claire Vajdic, Basil Donovan Front: Iona Millwood, Andrew Grulich

Positive Health Study

A cohort study of the health and health-related behaviours of HIV-positive people.

Status: In 2006, 271 HIV-positive people were interviewed, including 29 who were interviewed for the first time. In total, 188 consented to be tested for hepatitis A and B and syphilis, and for gonorrhoea and chlamydia in the urine, throat and anus.

Personnel: Garrett Prestage

Collaborators: National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS

Funding: NSW Health Department; Faculty of Medicine, UNSW

Incidence and prevalence of chlamydia and prevalence of lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) serovars in the Positive Health and Health in Men (HIM) studies

A substudy of the Positive Health study to determine whether some study participants may be infected with chlamydia serovars L1-L3, the causative organism of LGV.

Status: Specimens which tested positive for rectal chlamydia were stored and will be tested for LGV.

Personnel: Andrew Grulich, Basil Donovan, Garrett Prestage, Jeff Jin **Collaborators:** Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne; Melbourne Sexual Health Centre; National Centre in HIV Social Research; Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations; National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS

Funding: NHMRC

Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

Highlights

The Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program (VHCRP) continued to develop the Centre's expanding role in viral hepatitis clinical trials and other clinical research.

By end of 2006, follow-up had been completed in the TICO trial, a randomised controlled trial examining the safety and efficacy of tenofovir for HIV/hepatitis B co-infection, recruiting through HIV-NAT, Bangkok. This is Centre's first hepatitis therapeutic trial to complete follow-up.



Greg Dore

Enrolment continued in clinical trials examining interferonbased therapy in chronic hepatitis C (CHARIOT) and acute hepatitis C (ATAHC). The CHARIOT trial is a randomised study examining the safety and efficacy of induction dosing pegylated interferon (in

combination with ribavirin) in people with hepatitis C genotype 1. During 2006, CHARIOT study recruitment was extended beyond the existing 31 clinic sites around Australia to include sites in New Zealand, Canada, Thailand, Mexico and Argentina.

The Australian Trial in Acute Hepatitis C (ATAHC) is a five year US National Institutes of Health-funded study examining the safety and efficacy of pegylated interferon monotherapy and natural history in acute and newly acquired hepatitis C. Enrolment at the end of 2006 was 120, making it the largest study to date that examines acute hepatitis C therapeutic strategies among a largely injecting drug user study population.

A further highlight of 2006 was the awarding of a NHMRC Project Grant to examine serological markers of acute hepatitis C within the ATAHC study. This grant, led by Dr Kim Wilson at the National Reference Laboratory, is the third ATAHC-associated NHMRC Project Grant, and further strengthens the collaborations between VHCRP and basic science research groups.

Projects

Greg Dore, Head of the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program, has a supervisory role for all projects that fall within the Program, but is only named under the project summaries in this section for those projects that he takes specific responsibility for as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator.

Australian trial in acute hepatitis C (ATAHC)

A study examining the natural history, safety and efficacy of pegylated interferon therapy for acute and newly acquired hepatitis C among injecting drug users.

Status: Recruitment commenced July 2004, and was ongoing during 2006.

Sites: 20 sites; further sites to be included

Enrolled/target: 120/240

Personnel: Barbara Yeung, Therese Carroll, Pip Marks, Carolyn Day,

Anna Doab, Gail Matthews, John Kaldor, Greg Dore

Collaborators: Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health; School of Pathology, UNSW; South-East Area Laboratory Service, Prince of Wales Hospital; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Prince Alfred Hospital; The Alfred Hospital; Kirketon Road Centre; Australian Hepatitis Council; Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL); Australian network of primary care and hospital-based hepatitis clinics

Funding: US National Institutes of Health; Roche Products Pty Ltd

Australian collaborative study in chronic hepatitis C genotype 1 (CHARIOT)

A randomised active control arm study examining the safety and efficacy of high dose induction pegylated interferon therapy, in combination with ribavirin, for chronic hepatitis C genotype 1 infection.

Status: Recruitment commenced August 2004, and was ongoing during 2006.

Sites: 51 (33 Australia, 3 New Zealand, 5 Canada, 3 Thailand, 4 Argentina, 3 Mexico)

Enrolled/target: 696 (657 Australia, 39 internationally)/816

Personnel: Candace Carter, Elizabeth Knight, Wen Cao, Deama Amr, Natalie Espinosa, Pip Marks, Gail Matthews, Ineke Shaw, Oscar-Hazel Donaldson, Alexa Gillman, Greg Dore

Collaborators: Stuart Roberts, The Alfred Hospital; Australian and international network of hospital-based liver and hepatitis clinics

Funding: Roche Products Pty Ltd

Tenofovir in HIV/hepatitis B co-infection (TICO)

A randomized controlled trial to compare the safety and efficacy of tenofovir versus lamivudine versus tenofovir plus lamivudine as anti-hepatitis B active agents within the HAART regimen. The trial also compares early hepatitis B viral responses in people with HIV/hepatitis B co-infection, and hepatitis B monoinfection.

Status: Recruitment opened February 2004 (Australia), and August 2004 (Thailand). Recruitment for HIV/hepatitis completed January 2006.

Sites: 5 (4 Australia; 1 Thailand)

Enrolled/target: 36/36 for HIV/hepatitis B; 3/15 for hepatitis B Personnel: Elizabeth Knight, Natalie Espinosa, Pip Marks, Chris Duncombe, Gail Matthews, David Cooper, Greg Dore Collaborators: HIV-NAT; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Royal Melbourne Hospital; The Alfred Hospital; Monash Medical Centre;

Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory

Funding: Gilead Sciences

Methadone study: Hepatitis C treatment in drug dependency treatment clients

Open label study of safety and efficacy of pegylated interferon and ribavirin for chronic hepatitis C in people receiving drug dependency treatment.

Status: Recruitment completed November 2005. Follow-up was ongoing during 2006.

Sites: 4

Enrolled/target: 51/50

Personnel: Pip Marks, Elizabeth Knight, Deama Amr, Wen Cao,

Natalie Espinosa, Greg Dore

Collaborators: Joe Sasadeusz, Royal Melbourne Hospital; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Nepean Hospital; Western Hospital

Funding: Roche Products Pty Ltd

Hepatitis C treatment referral in primary care-based methadone clinic

Rates and predictors of hepatitis C referral and treatment outcomes assessed among a primary care based drug dependency treatment clinic in Redfern.

Status: Study completed. **Collaborator:** The Byrne Surgery

Impact of hepatitis C treatment on transmission among injecting drug users

A study to examine the impact of increasing levels of hepatitis C treatment among injecting drug users on population level hepatitis C transmission in Australia.

Status: Study completed. **Personnel:** Carolyn Day

Natural history of acute hepatitis C

Studies to examine the natural history of acute and newly acquired hepatitis C, including rates and predictors of viral clearance, risk of reinfection and superinfection, and early virological evolution of hepatitis C. Such studies help define the extent of protective immunity following prior hepatitis C infection, and may provide important insights into hepatitis C vaccine development.

Status: Ongoing analyses of viral diversity and phylogenetic analysis-based molecular epidemiology took place.

Personnel: Joanne Micallef (PhD student)

Collaborators: School of Medical Sciences, UNSW; South-East Area Laboratory Service, Prince of Wales Hospital; St Vincent's

Hospital, Sydney

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Natural history of HIV/hepatitis B co-infection

A prospective cohort of people with HIV/hepatitis B co-infection to examine the impact of highly active antiretroviral therapy on liver disease progression and provide a means for surveillance of resistance to hepatitis B active agents.

Status: Recruitment completed into a prospective cohort of HIV/hepatitis co-infection. Preliminary hepatitis B virological studies of novel mutational patterns and hepatitis B splice protein were undertaken.

Enrolled/target: 150/150

Sites: 4 (3 Australia, 1 United States)

Personnel: Gail Matthews, Wen Cao, Pip Marks

Collaborators: Johns Hopkins University; Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory; The Alfred Hospital; Royal Melbourne Hospital; St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Hepatitis B epidemiology and disease burden in Vietnam and Australia

This study undertakes estimates and projections of hepatitis B-related liver cancer in Vietnam, and among Asia-Pacific born Australian residents.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Van Thi Thuy Nguyen (PhD student)

Collaborator: School of Public Health and Community

Medicine, UNSW

Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program (VHCRP) clinical trials network (Australian sites)

Each site listed below has recruited and followed at least one subject in a VHCRP research protocol during 2006.

Australian Capital Territory

Canberra Hospital

Site principal: Geoff Farrell Site coordinator: Anne Blunn

New South Wales

407 Doctors

Site principal: David Baker Site coordinator: Robyn Vale

Albion Street Centre

Site principal: George Marinos Site coordinator: Jason Gao

Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital

Site principal: Chris Meredith Site coordinator: Sandra Bluncoski

Concord Hospital

Site principal: Alice Lee

Site coordinator: Vivienne Schiavone

Holdsworth House General Practice

Site principal: Mark Bloch

Site coordinators: Colin Anderson, Shikha Agrawal

Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principal: Greg Dore

Site coordinators: Rebecca Hickey, Zoe Potgieter,

Dianne How Chow

John Hunter Hospital

Site principal: Jon Watson

Site coordinators: Tracey Jones, Nadine Leembruggen

Kirketon Road Centre

Site principal: Ingrid van Beek Site coordinator: Therese Carroll

Lismore Liver Clinic

Site principal: Mark Cornwell Site coordinator: Wendy Evans

Liverpool Hospital

Site principal: Miriam Levy Site coordinator: Anne Glass

Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic

Site principal: John Quin Site coordinator: Pat Walker

Nepean Hospital

Site principals: Martin Weltman, Nghi Phung

Site coordinator: Vince Fragomeli

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Site principals: Geoff McCaughan, Paul Haber

Site coordinator: Sue Mason

Taylor Square Private Clinic

Site principal: Neil Bodsworth Site coordinator: Isabel Prone

Waratah Clinic, St George Hospital

Site principal: John Freiman Site coordinator: Robyn Dever

Westmead Hospital

Site principal: Jacob George

Site coordinators: Jasmin Canete, SengKee Teo

Wollongong Hospital

Site principal: Jenny McDonald Site coordinator: Pat Bindley

Queensland

Greenslopes Hospital

Site principal: Darrell Crawford Site coordinator: Julie Roggeveen

Nambour Hospital

Site principal: Don Walker Site coordinator: Bronwyn Rynne

Princess Alexandra Hospital

Site principal: Darrell Crawford

Site coordinators: Fiona Giddens, Julie Roggeveen

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital

Site principal: Barbara Leggett Site coordinator: Deb D'Arcy

Townsville Hospital

Site principal: John Masson Site coordinator: Sharon Cooke

South Australia

Flinders Medical Centre

Site principal: John Ring Site coordinator: Rosalie Altus

Royal Adelaide Hospital

Site principals: Hugh Harley, David Shaw

Site coordinators: Megan Phelps, Catherine Ferguson

Victoria

Austin Hospital

Site principal: Peter Angus

Site coordinators: Lisa Thompson, Brenda Morales

Box Hill Hospital

Site principal: Peter Gibson Site coordinator: Sarah Chivers

Frankston Hospital

Site principal: David Badov Site coordinator: Rita Coffey

Geelong Hospital

Site principal: Damian Dowling Site coordinator: Margaret Wardrop

HealthWorks (referral site)Site principal: Fran Branwell

Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health

Site principal: Margaret Hellard Site coordinator: Oanh Nguyen

Monash Medical Centre

Site principal: Bill Sievert

Site coordinator: Sherryne Warner

Royal Melbourne Hospital

Site principal: Joe Sasadeusz

Site coordinators: Maxine Giourouki, Craig Scholten

St Vincent's Hospital

Site principal: Paul Desmond Site coordinator: Danielle Croall

The Alfred Hospital

Site principals: Margaret Hellard, Sharon Lewin,

Stuart Roberts

Site coordinators: Oanh Nguyen, Sally von Bibra,

Craig Scholten, Carolyn Day

Western Hospital

Site principal: Ian Kronborg Site coordinator: Marian Croft

Western Australia

Fremantle Hospital

Site principal: Lindsay Mollison

Site coordinators: Lynette Booth, Gim Andrews

Royal Perth Hospital

Site principal: Wendy Cheng Site coordinator: Saroj Nazareth

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

Site principal: Gary Jefferies Site coordinator: Joanne Young



Back row: Pip Marks, Jennifer Moore, Greg Dore, Anna Doab, Ineke Shaw

Front row: Candace Carter, Barbara Yeung, Natalie Espinosa

Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Highlights



Lisa Maher

As part of the ongoing evaluation of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC), major reports were submitted to Government on operation and service delivery and community attitudes. Work commenced on the first Australian study of prevalence and risk

factors for injecting-related injury and disease (IRID), based on a sample of almost 9,000 injecting drug users (IDUs) attending the MSIC. The year also saw the publication of the main incidence and risk factors paper from our prospective observational cohort of hepatitis C infection in IDUs.

Recruitment commenced in 2006 for a pilot study of a brief intervention (consisting of culturally tailored information about hepatitis C treatment and referral to a tertiary liver clinic) for Indo-Chinese IDUs, and interviews were conducted with cocaine and ice injectors as part of a national NHMRC-funded project examining the ethno-epidemiology of psychostimulant related harms.

In August 2006 the International Steering Committee of the Indigenous resilience project met face to face for the first time in Canada, and the Australian component of the research began with stakeholder consultations at participating sites.

An ethno-epidemiological study examining the impact of culture on vulnerability to blood-borne viral infections among ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users was completed during 2006.

Projects

Lisa Maher, Head of the Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program, has a supervisory role for all projects that fall within the Program, but is only named under the project summaries in this section for those projects that she takes specific responsibility for as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator.

Vulnerability to blood-borne viral infections among ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users

Ethnographic and epidemiological research designed to identify explanatory models of health and illness and risk/protective behaviours, and determine prevalence of antibody HIV and hepatitis C and associated risk factors in ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users in south western Sydney.

Status: Study completed.

Personnel: Hien Thi Ho (PhD student), Lisa Maher

Collaborator: Nick Crofts, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre

Funding: AusAID

Evaluation of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC)

Evaluation of the extension of the MSIC trial (Phase II, 2002-2007) involving primary and secondary data collection including service data, an observational cohort study of injecting drug users, and local resident and business surveys.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Allison Salmon, Lisa Maher, John Kaldor **Collaborators:** Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre; NSW Health Department; Hunter Valley Research Foundation

Funding: NSW Health Department

Prevention and management of hepatitis C infection among Indo-Chinese injecting drug users

Ethnographic research exploring Indo-Chinese injecting drug users' explanatory models of hepatitis C prevention and management, and their influence on help-seeking behaviour and service utilisation. The study also includes a trial of a brief intervention (consisting of culturally tailored information about hepatitis C treatment and referral to a tertiary liver clinic) to identify barriers and facilitators of treatment access and uptake in this group.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Heidi Coupland, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: Cambodian-Australian Welfare Council of NSW; Vietnamese Community in Australia; Lao Workers' Network; Open Family; NSW Users and AIDS Association; Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Services

Funding: NSW Health Department; NHMRC Post-Graduate Research Scholarship; UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Grant

Hepatitis C treatment for injecting drug users

Research examining how current injecting drug users perceive hepatitis C treatment and the impact of the Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League national hepatitis C treatment awareness campaign. The study will assess levels of hepatitis C knowledge, treatment and treatment outcomes, and perceived or real barriers to hepatitis C treatment among injecting drug users before and after the campaign.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Carolyn Day, Greg Dore, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: Australian Hepatitis Council; Australian Injecting

and Illicit Drug Users League

Ethno-epidemiology of psychostimulant-related harms in Australia

Multi-disciplinary research which aims to identify factors underlying the rising prevalence of psychostimulant use in Australia and their implications for public health. Conducted in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth, the study accesses a range of psychostimulants using both ethnographic and epidemiological research methods and techniques.

Status: Ethnographic fieldwork, including in-depth interviews, and epidemiological surveys were conducted in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth during 2006 and data analysis began.

Personnel: Suzie Hudson (PhD student), Lisa Maher

Collaborators: National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University;

Monash University; Australian National University

Funding: NHMRC

The role of resiliency in responding to blood-borne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Indigenous communities

A collaborative project between Australia, Canada and New Zealand to examine resilience to bloodborne viruses (BBVs) and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) in Indigenous communities. With a focus on adolescents and young adults in urban settings, the Australian component of the study identifies factors that protect against acquisition of BBV/STI and promote access to services for prevention and management, and provides capacity building opportunities for Indigenous researchers and community organisations.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Chris Lawrence, Garrett Prestage, Andrew Grulich,

Lisa Maher, John Kaldor

Collaborators: Aboriginal Medical Service Coop Ltd, Redfern; Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service; Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Service Ltd; Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada; Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network; University of Ottawa; Ngã Pae o te Mãramatanga, University of Auckland; Auckland University of Technology; University of Otago Medical School Funding: Tripartite Cooperation Agreement between Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR); National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC); Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC)

Prevalence and predictors of injecting-related injuries and disease among injecting drug users attending the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC)

Injecting-related injuries and disease (IRID) have been identified as contributing to morbidity and mortality associated with injecting drug use (IDU). This study examines prevalence and predictors of IRID among IDUs attending the Sydney MSIC.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Allison Salmon, Marianne Jauncey, Lisa Maher **Collaborators:** Ingrid van Beek, Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre; Robyn Dwyer, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre



Back row: Lisa Maher, Libby Topp, Allison Salmon Front row: Heidi Coupland, Jenny Iverson, Suzie Hudson

Injecting-related injuries and disease among injecting drug users in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales

People who inject drugs are vulnerable to a wide range of injecting-related injuries and diseases (IRID). This study will assess prevalence and risk factors of IRID among injecting drug users recruited in metropolitan and regional sites in each State, with NCHECR responsible for New South Wales.

Status: Data collection commenced in 2006.

Personnel: Libby Topp, Marianne Jauncey, Lisa Maher

Collaborators: Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health; Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and

Education Centre (QADREC); Queensland Health

Funding: Queensland Health

Biostatistics and Databases Program

Highlights

During 2006, the Biostatistics and Databases Program obtained a number of grants that will significantly expand research in clinical cohort studies. Through the Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR), US National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding from the International Epidemiologic Databases Evaluating AIDS (IeDEA) program was obtained to support the Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD) and the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD), until 2010. Again through amfAR, funding from the Dutch government was obtained to begin studies evaluating HIV resistance in the Asia-Pacific region, with patient recruitment into these studies to commence in 2007. To ensure the appropriate HIV resistance testing expertise, the TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme (TAQAS) was implemented during 2006. Finally, in collaboration with the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program, planning of the Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS) began, funded by the State and Territory Health Departments as a result of increased Federal funding for extended hepatitis C surveillance, with recruitment to commence in 2007.



Matthew Law

A continuing role of the Program is support for secure clinical trial databases. During 2006, transfer of Oracle software and expertise to the HIV-NAT clinical trials centre, specifically to support the HVDDT Vaccine (AE#1) study (see *Therapeutic and* Vaccine Research

Program), was undertaken. The process of migrating NCHECR's national HIV and AIDS surveillance databases to more secure Oracle databases was initiated. In the latter part of 2006, the Program also began to extend its expertise in web-based database systems, initially with the STEAL, ALTAIR and PIPET studies (see the *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program*). This venture into web-based systems was started in collaboration with the *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program*, and has far reaching implications for the way in which trials are organised, monitored and analysed at NCHECR. The investment in web-based database systems will also form a major part of the Program's database effort during 2007.

The Program undertook a number of mathematical modelling projects during 2006. The third Hepatitis C Virus Projections Working Group, coordinated through the Program, published its report in October.

Hepatitis C incidence was estimated to have declined in Australia from a peak of 14,000 cases in 2001 to under 10,000 cases in 2005. However, the number of people living with chronic hepatitis C was estimated to be continuing to increase, even with quite effective anti-viral treatment now more widely available. A transmission model of human papillomavirus (HPV) infection in Australia was used to assess the impact of vaccines on incidence and prevalence of the infection. The models suggested that vaccination of 12 year old girls was effective at reducing HPV prevalence, and catch-up vaccination of 13-20 year olds would see more rapid reductions in infection rates. Finally, the cost-effectiveness of NSW Health Department's HIV treatment and prevention programs was assessed. Mathematical models suggested that in excess of 40,000 HIV infections have been avoided in NSW through education and needle and syringe programs.

Projects

Matthew Law, Head of the Biostatistics and Program, has a supervisory role for all projects that fall within the Program, but is only named under the project summaries in this section for those projects that he takes specific responsibility for as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator.

The Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD)

Observational cohort study of patients with HIV. Demographic, clinical and treatment data are aggregated twice each year via electronic data transfer.

Status: 2,493 patients continued to be followed up during 2006. Personnel: Kathleen Glenday, Kathy Petoumenos, Matthew Law Collaborators: Network of clinical sites (GPs, hospitals and sexual health clinics) throughout Australia

The Data Collection on the Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs Study (DAD)

Large, international, collaborative study aimed at assessing the medium to long-term effects of antiviral treatment of people with HIV in terms of possible increased risk of cardiovascular events.

Status: The study combines data from 11 cohorts, including 23,468 patients. Australia contributes 706 patients from the Australian HIV Observational Database. Follow up continued through 2006.

Personnel: Kathleen Glenday, Kathy Petoumenos, Matthew Law **Collaborators:** Network of clinical sites (GPs, hospitals and sexual health clinics) throughout Australia; Copenhagen HIV Programme, Hvidovre University Hospital

Funding: European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA)

Data from the highly specialised drugs program

Summary data of patients receiving antiretroviral treatments funded through the Highly Specialised Drugs Program are received from the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, and published in annual and biannual surveillance reports.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Kathleen Glenday, Kathy Petoumenos

Collaborator: Highly Specialised Drugs Program, Special Access and Coordination Section, Pharmaceutical Access and Quality Branch, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing

TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD)

Observational cohort study of patients with HIV at eleven sites throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Demographic, clinical and treatment data are aggregated twice each year via electronic data transfer.

Status: At the data transfer in September 2006, baseline and retrospective data from some 3,346 patients were aggregated. It is expected that follow up will continue for up to a further four years.

Personnel: Jialun Zhou, Julian Elliott, Matthew Law, David Cooper **Collaborators:** Network of 16 clinical sites at countries through the Asia-Pacific region

Funding: The Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) via a US National Institutes of Health grant through the International Epidemiologic Databases Evaluating AIDS collaboration

TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme (TAQAS)

To ensure capacity in HIV resistance testing in the Asia-Pacific region, a quality assurance scheme was implemented. Twice a year, HIV-infected blood samples are distributed to laboratories around the region, with returned HIV resistance test results compared to a consensus result.

Status: Two sets of blood samples were circulated in March and October to up to eleven laboratories. A one-day workshop evaluated results in Bangkok in July.

Personnel: Jialun Zhou. Matthew Law

Collaborators: Network of 11 laboratories; National Reference

Laboratory, Melbourne; Stanford University

Funding: The Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)

TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance (TASER)

There are two studies: First, a surveillance study (TASER-S) examining rates of transmitted HIV-resistance in newly diagnosed HIV-infected subjects not previously treated with antiretroviral drugs. Second, a monitoring study (TASER-M) assessing rates of developing HIV-resistance in patients starting antiretroviral treatments.

Status: Protocols were developed and finalised in 2006, and ethics approval sought at UNSW.

Personnel: Rebecca Oyomopito, Jialun Zhou, Matthew Law

Collaborators: Network of up to 8 sites initially

Funding: The Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR) via a grant

from the government of the Netherlands

Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study (ACHOS)

In collaboration with the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program, ACHOS is a study of chronically infected hepatitis C patients, with observational follow-up for data on rates of treatment and outcomes following treatment.

Status: The protocol was developed in 2006, and site selection commenced. Recruitment is planned to begin in 2007, with follow-up for at least two years.

Personnel: Janaki Amin, Matthew Law, Greg Dore **Collaborators:** Network of up to 30 sites around Australia

Funding: State and Territory Health Departments

Biostatistics and database support

Writing clinical trial databases, and providing biostatistical input to the design and analysis of all NCHECR projects.

Status: During 2006, members of the Program actively contributed to, or analysed data from, the FLASH, STEAL, ALTAIR, PIPET and HVDDT Vaccine (AE#1) studies (see *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program*), PULSE (see *Annual Report 2005*), the ROSEY, MITOX and INITIO studies (see *Annual Reports 2002 and 2004*), as well as the Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program's ATAHC study and the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program's LASH and VMDC studies. Members of the Program also contributed to national surveillance activities.

Personnel: Noorul Absar, Janaki Amin, Rossitza Chevkenova, John Murray, Rebecca Oyomopito, Kathy Petoumenos, Handan Wand. Jialun Zhou

Collaborators: Other Programs at NCHECR

Funding: Project-specific grants

Causes of death among ex-prisoners in NSW

Mortality rates among ex-prisoners in NSW between 1988 and 2002 are assessed by linkage between the Offender Management System at the Department of Corrective Services, and the National Death Index at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Status: Analyses examining the association of hospitalisation in the prison psychiatric wing with mortality among prisoners were performed.

Personnel: Azar Kariminia (PhD student), Matthew Law

Collaborators: Corrections Health Service; Tony Butler, Centre for

Health Research in Criminal Justice

Funding: NHMRC

Mathematical modelling for improved planning of infectious disease control policy

This is an NHMRC Capacity Building Grant to develop capacity for mathematical modelling for improved planning of infectious disease control policy in Australia. A number of projects are envisaged over the five-year life of the grant. Initial projects at NCHECR are mathematical models of human papillomavirus and chlamydia transmission in Australia.

Status: Training meetings took place in March and December 2006.

Personnel: David Regan

Collaborators: National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases; National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health; Centre for International Health; School of Population Health, Melbourne University;

Victorian Infectious Diseases Service

Funding: NHMRC

Mathematical modelling of human papillomavirus transmission

This study involves the development of a mathematical model of human papilloma virus (HPV) transmission in Australia to assess the effect of various HPV vaccine schedules on HPV incidence and prevalence. These HPV incidence and prevalence estimates are then used as inputs into separate models of HPV disease natural history to assess the cost-effectiveness of HPV vaccine schedules on preventing cervical cancer.

Status: HPV incidence and prevalence under various vaccination scenarios were assessed during 2006.

Personnel: David Regan
Collaborator: CSL Limited

Mathematical modelling of chlamydia screening strategies

This study uses mathematical models of chlamydia transmission in Australia to assess the effectiveness of various screening strategies for reducing chlamydia prevalence.

Status: Preliminary models were developed in 2006.

Personnel: David Regan, David Wilson

Collaborator: School of Population Health, The University of

Melbourne Funding: NHMRC

Estimates and projections of the hepatitis C epidemic in Australia 2006

The Hepatitis C Virus Projections Working Group, including representatives of various research disciplines, government departments and the effected community, reformed to assess trends in the hepatitis C epidemic in Australia.

Status: Working group established, models developed and report drafted and published in 2006.

Personnel: Karina Razali, Matthew Law

Collaborator: Australian Government Department of Health

and Ageing

Funding: University of Malaya

NSW Impact Study

This study is to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of NSW Health HIV treatment and prevention strategies using mathematical models to estimate what HIV incidence would have been in NSW without treatment and prevention programs.

Status: Mathematical models were developed in 2006.

Personnel: Karina Razali, Matthew Law
Collaborator: Health Outcomes International

Funding: NSW Health Department; University of Malaya

Simplified CD4 and HIV viral load monitoring schemes in Thailand

Biostatistical analyses and mathematical models are used to develop and assess simplified CD4 and HIV viral load monitoring schemes in Thai patients with HIV receiving antiretroviral treatment. Analyses are based on the HIV-NAT clinical trial database (see *Clinical and epidemiological research in the Asia-Pacific region*) and the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD).

Status: Different strategies for monitoring CD4 counts and HIV viral load were evaluated in terms of the number of tests avoided, and the duration a patient would be living with a low CD4 or high viral load if not tested.

Personnel: Preeyaporn Srasuebkul (PhD student)
Collaborators: HIV-NAT; TAHOD investigators
Funding: The Foundation for AIDS Research (amfAR)

Analyses of the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Registry

Biostatistical and epidemiological advice and support is provided for the analysis and interpretation of Registry data.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Handan Wand

Collaborator: The Australia National Creutzfeldt-Jakob

Disease Registry



Back row: Kathy Petoumenos, Rossitza Chevkenova, Rebecca Oyomopito, Noorul Absar, Jialun Zhou, Handan Wand

Front row: David Wilson, David Regan, Matthew Law, Janaki Amin. Kathleen Glenday

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

Biostatistical and epidemiological advice and support regarding assessments of risk of transmission of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies through products derived from blood donations or foetal-calf serum is provided.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: David Regan

Collaborators: Australian Red Cross Blood Service; Therapeutic Goods Administration; Australian Government Department of

Health and Ageing

Diagnosis and treatment of paediatric HIV infection in a resource limited setting

In order to develop clinical guidelines for testing children for HIV serostatus at Port Moresby General Hospital, Papua New Guinea, factors associated with testing for HIV serostatus and factors associated with positivity amongst those tested are investigated using retrospective and prospective methods.

Status: Retrospective data collection commenced.

Personnel: Wari Allison (PhD student)

Collaborator: Department of Paediatrics, Port Moresby General

Hospital, Papua New Guinea

A clinical database of HIV-positive and exposed children attending the hospital outpatient department in a resource limited setting

Biostatistical and epidemiological advice and support is provided in the development and maintenance of the clinical database of HIV-positive and exposed children at Port Moresby General Hospital, Papua New Guinea.

Status: Data entry was brought up to date in 2006.

Personnel: Wari Allison (PhD student)

Collaborator: Department of Paediatrics, Port Moresby General

Hospital, Papua New Guinea

Australian HIV Observational Database (AHOD) network

New South Wales

407 Doctors

Site principal: David Baker Site coordinator: Robyn Vale

Bligh Street Clinic

Site principal: Miriam Gotowski

Site coordinators: Sharon Taylor, Lydia Stuart-Hill

Blue Mountains Sexual Health and HIV Clinic

Site principal: Eva Jackson

Holden Street Clinic

Site principal: Debbie Allen

Holdsworth House General Practice

Site principal: Mark Bloch

Site coordinators: Teo Franic, Shikha Agrawal

Illawarra Sexual Health

Site principal: Katherine Brown Site coordinator: Nina Skobalj

Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principals: David Cooper, Andrew Carr Site coordinators: Mark Lacey, Karl Hesse

Lismore Sexual Health and AIDS Services (SHAIDS)

Site principal: David Smith
Site coordinator: Cherie Mincham

Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Catherine O'Connor Site coordinator: Felicia Robinson

Macquarie Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Trish Bullen

Medical and Vein Centre

Site principal: David Ellis

Nepean Sexual Health and HIV Clinic

Site principal: Tong Liang

Sydney Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Basil Donavon Site coordinator: Ellie Freedman

Taylor Square Private Clinic

Site principal: Robert Finlayson Site coordinator: Isabel Prone

Northern Territory

Communicable Disease Centre, Royal Darwin Hospital

Site principal: Anuja Kulatunga Site coordinator: Peter Knibbs

Queensland

AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health

Site principal: Mark Kelly

Site coordinators: Paul Negus, Henry Magon

Blackall Terrace Specialist Centre

Site principal: David Sowden Site coordinator: Alan Walker

Gladstone Road Medical Centre

Site principal: David Orth
Site coordinator: David Youds

Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic

Site principal: John Chuah

Site coordinators: Denise Lester, Wendy Fankhauser,

Bridget Dickson

The Dolls House, Cairns Base Hospital Sexual Health Services

Site principal: Darren Russell

Site coordinators: Christine Remington

South Australia

Care and Prevention Programme, Adelaide University

Site principal: William Donohue

Victoria

Carlton Clinic

Site principal: Jonathan Anderson Site coordinator: Kaye Lowe

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Tim Read Site coordinator: Julie Silvers

Monash Medical Centre

Site principal: Ian Woolley

Prahran Market Clinic

Site principal: Norman Roth Site coordinator: Helen Wood

The Alfred Hospital

Site principals: Ann Mijch, Jennifer Hoy

Site coordinators: Melissa Bryant, Kerrie Watson

Western Australia

Department of Clinical Immunology, Royal Perth Hospital

Site principal: Simon Mallal

Site coordinators: Claire Forsdyke, Sachin Bulgannawar

Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Highlights

The Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program (IVPP) was formed in 2005, resulting from the amalgamation of the Laboratory Support and Primary HIV Infection (PHI) Research Programs. During 2006 increasing unification of the Laboratory Support and PHI Research Program took place with the establishment of the first seamless linking of some of the databases previously held separately by the two groupings. This enhanced the standardisation of common work practices and mechanisms of data analysis.



Anthony Kelleher

During 2006, the laboratory component of IVPP continued to act as the Australian coordinating laboratory for the natural history studies conducted through AIEDRP, as well as for the ESPRIT and SMART (see *Therapeutic Vaccine and Research Program*) studies, and

assisted in the successful conduct of the STEAL (see *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program*), AIN504 and SPARTAC studies. The laboratory's expertise was further recognised by an invitation to join the laboratory advisory committee for the newly created INSIGHT network. This trials processing section of the laboratory received a three year accreditation for this work from the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) during 2006. It also received a certificate of satisfactory performance in the Immunovirology Research Network PBMC quality assurance program.

In 2006 a trial examining the effect of therapeutic vaccination at primary infection, AIN504, was commenced. This trial was co-ordinated and funded through the AIEDRP collaboration. The PHI trial network was successfully extended to Brisbane.

Pathogenesis work relating to CD4 T-cell function in early HIV infection and in natural controllers of the disease expanded during 2006. New methodologies were established in the laboratory resulting in the lodging of one provisional patent, and the lodgement of another application for a full patent. Other novel methodologies have been established allowing the molecular characterisation of formalin-fixed cells which will aid our study of HIV-specific T-cell repertoires. This methodology will enhance existing collaborations with NCHECR's partners in the NHMRC Program Grant (groups led by Peter Doherty and Stephen Kent at the University of Melbourne, and

Ian Ramshaw at the Australian National University) on T-cell biology in support of HIV vaccine development. This work was also enhanced by a new collaboration with the Vaccine Research Centre (VRC) at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). David van Bockel was awarded a prestigious Adam J Berry Travelling Scholarship from the NIH which supported him to visit the VRC to validate his novel molecular techniques for characterising T-cell receptor repertoire against the gold standard assay employed at the VRC. Collaborative work with the Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology at the University of Sydney to develop a novel methodology for identify and isolate T regulatory cells resulted in a patent application and a prominent publication. A provisional patent related to a novel simplified methodology for identifying antigen specific cells, which may be applicable in resource-poor settings, was lodged. Research into the generation of T regulatory cells in primary viral infections resulted in a pair of papers published together in The Journal of Virology.

During 2006, with the aid of an NHMRC equipment grant, the laboratory installed a biologically contained 10 colour 12 parameter high speed cell sorter in the PC3 laboratory, allowing for sorting of lymphocyte sub-populations, and molecular and functional characterisation of these poorly understood sub-populations for the first time. This facility is a unique resource within New South Wales. These advances help to keep the laboratory-based research internationally competitive.

IVPP staff made several visits to the Vaccine and Immunovirology Laboratory at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok to assist with the development and validation of immunogenicity assays to be used in the conduct of the phase I prime-boost trial due to commence in 2007 (see *Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program*), sponsored by NCHECR.

An NHMRC project grant entitled "siRNA induced TGS of retroviruses: Elucidation of underlying mechanisms and their application in animal models" was awarded in 2006. This grant will allow further exploration and development of novel technology that may have significant therapeutic application in the future.

Projects

Anthony Kelleher, Head of the Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program, has a supervisory role for all projects that fall within the Program, but is only named under the project summaries in this section for those projects that he takes specific responsibility for as a named Principal Investigator or externally recognised leading investigator.

Clinical trials and cohort studies

The Australian Primary HIV Infection Database

An ongoing prospective cohort of patients with primary HIV infection.

Status: During 2006, 10 new cases of newly acquired HIV infection were entered into the primary HIV infection database. Information was routinely updated from laboratory and clinical data bases

Personnel: Tim Ramacciotti, Linda Gelgor, Pat Grey, Kathy Petoumenos, Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House General Practice; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Nick Medland, The Centre Clinic; Philip Cunningham, John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Concerted Action on Seroconversion to AIDS and Death in Europe Study (CASCADE)

The CASCADE collaboration is a long-term collaborative cohort study on vital status, laboratory markers, antiretroviral treatment changes and disease progression, one aim of which is to discern whether survival or rate of progression to AIDS is altered by earlier treatment.

Status: 576 Australian subjects contribute to this cohort, 453 of which were followed during 2006.

Personnel: Tim Ramacciotti, John Kaldor

Collaborator: Concerted Action on Seroconversion to AIDS and

Death in Europe

Funding: Medical Research Council

Acute Infection Early Disease Research Program (AIEDRP)

A five-year program for research into the treatment and pathogenesis of primary HIV infection.

Status: Collaboration continued with Massachusetts General Hospital under the leadership of Bruce Walker, working in both Sydney and Melbourne with primary care and hospital sites on recruitment, follow up and treatment of people with primary HIV infection.

Personnel: Pat Grey, Linda Gelgor, Tim Ramacciotti, Matthew Law, Ansari Shaik, Nabila Seddiki, John Kaldor, David Cooper

Collaborators: Partners AIDS Research Center (Massachusetts General Hospital), Harvard University; US National Institutes of Health; Don Smith, Albion Street Centre; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House General Practice; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Nick Medland, The Centre Clinic; Philip Cunningham, John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

CoreO1

The basic protocol of the AIEDRP network, by which acute and early patients are recruited and followed for five years, and within which interventional sub-studies may take place.

Status: 6 new participants were enrolled during 2006 before enrolment closed in May, making a cumulative total of 206.

Personnel: Tim Ramacciotti, Linda Gelgor, Pat Grey, Mee-Ling Munier, Ansari Shaik, Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: Don Smith, Albion Street Centre; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House General Practice; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Nicholas Medland, The Centre Clinic; Norman Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; Phillip Cunningham, John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Kate McGhie, HIV Immunology Laboratory, Garvan Institute of Medical Research; Partners AIDS Research Center (Massachusetts General Hospital), Harvard University

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Primary HIV and early disease research – Australian cohort (PHAEDRA)

A systematic mechanism to recruit and follow up a cohort of people in Sydney and Melbourne with acute and early HIV-1 infection.

Status: 1 new participant was enrolled during 2006 before enrolment closed at the end of June, making a cumulative total of 125.

Personnel: Pat Grey, Tim Ramacciotti, Mee-Ling Munier, Jennifer Hoy, John Murray, Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private
Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House General Practice;
Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Robert McFarlane,
407 Doctors; Nicholas Medland, The Centre Clinic; Norman
Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; Phillip Cunningham, John
Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Kate McGhie, HIV
Immunology Laboratory, Garvan Institute of Medical Research;
Partners AIDS Research Center (Massachusetts General
Hospital), Harvard University; The Alfred Hospital; Tim Read,
Melbourne Sexual Health; Sydney Sexual Health

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Primary HIV infection therapeutic vaccine trial (AIN504)

A randomised phase II study of therapeutic immunisation and treatment interruption among subjects who began potent antiretroviral therapy within 16 days of diagnosis of acute or recent HIV infection.

Status: 16 patients were screened for this study in 2006, and 7 were randomised. Enrolment was closed by the US National Institutes of Health in December 2006.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Pat Grey, Ansari Shaik, Linda Gelgor **Collaborators:** US National Institutes of Health; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House Private Practice; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Cassy Workman,

AIDS Research Initiative; Philip Cunningham, Kate Merlin, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: US National Institutes of Health

Randomised trial in primary HIV infection looking at three forms of intervention (SPARTAC)

Short pulse antiretroviral treatment at seroconversion

This trial looks at the effect on CD4 T-cells of three interventions at primary HIV infection, either treating with antiretroviral therapy for 12 or 48 weeks or not treating at all until CD4 declines to <350 cells.

Status: 15 patients were randomised to this study in 2006, making a total of 25.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Pat Grey, Ansari Shaik

Collaborators: Medical Research Council (UK); Jonathon Weber, Sarah Fidler, Imperial College; Robert Finlayson, Taylor Square Private Clinic; Mark Bloch, Holdsworth House Private Practice; Robert McFarlane, 407 Doctors; Cassy Workman, AIDS Research Initiative; Mark Kelly, AIDS Medical Unit; David Orth, Gladstone Road Medical Centre; Norman Roth, Prahran Market Clinic; Nick Medland, The Centre Clinic; Jonathan Anderson, Carlton Clinic; Philip Cunningham, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: Wellcome Trust

Laboratory service and support

Specimen receipt and processing for clinical trials and natural history studies

The laboratory provides a service to other NCHECR Programs encompassing the separation of blood components; cryopreservation of serum, plasma and PMBC; and archiving and onshipping of samples. This allows for the smooth running of clinical trials and natural history studies.

Status: Ongoing

Personnel: Ciara McGinley, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student)
Collaborators: Kate Merlin, Julie Yeung, Michelle Bailey,
Maria Piperias, Bertha Fasdni, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: Project-specific grants

Immuno-phenotyping of T-cell subsets

Many NCHECR clinical trial and natural history protocols involve immunological substudies. The laboratory supports these substudies as a semi-routine service.

Status: Routine use of 6-10 colour multiparameter flow cytometry. **Personnel:** Nabila Seddiki, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), Susanna Ip, David van Bockel (PhD student), Michelle Bailey

Collaborator: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: Project-specific grants

Assays of T-cell function, proliferation, cytotoxicity and identification of antigen- specific T-cells, and assays of dendritic cell number and function

A range of assays for assessing CD4+ and CD8+ T-cell function are worked up in the laboratory. These include measures of T-cell proliferation, activation, cytokine secretion, identification of antigen-specific T-cells and enumeration of dendritic cell subpopulations and the cytokines they produce. Such assays are included in the protocols of clinical trials and natural history studies carried out by NCHECR.

Status: Further T-cell and dendritic cell assays were performed on samples from PULSE (see *Annual Report 2005*), CORE01, PHAEDRA and the Long-term nonprogressor cohorts.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), Susanna Ip, David van Bockel (PhD student), Kellie Nallaiah **Collaborators:** John Zaunders, Chloe Brereton, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Fundina: Proiect-specific grants

HIV drug resistance

This project involves the development of expertise in the application of a number of methods of detecting antiretroviral drug resistance through genotypic testing of HIV isolates.

Status: Over 200 HIV-1 resistance genotypes were performed. **Collaborators:** Philip Cunningham, Kazuo Suzuki, Leakhena Leas, Leon McNally, Lisa Martin, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: NSW Health Department

Transmission of resistance in primary HIV infection

This study defines prevalence of resistance mutations in the Sydney population at primary infection, giving insight into the effect of widespread antiretroviral therapy on the prevalence of transmitted resistant virus in the Australian population.

Status: Subtype determination was performed on all sequences. >25 genotypes were performed on acute seroconverters.

Collaborators: Philip Cunningham, Kazuo Suzuki, Leakhena Leas, Lisa Martin, Leon McNally, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Damian Purcell, Robert Centre, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne

Funding: US National Institutes of Health; NSW Health Department; NHMRC

Laboratory surveillance of incident HIV infection

Laboratory markers are used to determine incident from established HIV infection to monitor the trends in newly acquired infections, forming an important sentinel surveillance tool. The application of the 'detuned' ELISA, and analysis of other routine laboratory markers used in the diagnosis of HIV infection, is used in monitoring new infections.

Status: All newly identified cases of HIV infection at the NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV at St Vincent's Hospital were analysed on detuned assays, and comparisons were made between this assay and a BED assay on a large subset of these.

Collaborators: Philip Cunningham, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Sara Evans, Lisa Martin, Joanna Sherring, NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: NSW Health Department

Pathogenesis research

Evolution of immune responses in primary infection and long-term nonprogressors

This study furthers mechanisms of viral escape from cytotoxic T-lymphocyte responses, and particularly the events leading up to escape from the HLA-B27 mediated T-cell response at the level of T-cell receptor usage. It employs samples and data gathered during the follow-up of the Long-term nonprogressor (LTNP) cohort (see *HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program*), and samples collected from the PHAEDRA cohort.

Status: TCR repertoire defined on a range of HLA-B27+ LTNP. **Personnel:** Anthony Kelleher, David van Bockel (PhD student), Nabila Seddiki, John Murray, Linda Gelgor

Collaborators: Peter Doherty, Stephen Turner, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne; Daniel Douek, David Price, Vaccine Research Centre, US National Institutes of Health; Miles Davenport, Centre for Vascular Research. UNSW

Funding: US National Institutes of Health; NHMRC

iRNA inducing viral latency

This project is established to determine the optimal design of dsRNAs for the induction of transcriptional gene silencing (TGS) of viral genes in HIV-1 infected cells; and to define the pathways by which dsRNAs targeting the promoter regions of HIV-1 induce TGS.

Status: Constructs applicable for use in SIV-infection were developed. Epigenetic changes induced by dsRNAs targeting HIV-LTR were explored.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Heidi Lim (PhD student)
Collaborator: Kazuo Suzuki, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Characterisation of CD4+ CCR5+ T-cells in primary HIV and other primary viral infections

This project involves investigations of the role CD4+ CCR5+ T-cells in the outcome of disease in the long-term nonprogessor (see *HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program*) and the PHAEDRA/ CORE01 cohorts.

Status: Preferential infection of virus-specific CD4+ CCR5+ T-cells identified at primary infection.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), Susanna Ip

Collaborators: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Daniel Kaufmann, Partners AIDS Research Center (Massachusetts General Hospital), Harvard University

Funding: US National Institutes of Health; NHMRC

IL-7 receptor modulation

The impact of IL-7 and the expression of its receptor on T-cell subsets, T-cell homeostasis, CD4 T-cell recovery post HAART and developing lymphoma are being explored using both *in vitro* and *ex vivo* techniques. These studies have been extended to include the cell biology of the IL-7 receptor modulation.

Status: Studies of IL-7 receptor on malignant B cells in lymphomas and leukemias continued. The cellular processing of IL-7 receptor after binding its ligand was explored using molecular techniques.

Personnel: Anthony Kelleher, Sarah Sasson (PhD student)
Collaborators: John Zaunders, Sandy Smith, Sam Milliken, John
Moore, Keith Stanley, Natasha Foster, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney
Funding: US National Institutes of Health; NHMRC

Definition of T regulatory subsets

Studies carried out to define a novel and more rigorous way of defining human T regulatory cells.

Status: Assay development was completed, and was used for the sorting of functional subsets for *in vitro* suppression assays and epigenetic studies of the granzyme B gene. A patent was awarded based on this assay, and negotiations with biotech companies re licensing of the technology continued. The use of the assay was extended to non-human primates.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Anthony Kelleher, Sarah Sasson (PhD student), Susanna Ip

Collaborators: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Barbara Fasekas, Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell Biology, The University of Sydney; Alan Landay, Rush Medical School; Stephen Kent, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne; Sudha Rao, Australian National University

Funding: NHMRC

Novel assays for assessing T-cell function

Assays designed to amplify small "primed" responses, and also simplified methodologies that may be applicable in the field in developing countries where large scale vaccine trials are likely to be run.

Status: Priming assays were conducted on the prime boost vaccine recipients as well as on vaccinated macaques. A provisional patent was lodged for a methodology for a simplified T-cell assay.

Personnel: Mee-Ling Munier (PhD student), Susanna Ip, Michelle Bailey, Anthony Kelleher

Collaborators: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Stephen Kent, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne

Funding: NHMRC

B cell subsets, neutralising antibodies and autoantibodies at primary HIV-1 Infection

Studies of overlap between neutralising antibodies and auto-antibodies at primary infection and the subsets of B cells producing these responses.

Status: Characterisation of the B cell subsets responding HIV-1 during primary infection, their impact on the production of neutralising antibodies and their overlap with auto-antibodies commenced in 2006.

Personnel: Chris Weatherall (PhD student), Anthony Kelleher Collaborators: John Zaunders, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney; Damian Purcell, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, The University of Melbourne; Stuart Tangye, Immunology and Inflammation Program, Garvan Institute of Medical Research Funding: NHMRC

Immunopathogenesis of immune reconstitution disease

Studies of the immunopathogenesis of immune reconstitution disease (IRD) based on the samples studied *ex vivo* from patients suffering this disease.

Status: A study exploring the causes of this dysregulation commenced in 2006.

Personnel: Nabila Seddiki, Anthony Kelleher, Kellie Nallaiah, David van Bockel (PhD student), Sarah Pett

Collaborator: Debbie Marriott, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: NHMRC



Back row: Ansari Shaik, Philip Cunningham (Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney), Chris Weatherall, Heidi Lim

Middle row: Anthony Kelleher, Nabila Seddiki, Pat Grey, Mee Ling Munier

Front, from centre: Deborah Taylor, Linda Gelgor, David van Bockel

Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program clinical trials network

Each site listed below has recruited or followed at least one subject in a research protocol investigating primary HIV infection during 2006.

New South Wales

407 Doctors

Site principal: David Baker Site coordinator: Robyn Vale

AIDS Research Initiative

Site principal: Cassy Workman Site coordinator: Vanessa Rees

Burwood Road General Practice

Site principal: Nicholas Doong Site coordinator: Jeff Hudson

Holdsworth House General Practice

Site principal: Mark Bloch Site coordinator: Shikha Agrawal

Immunology B Ambulatory Care Clinic, St Vincent's Hospital

Site principal: David Cooper Site coordinator: Richard Norris

Sydney Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Anna McNulty Site coordinator: Bronwhyn Bourke

Taylor Square Private Clinic

Site principal: Robert Finlayson Site coordinator: Isobel Prone

Victoria

Carlton Clinic

Site principal: Jonathan Anderson Site coordinator: Kaye Lowe

Clinical Research Section, Infectious Diseases Unit, The Alfred Hospital

Site principal: Jennifer Hoy Site coordinator: Janine Roney

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

Site principal: Tim Read Site coordinator: Julie Silvers

Prahran Market Clinic

Site principal: Norman Roth Site coordinator: Helen Wood

The Centre Clinic

Site principal: Nicholas Medland Site coordinator: Helen Wood

Queensland

AIDS Medical Unit

Site principal: Mark Kelly Site coordinator: Paul Negus

Gladstone Road Medical Centre

Site principal: David Orth Site coordinator: David Youds

Clinical and epidemiological research in the Asia-Pacific region

This section reports on the activities of NCHECR staff based overseas. See listings below for projects of the Asia-Pacific region described in other sections of the report.

Thailand



Chris Duncombe

The HIV Netherlands, Australia, Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT) celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2006. The clinical trial unit enrolled its first patient in 1996 and had more than 2,000 subjects, including 250 children, participating in 32 clinical trials at the end of 2006.

HIV-NAT is a partnership between NCHECR, the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre in Bangkok and the International Antiviral Therapy Evaluation Centre in Amsterdam.

The clinical research program at HIV-NAT in 2006 focussed on new drug development, therapeutic strategies, pharmacokinetic and generic bioequivalence studies, observational cohort data collection, HIV co-infection (with tuberculosis and viral hepatitis) and HIV vaccine development. Nineteen papers were published by HIV-NAT in 2006.



Stephen Kerr

There are 14 sites in the HIV-NAT clinical trials network; six in Bangkok, seven in regional Thailand and two in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. This report lists the projects in which NCHECR personnel play a substantive role.

Chris Duncombe and Stephen Kerr are

responsible for NCHECR's contribution to all studies listed below. The local study coordinator is also named within each project.

HIV-NAT 006

A long-term follow-up study of safety and efficacy of antiretroviral therapy for patients who have previously participated in HIV-NAT study protocols.

Status: Recruitment opened June 2003, and is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT Enrolled: 750

HIV-NAT study coordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe, Stephen Kerr

Funding: HIV-NAT; Thai Ministry of Public Health; Merck & Co Inc;

Roche Thailand Limited

HIV-NAT 011

A single arm study to assess the use of pharmacokinetically guided indinavir dose reductions in patients with chronic renal impairment from indinavir use.

Status: Study completed August 2006.

Site: HIV-NAT Enrolled: 28

HIV-NAT study coordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe

Collaborator: Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Funding: HIV-NAT

HIV-NAT 023

Virological and clinical anti-hepatitis B efficacy of tenofovir and emtricitabine in antiretroviral naïive patients with HIV/hepatitis B co-infection.

Status: Recruitment opened December 2004, and is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT Enrolled/target: 24/24

HIV-NAT study coordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe

Funding: Gilead Sciences; Thai Ministry of Public Health

HIV-NAT 027

Efficacy and safety of a saquinavir-based regimen in HIV-1 infected Thai patients who have chronic IDV associated nephrotoxicity.

Status: Recruitment opened June 2005, and the study is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT Enrolled/target: 30/30

HIV-NAT study coordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe

Funding: Roche Laboratories Inc; Thai Ministry of Public Health

HIV-NAT 032

Generation of hepatitis B-specific T-cell immunity in individuals with HIV/hepatitis B co-infection receiving hepatitis B-active antiretroviral therapy.

Status: Recruitment opened May 2005, and the study is ongoing.

Site: HIV-NAT Enrolled/target: 36/36

HIV-NAT study coordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe

Funding: Thai Ministry of Public Health

PREDICT

Antiretroviral (ARV)-naïve, HIV-infected children between one and twelve years of age with mild or moderate disease severity (CDC clinical category class A or B), and with moderate immune suppression (CD4 lymphocyte percentage between 15% and 24%), are included in this study. They are randomised to one of two arms: Immediate ARV therapy (ARV initiated on Day 0 of study), or deferred ARV therapy (ARV initiated when CD4% is less than 15%).

Status: Recruitment opened March 2006, and is expected to be complete at the end of 2007.

Sites: 8 (6 Thailand, 2 Cambodia)

Enrolled/target: 84/300

HIV-NAT study coordinator: Thanyawee Puthanakit

Personnel: Chris Duncombe, Robert Oelrichs, Stephen Kerr Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs; National Institute for Public Health; Thai Red Cross;

National Pediatric Hospital

Funding: US National Institutes of Health via a grant to the Thai Red Cross; GlaxoSmithKline; Abbott; F Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd

HIV-NAT 044

A pilot study of the pharmacokinetics, and safety of ritonavir-boosted indinavir 600/100mg bid combined with nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors in antiretroviral-naïve HIV/tuberculosis co-infected patients receiving rifampicin containing anti-tuberculosis therapy.

Status: Protocol submitted to the Chulalongkhorn Institutional Review Board.

Site: HIV-NAT Target: 20

HIV-NAT study coordinator: Anchalee Avihingsanon

Personnel: Chris Duncombe

Funding: HIV-NAT; Merck Sharp & Dohme; Ministry of Public Health



HIV-NAT data team

The following projects are described in other sections of the report:

SMART (see page 11)

ALTAIR (see page 11)

STALWART (see page 12)

ESPRIT (see pages 12, 13)

HVDDT Vaccine (AE#1) (see page 13)

Assessment of HIV incidence and HIV risk behaviours among clients seeking HIV testing at the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre Anonymous Clinic, Bangkok, Thailand (see page 18)

HIV incidence and risk factors among people attending HIV voluntary counselling and testing services in Bangkok, Thailand (see page 19)

Willingness to participate in prevention research survey (see page 19)

Community participatory activities in preparation for HIV prevention trials in women in Thailand (see page 19)

Clinical development program to evaluate the safety and acceptability of the candidate vaginal microbicide SPL7013 (VMDC) (see page 19)

Clinical studies to evaluate the pharmacokinetics and safety of oral tenofovir and tenofovir/emtricitabine among HIV-negative Thai women (see page 19)

Tenofovir in HIV/hepatitis B co-infection (TICO) (see page 23)

Simplified CD4 and HIV viral load monitoring schemes in Thailand (see page 30)

Cambodia

NCHECR continued to support expansion of access to HIV treatment through an ongoing partnership with the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs (NCHADS) and the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) of the Cambodian Ministry of Health. The main purpose of the program is to support the NCHADS Social Health Clinic (SHC) in Phnom Penh, as a site for HIV care, training and research.

Access to treatment and care for Cambodians living with HIV/AIDS continued to expand during 2006. At the end of September 2006, there were 38 antiretroviral (ARV) treatment sites, including 29 sites in 15 provinces outside Phnom Penh, and 18,256 people were receiving ARV therapy at these sites.

In addition to direct support for the SHC, NCHECR contributed to the national program in a technical capacity, including support for the development and delivery of national training programs, provision for clinical training placements at the SHC, and support for SHC staff to mentor new provincial HIV clinics. NCHECR staff in Cambodia also participated in national HIV and STI working groups, provided assistance with the design of a national program of continuing education for HIV treatment and care, and advised on the revision of the Cambodian National Antiretroviral Therapy Guidelines for Adults and the development of National Viral Load Testing Guidelines. Through the collaboration, NCHECR continued to provide funding of personnel in the NCHADS AIDS Care Unit, Logistics Unit and administration.

In September, the new purpose-built SHC premises at NIPH were officially opened, and the First Phnom Penh Symposium on HIV Medicine, supported by the collaboration, was conducted. The SHC currently has a staff of 24, including six doctors, five nurses, a six-member counselling and peer support team, three pharmacists, and a six-member research and data management team.

Clinical research at the SHC included the generation and analysis of observational patient data, and contribution to the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. Patients continued to be enrolled in a prospective clinical cohort including sub studies in ARV adherence and immune restoration disease. In 2006 the SHC commenced enrolment of patients into the PREDICT study, and participated in a study of the prevalence of HIV-related neurological disease in the Asia-Pacific region.

NCHECR staff continued to provide technical assistance to the National Laboratory of Public Health, within NIPH, in the development and maintenance of quality managed laboratory diagnostics to support diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS. A laboratory workshop was held at the First Phnom Penh Symposium on HIV medicine, with assistance provided by an NCHECR laboratory advisor.

Cambodia Treatment Access Program (CTAP)

Increasing access to antiretroviral treatment in Cambodia through the establishment of treatment clinics and technical assistance to the national HIV treatment program.

Status: During 2006, 711 people living with HIV/AIDS enrolled at the Social Health Clinic, making a total of 1,455, and 430 had commenced on antiretroviral therapy, making a total of 744.

NCHADS site coordinator: Saphon Vonthanak

Personnel: Sarah Huffam, Julian Elliott, Robert Oelrichs, Mary Poynten, Iona Millwood, John Kaldor, David Cooper

Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs; National Institute for Public Health; Phillip Cunningham, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Funding: F Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd



Staff and friends at the opening of the new premises of the Social Health Clinic in Phnom Pehn, Cambodia

HIV treatment beliefs and practices and adherence to antiretroviral therapy in Cambodia

A qualitative study of HIV treatment beliefs and practices, including traditional and 'western' therapies, and adherence to antiretroviral therapy.

Status: Study completed.

NCHADS study coordinator: Phlong Pisith

Personnel: Julian Elliott, John Kaldor, Lisa Maher

Collaborator: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs

Funding: AusAID

Measurement and factors associated with adherence to antiretroviral therapy

A prospective cohort study comparing measures of and examining factors associated with adherence to antiretroviral therapy.

Status: Fully recruited, and the study is ongoing.

Enrolled/target: 400/400

NCHADS study coordinator: Khol Vohith

Personnel: Julian Elliott, Robert Oelrichs, Sarah Huffam,

Jialun Zhou, John Kaldor, David Cooper

Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and

STDs; National Institute of Public Health

Funding: AusAID

Immune restoration disease during early antiretroviral therapy

A prospective cohort study investigating incidence, characteristics and diagnosis of immune restoration disease.

Status: Recruitment opened December 2005, and is ongoing.

Enrolled/target: 300/360

NCHADS study coordinator: Khol Vohith

Personnel: Julian Elliott, Robert Oelrichs, Sarah Huffam,

Jialun Zhou, John Kaldor, David Cooper

Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs; National Institute of Public Health; The University of Western Australia

Funding: AusAID

Characteristics of first antiretroviral regimen failure

A prospective cohort study investigating incidence, characteristics and diagnosis of first antiretroviral regimen failure.

Status: Recruitment opened June 2005, and is ongoing.

Enrolled/target: 600/NA

NCHADS study coordinator: Khol Vohith

Personnel: Julian Elliott, Robert Oelrichs, Sarah Huffam,

Jialun Zhou, John Kaldor, David Cooper

Collaborators: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and

STDs; National Institute of Public Health

Funding: AusAID

A study of the prevalence of HIV-related neurological disease in the Asia-Pacific region

A multi site study to describe the prevalence of HIVrelated neurocognitive impairment and AIDS dementia complex, peripheral sensory neuropathy and central nervous system opportunistic infections and tumours.

Status: A two-week survey of patients at the National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs (NCHADS) Social Health Clinic in Phnom Penh was undertaken in March 2006.

NCHADS study coordinator: Chel Sarim Personnel: Sarah Huffam, Julian Elliott

Collaborators: Asia Pacific Neuro AIDS Consortium; Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs

Funding: US National Institutes of Health via a grant to the Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health

The following projects are described in other sections of the report:

Young women's health study (see page 19)

Normal range study (see page 20)

HIV incidence and risk factors among people attending HIV voluntary counselling and testing services in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (see page 20)

TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (see page 29)

PREDICT (see page 40)

Indonesia

The following project is described under the Surveillance Program:

Monitoring and surveillance of HIV voluntary counselling and testing sites in Indonesia (see page 9)

Papua New Guinea

The following projects are described in other sections of the report:

Development of HIV surveillance plan for Papua New Guinea (see page 9)

Diagnosis and treatment of paediatric HIV infection in a resource limited setting (see page 31)

A clinical database of HIV-positive and exposed children attending the hospital outpatient department in a resource limited setting (see page 31)

Regional

The following projects are described under the **Biostatistics and Databases Program:**

TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (TAHOD) (see page 29)

TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme (TAQAS) (see page 29)

TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance (TASER) (see page 29)

Teaching and training highlights

NCHECR is involved in a wide range of teaching and training activities (see page 75). During 2006, eight doctoral students and one Masters student whose research had been supervised or co-supervised by NCHECR staff were awarded their degrees. NCHECR staff also supervised another 39 postgraduate students, including 35 doctoral candidates.

Academic staff at NCHECR continued to be responsible for two courses offered as part of the Master of Public Health degree at the University of New South Wales.

NCHECR also contributed lectures to a variety of other postgraduate courses during the year.

The Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program again organised the NCHECR Clinical Trial Network Research Coordinators Satellite Meeting which was held in Melbourne, and was attended by 56 general site coordinators from around Australia and New Zealand. A variety of topics included an update on the current research areas of NCHECR. This annual training day continues to be evaluated extremely well.

The Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program (VHCRP) continued its involvement in training programs for hepatitis C nurse coordinators. The 2006 coordinator workshop's focus was the CHARIOT Study, but other VHCRP studies including ATAHC were included. Evaluation was extremely positive, and it is hoped that further annual events will continue to strengthen the relationship between VHCRP and the clinical hepatitis/liver clinic network around Australia.

NCHECR contributes extensively to the training symposia in HIV that have been organised on an annual basis in Bangkok, Thailand since 1998, and during 2006 for the first time in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

In Cambodia, NCHECR staff are also involved on a regular basis in national programs for training health care workers in HIV medicine and related areas.

Service highlights

NCHECR staff continued to participate in a range of advisory bodies, working groups and committees relevant to HIV, hepatitis C and related areas (see page 70). These activities operate at a range of levels from local to international and ensure that NCHECR's researchers stay closely in touch with the programmatic and policy applications of their work.

During 2006, preparations continued for the 4th International AIDS Society Conference on Pathogenesis and Treatment of HIV infection to be hosted by the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine in Sydney in 2007, with David Cooper as Local Conference Chair, John Kaldor as one of the two Deputy Chairs and Anthony Kelleher as a member of the Scientific Program Committee.

Also of note were David Cooper's continuing role in chairing the WHO/UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Advisory Committee; Anthony Kelleher's participation in the WHO/UNAIDS/IAVI Regional Consultation Workshop in Japan on HIV vaccine development in Asia; Andrew Grulich's membership of the 10th International Conference on Malignancies in AIDS and Other Acquired Immunodeficiencies: Basic, Epidemiologic and Clinical Research Organising Committee and his continuing role in chairing the NSW HIV Health Promotion Committee; and John Kaldor's role in facilitating the development of HIV surveillance in Papua New Guinea for WHO.

NCHECR staff continued to contribute to the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH) through Andrew Grulich's membership of the HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections Subcommittee, Greg Dore's membership of the Hepatitis C Subcommittee and John Kaldor's membership of the Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Committee.



Research grants

Cooper DA, Emery S. A randomised open-label study comparing the safety and efficacy of three different combination antiretroviral regimens as initial therapy for HIV infection (the Altair study). Gilead Sciences, USA 2006-2009, US\$6,669,638.

Cooper DA, Emery S. International Network for Strategic Initiatives in Global HIV Trials (INSIGHT). National Institutes of Health, USA 2006-2011, US\$2,979,867.



John Kaldor receiving the Royal Government of Cambodia's Sahametrey Medal from Dr Mam Bun Heng, Secretary of State for Health

Cooper DA, Frost K, Law MG. Asia Pacific Observational Database. National Institutes of Health, USA 2006-2011, US\$3,500,000 (NCHECR share US \$750,000).

Cooper DA. A case-control toxicogenomics study to identify unique genetic polymorphisms in patients who have experienced symptomatic hepatotoxicity or severe cutaneous toxicity within the first 8 weeks of nevirapine therapy. Boehringer-Ingelheim Pty Ltd 2006-2008, A\$8,760.

Cooper DA. ARTEMIS Study: A randomised controlled open-label trial to compare the efficacy, safety and tolerability of TMC114/Ritonavir vs Lopinavir/ritonavir in treatment-naïve HIV-1 infected patients. Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd via Quintiles Pty Ltd 2006-2010, A\$57,909.

Cooper DA. Clinical trial - A phase III randomised, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial to investigate the efficacy, tolerability and safety of TMC125 as part of an ART including TMC114/RTV and an investigator-selected OBR in HIV-1 infected subjects with limited to no treatment options. Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd via PPD Australia Pty Ltd 2006-2010, A\$36,652.

Eades S, Bailey S, Banks E, Butow P, Cass A, D'Este C, Jan S, Kaldor JM, Kippax S, Leask J, McIntyre P, Nutbeam D, Redman S, Sanson-Fisher R, Thompson S. Making a difference: building research capacity for health interventions to improve Aboriginal health. NHMRC Capacity Building Grant 2007-2012, A\$2,317,125.

French M, Price P, Kelleher AD. Design of Laboratory Program, Trial Grant. Medical Research Council, UK 2006-2009, US\$100,000.

Hales J, Law MG. NSW Impact Study. NSW Health Department 2006, A\$150,000 (NCHECR share A\$40,000).

Kaldor JM (Burger D, Carr A, Eisman J, Kelleher A, Law M, Millwood I, Page-Shafer K, Phanuphak N, Phanupak P co-investigators). Safety and pharmacokinetics of oral tenofovir and emtricitabine in HIV-negative Thai women. National Institutes of Health, USA 2006-2007, US\$160,213.

Kelleher AD, Suzuki K, Rao S. siRNA induced TGS of retroviruses: Elucidation of underlying mechanisms and their application in animal models. NHMRC Project Grant 2007-2010, A\$356,875.

Kelleher AD. Cryopreservation and archiving and shipping of cells for Phase IIB proof of concept trial. Merck Sharp & Dohme Australia 2006-2011, A\$75,000.

Law MG, Dore GJ. Australian Chronic Hepatitis C Observational Study. NSW Health Department 2006-2010, A\$600,000.

Law MG, Regan D. Modelling HPV transmission. CSL Limited 2006, A\$50,000.

Law MG. TREAT Asia Quality Assurance Scheme. Foundation for AIDS Research, USA 2006-2011, US\$600,000.

Law MG. TREAT Asia Studies Evaluating Resistance. Foundations for AIDS Research, USA 2006-2011, US\$500,000.

Maher L. Injecting related injuries and diseases. Queensland Department of Health 2006-2007, A\$120,000 (NCHECR share A\$22,000).

Prestage GP, Grulich AE, Jin FY. Behaviour and other factors associated with HIV seroconversion in homosexual men. Queensland Health 2006-2008, A\$82,000.

Tabrizi SN, Fairley CK, Donovan B, Grulich AE. Surveillance of the LGV *Chlamydia trachomatis* types among men who have sex with men. NHMRC Project Grant 2007-2009, A\$186,875.

Wilson K, Dore GJ. Detailed investigation of the humoral immune response to hepatitis C to identify diagnostic and prognostic serological markers. NHMRC Project Grant 2007-2010, A\$372,375.

Fellowships

Dore GJ. NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship Grant 2007–2012, A\$396,025.

Jin J. Faculty of Medicine, UNSW Dean's Fellowship Grant 2007-2008, A\$120,000.

Kelleher AD. NHMRC Practitioner Fellowship Grant 2007-2012, A\$339,450.

Training grants

Elliott JH. NHMRC Public Health Postgraduate Scholarship 2007-2008, A\$47,133.

Swaminathan S (placement at NCHECR to commence in 2007). NHMRC Medical Postgraduate Research Scholarship 2007-2009, A\$94,226.

Other

Cooper DA. Royal Government of Cambodia, Sahametrey Medal.

Kaldor JM. Royal Government of Cambodia, Sahametrey Medal.

Elliott J. Royal Government of Cambodia, Health Award.

Lim H. 3rd Ausralian Health and Medical Research Congress, Kumar Award for best oral presentation by a student.

Maher L. National Institute on Drug Abuse International Program, National Institutes of Health, USA Travel Grant, US\$1,200.

Sasson S. 13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections Travel Grant, US\$750.

van Bockel D. 13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections Travel Grant, US\$750.

van Bockel D. Adam J Berry Award via the National Institutes of Health, USA, Travel Grant, US\$3,000.



The Royal Government of Cambodia's Health Award ceremony for Julian Elliot (left), with Dr Mam Bun Heng, Secretary of State for Health (centre), and Dr Mean Chhi Vun, Deputy Director General of Health (right)



This list includes both full time and part time staff. Activities listed in this report under *External boards, committees and advisory groups; Education and training; Publications* and *Presentations at conferences and meetings* relate only to individuals whose primary employment is with NCHECR.

Director's office

Director and Scientia Professor of Medicine

David Cooper AO, BSc(Med), MB BS, MD, DSc, FRACP, FRCPA, FRCP

Executive Assistant

Janette Button

Deputy Director's office

Deputy Director and Professor of EpidemiologyJohn Kaldor PhD

Epidemiology and Prevention Grouping Coordinator*Jennifer Kemp

Administrative Assistants*

Kate Chivers

Rachel Deacon BSc(Hons) (part time) (from September) Amanda Scott BManagement

Julia Warning BSc(Hons) (part time) (to June)



Rachel Deacon, Amanda Scott

Surveillance Program

The Surveillance Program is headed by the Deputy Director and is made up of staff from the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program, the Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program and the Biostatistics and Databases Program.

Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program

Head and Associate Professor

Sean Emery BSc(Hons), PhD

Associate Professor

Jennifer Hoy MB BS, Grad Dip Epi Bio, FRACP (part time)

Lecturers

Dianne Carey BPharm, MPH

Kate Clezy MB BS, FRACP (part time)

Fraser Drummond MB ChB, MRCA, DA (UK)

Paddy Mallon BSc(Hons), MB BCh, BAO

Sarah Pett BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), DTM&H, MRCP (UK), FRACP

Rebekah Puls BSc(Hons), PhD

Senior Clinical Project Coordinators

Cate Carey RN, BA, MAppSc(Research)
Allison Humphries BSc, MSc(Med), Grad Dip PH (part time)

Clinical Project Coordinators

Maria Arriaga BSc, MSc (from July)

Helen Byakwaga MB ChB (from February)

David Courtney-Rodgers

Carlo Dazo BMedSc (Hons) (from November)

Wilma Goodyear BN, RN (to June)

Sophie Gunn BA(Mod)(Hons), MSc, Dip Bus Studies (to February)

Mary Ellen Harrod BA, Grad Dip Psych (Hons), PhD Simone Jacoby BSc, Dip Nutrition, Adv Dip Bot Med Lina Safro MB BS, BSc(Hons) (from February)

Claudette Satchell BSc(Hons)

Program Coordinators

Kirsten Bailey BA (to October)

Margaret Allan BPsych (from November)

Data Managers

Kymme Courtney-Vega Dip Sp Th

Wendy Lee

Robyn Munro (to November)

Administrative Assistants

Margaret Allan BPsych (to November)

Maja Berilazic BEd (from November)

Emma Butler BA(Hons), MA (part time)

Alison Macdonald MCSP (to September)

Rosemary Robson (from November)

^{*} Staff working in the office of the Deputy Director and the Surveillance, HIV Epidemiology and Prevention, Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention and Biostatistics and Databases Programs

HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Head and Associate Professor

Andrew Grulich MB BS, MSc, PhD, FAFPHM

Professor of Sexual Health

Basil Donovan MB BS, MD, Dip Ven (London), FAChSHM, FAFPHM, FRCPI (part time)

Lecturers

Louise Causer MB BS, MSc, DTM&H (from September) (part time)

Marianne Jauncey BMed, Grad Dip App Epi, MPH(Hons), FAFPHM (part time)

Jeff Jin BMed, MPH, PhD (from September)

Iona Millwood BA(Hons), PhD (part time)

Mary Poynten MB BS, Dip Child Health, MPH(Hons) (part time)

Garrett Prestage BA(Hons), PhD

Post Doctoral Research Fellows

Christine Harcourt BA(Hons), MA(Hons), PhD (part time) Claire Vajdic BOptom, PhD (part time)

Senior Research Officer

Ann McDonald BSc, MPH

Research Assistants

Kate Demaere BSc (part time)

Michael Falster BPsych(Hons) (from April)

Jeff Jin BMed, MPH (to September)

Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH

Reshma Sukhoo (from March to May)

Marina van Leeuwen BSc(Hons), MPH

Project Manager

Brian Acraman

Study Nurses

Leon Botes RN, MHS(Sexual Health), BCur(Ed & Ad), Dip N, Cert SH&V

Kim Scholey RN (part time)

Project Officers

Jack Bradley

Patrick McGrath BA, DipEd (part time)

Hédimo Santana BA(Hons) (part time)

Interviewers

Eli Braga BFA (part time)

Lara Cassar (part time)

Jon de Ruiter (part time)

Trevor Dougherty BA(Hons) (part time)

Markus Koponen (part time) (from February)

Pól McCann BA(Hons) (part time)

Greg Reading (part time)

John Redmond (part time) (to November)

Aurelio Vulcao BA (part time)

Michael Walters (part time) (from August)

Viral Hepatitis Clinical Research Program

Head and Associate Professor

Greg Dore MB BS, BSc, PhD, FRACP, MPH

Lecturers

Gail Matthews MB ChB, MRCP (part time)

Carolyn Day BSc(Hons), PhD (part time)

Clinical Trials Manager

Pip Marks BSc

Clinical Project Coordinators

Deama Amr BSc(Hons), PhD (to August)

Wen Cao BMed, MPH (to July)

Candace Carter BSc (from June)

Oscar-Hazel Donaldson BSc(Hons), Dip Ed, RN

(from October)

Natalie Espinosa BAppSc, MHSc

Alexa Gillman BSc(Hons) (from December)

Elizabeth Knight BSc, MPH (to April)

Ineke Shaw BSc, Grad Cert BioStats (from October)

Barbara Yeung RN, BHSc(Nursing), MPH

Research Assistants

Therese Carroll BSc, MPH (part time) (to April)

Anna Doab RN, MPH (part time)

Administrative Assistants

Victoria Lightfoot BSc (to June)

Jennifer Moore (from August)

Viral Hepatitis Epidemiology and Prevention Program

Head and Associate Professor

Lisa Maher BA, MA, PhD

Surveillance Coordinators

Jiong Li BSc, MPH, MSc, PhD (to June)

Libby Topp BSc(Hons), PhD (from September)

Project Coordinators

Heidi Coupland BAppSc, MPH (part time)

Chris Lawrence MAppEpi (from February to June)

Allison Salmon BPsych, MPH

Research Assistants

Kathleen Glenday BAppSc(Hons), MPH (to June)

Jenny Iversen BAppSc (from July)

Biostatistics and Databases Program

Head and Associate Professor

Matthew Law MA, MSc, PhD

Senior Lecturer

John Murray BSc(Hons), MSc, PhD (part time)

Lecturers

Kathy Petoumenos BSc, MA, MPH(Hons), PhD (from October)

David Regan BA, BSc(Hons), PhD Handan Wand MA, MSc, PhD

Senior Statisticians

Janaki Amin BSc(Hons), MPH(Hons)

Kathy Petoumenos BSc, MA, MPH(Hons) (to October)

Statisticians

Kathleen Glenday BAppSc, MPH (from June) Rebecca Oyompito BSc, Grad Dip Med Stat (from September) Jialun Zhou BMed, MPH

Computer Systems Officers

Noorul Absar BTech, Grad Dip (Inf Sc), MComp (SW Engg)

Rossitza Chevkenova BSc

Immunovirology and Pathogenesis Program

Head and Senior Lecturer

Anthony Kelleher BSc(Hons), MB BS(Hons), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA

Lecturers

Mark Bloch MB BS, MMed (part time)

Robert Finlayson MB BS, Dip Ven, FACVen (part time)

Linda Gelgor PhD, MSc (from March)

Robert Macfarlane MB BS, FRACGP (part time)

Nicholas Medland BA(Hons), MB BS, Dip Ven (part time)

Tim Ramacciotti BA(Hons), MD, MPH

Norman Roth MB BS, Dip Av Med, Dip Ven, FAChSHM (part time)

Nabila Seddiki PhD

Cassy Workman MB BS (part time)

Clinical Project Coordinator

Patricia Grey BA, Post Grad Dip App Sci, CNS, Dip (Counselling)

Research Assistants

Michelle Bailey BSc(Hons)

Susanna Ip BSc

Ciara McGinley Cert App Bio (to August)

Kellie Nallaiah BMedSc

Data Administrator

Ansari Shaik BA, MBA

Administrative Assistants

Susan Lewis MA (part time)

Deborah Taylor BA

Sarah Field BVA (part time) (from November)

Internationally-based staff

Senior Lecturers

Chris Duncombe MB BS, RAC GP (HIV-NAT, Thailand) Sarah Huffam MB BS, MPH&TM, FRACP, FAChSHM (NCHADS, Cambodia)

Stephen Kerr BPharm(Hons), MIPH, PhD (HIV-NAT, Thailand)

Lecturer

Julian Elliott MB BS, FRACP (NCHADS, Cambodia) (to July)

Research Fellow

*Robert Oelrichs MD, PhD, MPH (NCHADS, Cambodia) (to April)

Finance and Administration

Manager

Bronwen Turner BA

Business Manager

Annie Tung MPA

Finance Managers

Gina Lam BA(Hons), EMBA Patricia Xu BEc, CPA



Back row: Bronwen Turner, Rata Joseph, Gina Lam, Brigette Sharp, Janette Button, Yvette Toole Front row: Patricia Xu, Courtney Bendall, Annie Tung, Teresa Wong

Librarian

Coralie Kronenberg BA, Dip IM Lib, AALIA (part time)

Human Resources Advisor

Brigette Sharp BA(Hons)

Computer Systems Officers

Lisa Howard Dip IT

Charles Tran BCompSc

Finance Administrator

Teresa Wong BAcc, CPA

Office Administrator

Yvette Toole

Administrative Assistants

Courtney Bendall DipBus

Ian Brodie BEc, Grad Dip Ed, Ass Dip Hlth Sc

Receptionists

John Redmond (part time) (to November)

Sarah Raymond (part time) (to April)

Rata Joseph (part time) (from August)

Researchers affiliated to NCHECR

Visiting Emeritus Professor

Peter McDonald AM, MB BS, FRCPA, MRACP, FRACP, FASM Emeritus Professor Flinders University, Adelaide

Senior Visiting Fellow

Philip Cunningham BAppSc(Med) Chief of Operations Centre for Immunology St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Visiting Fellows

Bruce Brew MB BS(Hons), MD, FRACP Professor of Medicine St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Nick Crofts MB BS, MPH, FAFPHM Professor and Director Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Melbourne

Cathy Pell MB BS, MM Specialist General Practitioner Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney

Don Smith MB ChB, MD Associate Professor Head of Research Development Albion Street Centre, Sydney

Alex Wodak MB BS, MRACP, FRACP, MRCP, FAFPHM, FAChAM Director Alcohol and Drug Service St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney



Training or student placements at NCHECR

Doctor of Philosophy students

Wari Allison BSc(Hons), MB BS (from March)

Suzie Hudson BSW, PG Cert Addictions, MSW

Jeff Jin BMed, MPH, PhD (to September)

Joanne Micallef BMedSc(Hons) (to August)

Mee-Ling Munier BSc, Grad Dip Epi, MSc

Fatemah Nakhee BSc, MSc

Karina Razali BSc(BioSc), MSc(EpiID) (to September)

Sarah Sasson BA, BSc(Hons)

Preeyaporn Srasuebkal BSc, MSc

David Templeton MB ChB, Dip Ven, Grad Cert ForensMed, MACLM, FAChSHM

David van Bockel BBiotech(Hons)

Marina van Leeuwen BSc(Hons), MPH

Independent Learning Project

Amy Julian (from May)

Gerard Moynihan (from May)

International training placements

Nina Friss-Moller (Hvidovre University Hospital, Copenhagen) (from February to April)

Mam Sovatha BBA, BSc (NCHADS, Cambodia) (October)

Master of Public Health by research student

Wari Allison BSc(Hons), MB BS (to February)

NSW Health Department Trainee Biostatistician

Aarthi Ayyar BCom, MBiostats (to January)



Back row: Suzie Hudson, Wari Allison, Dave Templeton, Preeyaporn Srasuebkul Front: Marina van Leeuwin, Fatemeh Nakhaee

Collaborating organisations

National

Association for Prevention and Harm Reduction Programs Australia (ANEX), Melbourne

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney

Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Primary Immunodeficiency Register, Sydney

Australia and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA), Adelaide

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Canberra

Australian Centre for Hepatitis and HIV Virology Research (ACH²), UNSW, Sydney

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

Australian Hepatitis Council, Canberra

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL), Canberra

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra

Australian Liver Association, Sydney

Australian National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Registry, Canberra

Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit and its contributors, Sydney

Australian Red Cross Blood Service, Sydney

Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne

Communicable Diseases Network Australia, Canberra Immunovirology Research Network (IVRN), UNSW, Sydney

National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology, Perth

National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Australian National University, Canberra

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Diseases, Sydney National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney

National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW, Sydney

National Serology Reference Laboratory, Australia, Melbourne

Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH), Canberra

Phase Forward Pty Ltd, Sydney

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Sydney

Therapeutic Goods Administration, Canberra

Australian Capital Territory

ACT Corrective Services, Canberra

AIDS Action Committee of the ACT, Canberra

Assisting Drug Dependents Inc, Canberra

Brindabella Imaging, Canberra Imaging Group (CIG), Canberra

Canberra Sexual Health Clinic, Canberra

Communicable Disease Control Program, ACT

Health, Canberra

Directions ACT, Canberra

Interchange General Practice, Canberra

John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra

The Canberra Hospital, Canberra

New South Wales

407 Doctors, Sydney

Aboriginal Medical Service Coop Ltd, Sydney

AIDS Council of NSW (ACON), Sydney and Newcastle

AIDS Research Initiative, Sydney

Albion Street Centre, Sydney

Albury Base Hospital, Albury

Albury Community Health Centre, Albury

Area Health Public Health Units, NSW Health

Department, Sydney

Auburn Community Health Centre, Sydney

Bankstown Community Health Centre, Sydney

Bankstown Hospital, Sydney

Bigge Park Medical Centre, Sydney

Blacktown Community Health Centre, Sydney

Bligh Street Clinic, Tamworth

Blue Mountains Sexual Health Clinic, Katoomba

Burwood Road General Practice, Sydney

Cambodian-Australian Welfare Council of NSW, Sydney

Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice, Justice Health, NSW Health Department, Sydney

Centre for Immunology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

Centre for Transplant and Renal Research, Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Sydney

Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney

Complex Systems in Biology, Centre for Vascular Research, UNSW, Sydney

Concord Hospital, Sydney

Corrections Health Service, Sydney

Darlinghurst X-Ray, Sydney

Department of Infectious Diseases and Immunology,

The University of Sydney, Sydney

Drug Intervention Services Cabramatta, Sydney

Dubbo Sexual Health Centre, Dubbo

First Step Program, Port Kembla

Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney

General Medical Practice, Burwood, Sydney

Greater Murray Area Health Needle and Syringe Program, Albury

Harm Minimisation Services, Sydney

Harm Reduction Services, Tweed/Murwillumbah,

Byron/Ballina and Nimbin/Lismore

Health ConneXions, Sydney

Hepatitis C Council of NSW, Sydney

Holden Street Clinic, Gosford

Holdsworth House Medical Practice, Sydney and Byron Bay

Hunter Valley Research Foundation, Newcastle

Illawarra Sexual Health, Port Kembla

Immunology and Microbiology Department, The University of Newcastle, Newcastle

Indo-Chinese Outreach Network (ICON), Sydney

John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle

Justice Health, NSW Health Department, Sydney

K2 Health Service, Sydney

Kirketon Road Centre, Sydney

Kogarah Needle and Syringe Program, Sydney

Lao Workers' Network, Lao Community Advancement Co-op, Sydney

Lismore Sexual Health Clinic, Lismore

Liverpool Hospital, Sydney

Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic, Sydney

Livingstone Road Sexual Health Centre, Sydney

Macquarie Sexual Health Centre, Sydney

Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service, Sydney

Needle and Syringe Program Services, Royal

Newcastle Hospital, Newcastle

Nepean Hospital, Sydney

Nepean Sexual Health and HIV Clinic, Sydney

Northern Rivers Health Service, Lismore

NSW Health Department, Sydney

NSW State Reference Laboratory for HIV/AIDS, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA), Sydney

Open Family, Sydney

People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Sydney

Prince of Wales Hospital, Sydney

Rankin Court Methadone Stabilisation Clinic, Sydney

Resource and Education Program for Injecting Drug Users, Sydney

Responsive User Services in Health (RUSH), Sydney

Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney

Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney

Sax Institute, Sydney

School of Medical Sciences, UNSW, Sydney

School of Public Health, The University of Sydney, Sydney

School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW, Sydney

Sexual Health and Infectious Diseases Service (SHAIDS), Lismore

Sexually Transmitted Infections Research Centre, Westmead Hospital, Sydney

South Court Primary Care Needle and Syringe Program, Sydney

South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service, NSW Health Department, Sydney

St George AIDS Prevention Unit, Sydney

St George Hospital, Sydney

St Leonards Medical Centre, Sydney

St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

St Vincent's Medical Imaging, Sydney

Sydney Children's Hospital, Sydney

Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre, Sydney

Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney

Sydney South West Area Health Service, NSW Health Department, Sydney

Sydney West Area Health Service HIV/Hepatitis C Prevention Service, Sydney

SydPath, Sydney

Taylor Square Private Clinic, Sydney

The Byrne Surgery, Sydney

The Cancer Council NSW, Sydney

The Cancer Institute NSW, Sydney

The Centenary Institute of Cancer Medicine and Cell

Biology, The University of Sydney, Sydney

The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney

The City of Sydney Council, Sydney

The Medical and Vein Centre, Coffs Harbour

The Vietnamese Community in Australia NSW Chapter, Sydney

Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Sydney

Wentworth HIV and Sexual Health Service, Penrith

Western Area Adolescent Team, Mount Druitt

Western Sydney AIDS Prevention and Outreach Service, Sydney

Westmead Hospital, Sydney

Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Sydney

Wollongong Hospital, Wollongong

Northern Territory

Clinic 34, Darwin

Communicable Disease Centre, Royal Darwin Hospital, Darwin

Department of Correctional Services, Darwin

Northern Territory AIDS and Hepatitis Council, Darwin

Palmerston Needle and Syringe Program, Palmerston

Queensland

AIDS Medical Unit, Queensland Health, Brisbane Biala Alcohol and Drug Services, Brisbane

Blackall Terrace Specialist Centre, Nambour

Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, Brisbane

Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns

Cairns Sexual Health Service, Cairns

Department of Corrective Services, Brisbane

Drug Users Network Education and Support (DUNES)

Needle and Syringe Program, Miami

Gladstone Road Medical Centre, Brisbane

Gold Coast Hospital, Southport

Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, Miami

GRM International Pty Ltd, Brisbane

Kobi House, Toowoomba

Mackay Sexual Health Services, Mackay

Nambour General Hospital, Nambour

Prince Charles Hospital, Brisbane

Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane

Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, Brisbane

Oueensland AIDS Council (OAC), Brisbane

Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC), The University of Queensland, Brisbane

Queensland Corrective Services Commission, Brisbane

Queensland Health, Brisbane

Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuIHN), Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast

Queensland Intravenous AIDS Association (QUIVAA), Brisbane

Queensland Medical Laboratory (QML), Brisbane

Queensland Needle and Syringe Program, Brisbane

Queensland Positive People, Brisbane

Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Brisbane

Sexual Health Service, Cairns Base Hospital, Cairns

Sexual Health Service, Toowoomba Base Hospital, Toowoomba

Southcoast Radiology, Pindara Hospital, Benowa Sunshine Coast Intravenous AIDS Association

(SCIVAA), Maroochydore The Medical and Vein Centre, Coffs Harbour

Toowoomba Needle and Syringe Program, Toowoomba

Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services Ltd, Townsville

Townsville Hospital, Townsville

West Moreton Sexual Health Service, Brisbane

South Australia

AIDS Council of South Australia (ACSA), Adelaide Department of Correctional Services, Adelaide Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA),

Drug and Alcohol Services South Australia (DASSA), Adelaide

Clinic 275, Adelaide

Flinders Clinical Trials Pharmacy, Adelaide

Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide

Harm Minimisation Program, Hindmarsh Centre, Adelaide

Infectious Diseases Laboratories, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide

Noarlunga Health Village, Noarlunga

Northern Metropolitan Community Health Service (CHS) and Shopfront, Salisbury

Nunkuwarrin Yunti Health Services, Adelaide

O'Brien Street Practice, Adelaide

Parks Community Health Centre, Adelaide

Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide

South Australian Voice for Intravenous Education (SAVIVE) Noarlunga, Norwood, Parks, Port Adelaide and Shopfront, Adelaide

Shopfront Youth Health and Information Services, Adelaide

South Australian Prison Health Service, Adelaide

The Care and Prevention Program, Adelaide University, Adelaide

Warinilla Clinic, Norwood

Tasmania

Community Health Services, The Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania. Hobart

Devonport Community Health Service Centre, Devonport

Michael Welch General Practice, Hobart

Nufit Alcohol and Other Drug Services, Glenorchy

Prison Health Services Tasmania, Hobart

Public and Environmental Health, Population Health, Community Health Services, The Department of Health and Human Services Tasmania, Hobart

Royal Hobart Hospital, Hobart

Tasmanian Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (TasCAHRD), Hobart and Glenorchy

Victoria

Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre, Melbourne

Austin Hospital, Melbourne

Barwon Health, Geelong

Box Hill Hospital, Melbourne

CogState Ltd, Melbourne

CSIRO Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong

Corrections Victoria, Department of Justice, Melbourne

Department of Human Services, Melbourne

Department of Microbiology and Immunology,

The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Dorevitch Pathology – Mayne Health, Melbourne

Geelong Hospital, Geelong

Health Information Exchange, Salvation Army, Melbourne

Health Works, Melbourne

Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health, Melbourne

Melbourne Inner City AIDS Prevention Centre (MINE), Melbourne

Melbourne Pathology, Melbourne

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, Melbourne

Middle Park Clinic, Melbourne

Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne

Monash University, Melbourne

Northcote Clinic, Melbourne

People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), Melbourne

Positive Living Centre, Melbourne

Prahran Market Clinic, Melbourne

Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne

Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne

School of Population Health, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne

South East Alcohol and Drug Services, Outreach and Prevention Program, Melbourne

Southern Hepatitis/HIV/AIDS Resource and

Prevention Service (SHARPS), Melbourne

St Kilda Needle and Syringe Program, Melbourne

St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne

The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

The Carlton Clinic, Melbourne

The Centre Clinic, Melbourne

Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Melbourne Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre (GMHC), Melbourne

Victorian Cytology Service, Melbourne

Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Melbourne

Western Hospital, Melbourne

Western Australia

Centre for Clinical Immunology and Biomedical Statistics, Perth

Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Department of Health, Perth

Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service, Perth

Fremantle Hospital, Perth

Ministry of Justice, Strategic and Specialist Services Division, Perth

Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Perth

Royal Perth Hospital, Perth

Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program, Department of Health, Perth

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Perth

Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Perth

The University of Western Australia, Perth

Western Australian AIDS Council (WAAC), Perth

Western Australian AIDS Council Mobile Exchange, Perth

Western Australian Substance Users Association (WASUA), Perth and Bunbury

International

Academic Medical Centre, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Agence Nationale pour la Recherche de SIDA (ANRS), Paris, France

AIDS Clinical Centre, International Medical Centre of Japan, Tokyo, Japan

AIDS Epidemiology Group, University of Otago Medical School, Dunedin, New Zealand

AIDS Malignancy Consortium, Birmingham, USA

Asia Pacific Neuro AIDS Consortium (APNAC), Coordinating Unit, Sydney

Asia Regional Office, Family Health International (FHI), Bangkok, Thailand

Auckland Hospital, Auckland, New Zealand

Auckland Sexual Health Clinic, Auckland, New Zealand

Aviano Cancer Centre, Aviano, Italy

Bamrasnaradura Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

Beijing Ditan Hospital, Beijing, China

British Columbia Cancer Registry, Vancouver, Canada

Brown University, Providence, USA

Buddhachinnaraj Hospital, Phitsanulok, Thailand

Calgary Regional Health Authority, Calgary, Canada

Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network, Ottawa, Canada

Canadian Trials Network (CTN), Vancouver, Canada

Catalan Institute of Oncology, Barcelona, Spain

Catedra de Enfermedades Infecciosas, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de la Republica, Montevideo, Uruguay

Center for AIDS Prevention Studies, University of California, San Francisco, USA

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, USA

Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control, Health Canada, Ottawa, Canada

Centre Regional D'Essais Clinique VIH, Montreal, Canada

Centro de Asistencia e Investigacion Clinica de Inmunocomprometidos (CAICI), Rosario, Argentina

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London, UK

Chiang Rai Regional Hospital, Chiang Rai, Thailand

Chiba University, Chiba, Japan

Chonburi Regional Hospital, Chonburi, Thailand

Christchurch Hospital, Christchurch, New Zealand

Chulalongkorn Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

Columbia University, New York, USA

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Community Research Initiative of New England, Boston, USA

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Hospital Interzonal General de Agudos Oscar Alende, Mar del Plata, Argentina

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National Yang-Ming University, Taipei, Taiwan

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Perinatal HIV Prevention Trial Network, Thailand

Population Council, Bangkok, Thailand

Project PHIDISA, South Africa Military Health Service, Pretoria, South Africa

Providence Health Care, Vancouver, Canada

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hong Kong, China

Queen Mary Hospital, Hong Kong, China

Queen Sawangwattana Memorial Hospital, Sri Racha, Chonburi, Thailand

Radboud University Nijmegen, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

Rambam Medical Centre, Haifa, Israel

Research Institute for Health Science, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, Manila, Philippines

Royal Free Hospital, London, UK

Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, UK

Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, USA

San Francisco General Hospital, San Francisco, USA

Sanpatong Hospital, Chiang Mai, Thailand

School of Medicine, Udayana University and Sanglah Hospital, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

School of Medicine, Washington University, St Louis, USA

Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

Srinagarind Hospital, Khon Kaen, Thailand

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University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA

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University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA

University of Tokyo Institute of Medical Science, Tokyo, Japan

University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

University of York, York, UK

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Vajira Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand

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Waikato Hospital, Hamilton, New Zealand

Wellington Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand

Wetherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford, UK

World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland

World Health Organisation South East Asia Regional Office, Delhi, India

World Health Organisation Western Pacific Regional Office, Manila, Philippines

Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, USA YRG Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai, India

Pharmaceutical and biomedical industry

Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd, Sydney

Agouron Pharmaceuticals Inc, California, USA

Becton Dickinson Pty Ltd, Sydney

Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd, Sydney

Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals, Melbourne

Cellestis, Melbourne

CSL Limited, Melbourne

Cytyc Corporation Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney

F Hoffman-La Roche Ltd, Basel, Switzerland

Gilead Sciences, Melbourne

GlaxoSmithKline Australia, Melbourne

IDT Australia Ltd, Melbourne

Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd, Sydney
Merck Research Laboratories, West Point, USA
Merck Sharp and Dohme, Sydney
Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Emeryville, USA
Probe Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, Sydney
Roche Diagnostics Australia Pty Ltd, Sydney
Roche Molecular Systems, Pleasanton, USA
Roche Products Pty Ltd, Sydney
Sanofi-Aventis, Paris, France
Starpharma Holdings Ltd, Melbourne
Tibotec, Mechelen, Belgium
Virax Immunotherapeutics, Melbourne



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Don Baxter BA, Dip Lib

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Executive Director, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney

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Ex officio

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Acting Director, HIV/AIDS and STIs Section, Targeted Prevention Programs Branch, Population Health Division, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

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John Kaldor PhD

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Julianne Quaine BSc, Dip Nut Diet, Dip App Epi, MPH (to April)

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Bronwen Turner BA (Convenor)

NCHECR

Surveillance Committees

Annual Surveillance Report Advisory Committee

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NCHECR

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Associate Professor and Staff Specialist, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane

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Andrew Grulich MB BS, MSc, PhD, FAFPHM NCHECR

Phillip Keen BA, Dip Comm Ser (CommWork)

HIV Educator, Campaign and Resource Development, Gay Men's Education, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Sydney

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HIV Health Policy Officer, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, Sydney

Lisa Maher BA, MA, PhD

NCHECR

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NCHECR

Tadgh McMahon

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Cindy Shannon BA, Grad Dip Ed (Tert), MBA, DSocSc

Chair, Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Committee; Adjunct Associate Professor, Population Health Unit, The University of Queensland, Brisbane

Helen Tyrrell RN, BA(Hons), MBA, FACHSE, CHE

Executive Officer, Australian Hepatitis Council, Canberra

Robert van der Hoek (from March)

Medical Adviser, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra

Russell Waddell MB BS, BSc, FAChSHM

Clinic Manager, STD Services, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide

Handan Wand MA, MSc, PhD

NCHECR

Keflemariam Yohannes MAppEpid, MTH

Epidemiologist, Surveillance Branch, Surveillance Systems and Policy Section, Office of Health Protection, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

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Research Fellow, National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney

Melanie Middleton BMedSc, MPH (Secretary) NCHECR

National HIV Surveillance Committee*

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Director, Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney

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Senior Surveillance Officer, Communicable Diseases Branch, NSW Health Department, Sydney

David Coleman BSc(Hons), Dip App Sc(EnvHlth)

Scientific Officer, Communicable Diseases Surveillance, Department of Health and Human Services, Hobart

Tess Davey Grad Dip (HealthCoun), Grad Dip Clin Epi, Cert Nursing

Manager, Surveillance Section, STD Services, South Australian Health Commission, Adelaide

Sharon Flanigan (from September)

Director, HIV/AIDS and STIs Section, Targeted Prevention Programs Branch, Population Health Division, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Canberra

Carolien Giele RN, RM, BSc(Hons), Grad Dip Clin Epi, MPH

Epidemiologist, Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Department of Health, Perth

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National Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Committee*

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Jane Bell BA, Mlitt (from April)

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Frances Birrell MPH, MAppEpid, GCSc(Stats) (from October)

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Joy Copland MSc, MPH

Senior Policy Officer, STD Services, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide

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External boards, committees and advisory groups

1st International Workshop on Biomedical Interventions in HIV Therapy in Resource Poor Settings Scientific Committee (John Kaldor)

4th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment (David Cooper, Local Conference Chair; John Kaldor, Deputy Local Conference Chair)

4th International AIDS Society Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment, Scientific Programme Committee

(John Kaldor, Anthony Kelleher)

8th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV Organising Committee (David Cooper)

9th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine (Chris Duncombe, Symposium Convenor and Head, Scientific Program Committee)

9th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine Organising Committee (David Cooper)

10th International Conference on Malignancies in AIDS and Other Acquired Immunodeficiencies, Basic, Epidemiologic and Clinical Research Organising Committee (Andrew Grulich)

ACT Health, Human Research Ethics Committee (Sarah Pett)

Acute Infection and Early Disease Research Program, Pathogenesis Working Group (Anthony Kelleher)

Acute Infection and Early Disease Research Program, Primary Infection Advisory Committee (Anthony Kelleher)

AIDS Council of New South Wales Board (Garrett Prestage)

AIDS Council of New South Wales, Ethics Review Committee

(Garrett Prestage)

AIDS Council of New South Wales, HIV and Sexually Transmissible Infections Working Group (Garrett Prestage)

AIDS Editorial Board (Andrew Grulich)

AusAID Indonesia HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project Phase II, Technical Advisory Team (John Kaldor, Chair) Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Antiretroviral Guidelines Panel (Fraser Drummond)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, International Standing Committee (John Kaldor)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Journal Club Review Panel (Garrett Prestage)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, National Clinical Subcommittee (Fraser Drummond)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, NSW Hepatitis C Prescriber Trial Clinical Subcommittee (Greg Dore)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Standing Committee on Viral Hepatitis (Greg Dore, Chair; Lisa Maher)

Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Treatment Subcommittee (Fraser Drummond)

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Biomedical Prevention Policy Reference Group (Andrew Grulich)

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Chlamydia Program Implementation Committee (Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich)

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, Review of National HIV Testing Policy Steering Group (Andrew Grulich)

Australian Hepatitis Council Health Reference Group (Lisa Maher)

Australian HIV Surveillance Update Advisory Editorial Panel (Basil Donovan)

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, National Hepatitis C Treatments Campaign Advisory Committee

(Lisa Maher)

Australian Injecting and Illicit Drug Users League, Vietnamese Hepatitis C and Injecting Drug Use Project Reference Group (Lisa Maher)

Cambodian National Continuum of Care Technical Working Group (Julian Elliott)

Cochrane Collaborative Review Group on HIV infection and AIDS, Biomedical Interventions (John Kaldor, Reviews Editor)

Communicable Diseases Intelligence Editorial Board (John Kaldor)

Communicable Diseases Network Australia (John Kaldor)

Comprehensive International Program for Research on AIDS (CIPRA) HIV Research Program in Thailand and Cambodia International Steering Committee (David Cooper, John Kaldor)

Current HIV/AIDS Reports Editorial Board (David Cooper, Honorary Member)

Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS (David Cooper, Co-Editor)

Current Opinion in HIV and AIDS Editorial Board (John Kaldor)

Drug and Alcohol Multicultural Education Centre, Alcohol and Other Drug Use in Six Non-English Speaking Background Communities Project Reference Group (Lisa Maher)

Drug and Alcohol Review Editorial Board (Lisa Maher)

Eighth International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection Organising Committee (David Cooper)

eJournal of the International AIDS Society Editorial Board (John Kaldor)

Expert Working Group to provide advice on Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing-funded HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmissible Infections Education and Health Promotion Materials (John Kaldor)

First Phnom Penh Symposium on HIV Medicine Organising Committee (John Kaldor)

Future HIV Therapy Editorial Board (John Kaldor)

Harm Reduction Journal Editorial Board (Lisa Maher)

Hepatitis C Council of NSW Medical Research Advisory Panel (Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

Hepatitis C Virus Projections Working Group (Greg Dore, John Kaldor, Matthew Law, Lisa Maher, Karina Razali, Rosie Thein) HIV DART 2006 Conference Organising Committee (David Cooper)

HIV Netherlands, Australia, Thailand Research Collaboration (HIV-NAT) (David Cooper, Co-Director)

Immunovirology Research Network Steering Committee (Anthony Kelleher)

Improving Indigenous Identification in Communicable Disease Reporting Project Working Group (John Kaldor, Chair)

INITIO Immunology Substudy Steering Committee (Anthony Kelleher)

INITIO Trial Coordinating Committee (Dianne Carey, David Cooper, Sean Emery)

INSIGHT network, Executive Committee (David Cooper, Sean Emery)

INSIGHT network, Extended Executive Committee (Sarah Pett)

INSIGHT network, Monitoring Group Committee (David Courtney-Rogers)

INSIGHT network, Quality Oversight and Performance Evaluation Committee (David Courtney-Rogers)

Intergovernmental Committee on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases Subcommittee on STI Surveillance (Basil Donovan)

International Consortium of Investigators Working on Lymphoma Epidemiologic Studies (InterLymph), Immunology Working Group (Andrew Grulich)

International Journal of STD & AIDS Editorial Board (Basil Donovan)

International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections Executive Committee (Basil Donovan, Senior Counsellor)

Johnson & Johnson Institutional Biosafety Committee (Anthony Kelleher)

Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes Editorial Board (David Cooper)

Journal of Contemporary Ethnography (Lisa Maher, Deputy Editor)

Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice International Advisory Board (Lisa Maher)

Journal of Drug Issues Editorial Board (Lisa Maher)

Journal of HIV Medicine Editorial Board (Andrew Grulich)

Journal of HIV Therapy: Current Trends Advisory Board (David Cooper)

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Lotus House Management Committee (Lisa Maher, President)

Medicine Today Board of Editorial Consultants (Basil Donovan)

MIMS Annual Honorary Editorial Board (Basil Donovan)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH), HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections Subcommittee (Andrew Grulich)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH) Expert Working Group (Andrew Grulich)

Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH), HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections Subcommittee, Non-Occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis Reference Group

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Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis (MACASHH), Indigenous Australians' Sexual Health Committee (John Kaldor)

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Monitoring the AIDS Pandemic Steering Committee (John Kaldor)

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STDs (NCHADS), Steering Committee for Cambodian Treatment Access Program and AusAID-funded HIV projects (David Cooper, John Kaldor)

National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance of Vaccine Preventable Disease Scientific Advisory Committee (John Kaldor)

National Centre in HIV Social Research Scientific Advisory Committee (John Kaldor)

National Donovanosis Eradication Advisory Committee (John Kaldor)

National Influenza Pandemic Action Committee Antivirals and Clinical Trials Working Group (John Kaldor)

NHMRC Large Scale Clinical Trials Committee (Sean Emery)

NHMRC Post-doctoral Fellowship Awards Committee (Lisa Maher)

NHMRC Public Health Grant Review Panel (John Kaldor)

NHMRC Special Expert Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (SECTSE) (John Kaldor)

NHMRC Special Expert Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (SECTSE), Working Group on Biostate (John Kaldor)

NHMRC Special Expert Committee on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (SECTSE), Working Group on Blood Matters (John Kaldor)

NSW Department of Corrective Services Ethics Committee (John Kaldor)

NSW Health Department NSW Multi-Resistant Organism Expert Group (John Kaldor)

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NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hepatitis (Greg Dore)

NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and STIs, Health Promotion Subcommittee (Andrew Grulich, Chair)

NSW Ministry for Science and Medical Research, National Clinical Research Forum Planning Committee (Anthony Kelleher)

People Living with HIV/AIDS NSW Board Advisory Group (Garrett Prestage)

Repatriation Medical Authority (John Kaldor)

Review of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood Borne Virus Management and Prevention in the Northern Territory Steering Committee (John Kaldor)

Sax Institute, Scientific and Program Advisory Committee (Lisa Maher) Sexual Health and Attitudes of Australian Prisoners (SHAAP) Study Reference Group (Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

Sexual Health

(David Cooper, Andrew Grulich, Joint Editors)

Sexual Health Editorial Board (Basil Donovan, John Kaldor)

Sexually Transmitted Infections Editorial Board (David Cooper)

SMART Executive Committee (David Cooper, Fraser Drummond, Sean Emery)

St Vincent's Hospital Campus Institutional Biosafety Committee

(Anthony Kelleher)

St Vincent's Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee (David Regan, Claire Vajdic)

St Vincent's Hospital Intellectual Property Committee (Sean Emery)

Statistics in Medicine Editorial Board (Handan Wand)

Steering Committee for NHMRC grant under the International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership (John Kaldor)

Sydney HIV Interagency (Garrett Prestage)

Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre Physiology Post Injecting Project Steering Committee (John Kaldor)

The 45 and Up Study, Cancer Theme Committee (Andrew Grulich)

The Cabinet Office NSW, Monitoring Committee of the Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (John Kaldor)

The Medical Journal of Australia Editorial Board (Handan Wand)

The University of Sydney, Corrections Health Service and NSW Department of Juvenile Justice Breaking the Juvenile Crime Cycle: Rehabilitating High Risk Young Offenders Reference Group (John Kaldor)

TREAT Asia Steering Committee (David Cooper)

Tristate STI/HIV Project Advisory Group (John Kaldor)

UNSW Faculty of Medicine, Faculty Research Grants Program Committee (Lisa Maher)

UNSW Faculty of Medicine, Major Research Equipment and Infrastructure Initiative Committee (Sean Emery)

UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Committee, Bachelor of Science (Medicine) Subcommittee (Greg Dore)

UNSW Human Research Ethics Advisory Panel: Medical/Community (Greg Dore, Lisa Maher)

UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Research Degree Committee (Lisa Maher)

UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine, Research Development Committee (Lisa Maher)

US National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, Units for HIV/AIDS Clinical Trials Network Grant Review Panel (John Kaldor)

Vision Cooperative Research Centre and Institute for Eye Research Human Ethics Committee (Claire Vajdic, Chair June to December)

Wellcome Trust Grant Panel (Sean Emery, Reviewer)

World Health Organisation/UNAIDS HIV Vaccine Advisory Committee (David Cooper, Chair)

World Health Organisation/UNAIDS/International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), Regional Consultation Workshop on HIV Vaccine Development in Asia (Anthony Kelleher)

XVIII World Congress of the World Association for Sexual Health (WAS), 1st World Congress for Sexual Health, Local WAS Scientific Committee (Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich)



Antiretroviral therapy for HIV infection in adults and adolescents in resource limited settings. Towards universal access: Recommendations for a public health approach, World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland (Chris Duncombe)

Antiretroviral therapy in resource limited settings – a 2006 update, World Health Organisation Regional Office for the Western Pacific, Manila, Philippines (Chris Duncombe)

Consultancy on development of HIV surveillance plan for Papua New Guinea, World Health Organisation, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea (John Kaldor)

Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of the NSW HIV Strategy, NSW Health Department, Sydney (Matthew Law)

External Review of the Myanmar National AIDS Program, World Health Organisation, Yangon, Myanmar (Julian Elliott)

External Review of the Sri Lankan national response to the HIV epidemic, UNAIDS, Colombo, Sri Lanka (Julian Elliott)

Guidelines for the clinical management of HIV infection in children, World Health Organisation Regional Office for South East Asia, Yangon, Myanmar (Chris Duncombe)

Guidelines for the clinical management of HIV/AIDS in adults and adolescents, World Health Organisation Regional Office for South East Asia, Delhi, India (Chris Duncombe)

Guidelines on cotrimoxazole prophylaxis for HIV-related infections among children, adolescents and adults in resource limited settings: Recommendations for a public health approach, World Health Organisation, Geneva, Switzerland (Chris Duncombe)

Independent review into the management of notification of an HIV-positive health care worker in Queensland, Queensland Health, Brisbane (Andrew Grulich)

International consultation on strengthening national capacities for epidemic preparedness and response in support to the national implementation of the International Health Regulations, World Health Organisation, Lyon, France (John Kaldor)

Management of HIV infection and antiretroviral therapy in adults and adolescents: A clinical manual, World Health Organisation Regional Office for South East Asia, Delhi, India (Chris Duncombe)

Students supervised or co-supervised by NCHECR personnel

Supervisor(s) in brackets

Activities of students whose primary supervisor is an NCHECR staff member are listed in this report under External Boards, Committees and advisory groups; Education and training; Publications and Presentations at conferences and meetings.

Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery candidates (Independent Learning Project practicum supervision) Amy Iulian

Co-morbidity among clients of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre: A prospective review (Lisa Maher, Allison Salmon)

Gerard Monihyan

Effect of therapy at primary HIV infection on long-term outcomes (Anthony Kelleher, Tim Rammaciotti)

Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery candidates (Year 5 elective term supervision)

Matthew Broadhead

Immune recovery and stopping cotrimoxazole prophylaxis in Thai patients treated with NNRTI-based HAART for 216 Weeks (Chris Duncombe)

Simone Langford (Monash University)

Is viral load between 5 and 49 copies/ml predictive of virological failure in the CD4 guided arm of the STACCATO study? (Chris Duncombe)

(Onno Danoonno

Julie Paik

Immune recovery and stopping cotrimoxazole prophylaxis in Thai patients treated with NNRTI-based HAART for 216 weeks (Chris Duncombe)

Doctor of Medicine candidate

Sarah Pett

Aspects of HIV-1 treatment: An exploration of the positive and negative physiological aspects of host-directed treatments for HIV-1 infection (David Cooper, Sean Emery, Anthony Kelleher)

Doctor of Philosophy awarded

Marcus Chen (The University of Sydney)

The epidemiology of chlamydia in New South Wales (Basil Donovan)

Adrian Dunlop

Treatment for Vietnamese heroin users with new opioid pharmacotherapies (Lisa Maher)

Hien Thi Ho

Cultural influences on risk behaviours and anti-HIV and hepatitis C seroprevalence in ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users in Australia (Lisa Maher)

Jeff Jin

Epidemiology of sexually transmissible infections in gay men in Sydney (Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

Kathy Petoumenos

The Australian HIV Observational Database (John Kaldor, Matthew Law)

Farhad Pourfazi

The influence of environmental risk factors on gastric cancer in North West of Iran – Ardabil Province (John Kaldor)

Rosie Thein

Measuring the health burden of hepatitis C at an individual and population level in Australia (Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

John Zaunders

Effect of primary HIV-1 infection on subsets of CD4+ and CD8+ T lymphocytes (David Cooper, Anthony Kelleher)

Doctor of Philosophy candidates

Wari Allison

Diagnosis and treatment of paediatric HIV infection in a resource limited setting (John Kaldor, Matthew Law)

Janaki Amin

Hepatitis B and C associated cancer and mortality in New South Wales 1990-2002 (Greg Dore, Matthew Law)

Michael Burke

Factors influencing participation in prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV programs in Tanzania, East Africa (John Kaldor)

Dianne Carey

Optimising HIV therapies (Sean Emery)

Heidi Coupland

Prevention and management of hepatitis C infection among Indo-Chinese injecting drug users (Carolyn Day, Lisa Maher)

Oliver Distler

Molecular and cellular mechanisms for HIV protease inhibitor associated hyperlipidaemia (David Cooper)

Katie Edwards

Epidemiological studies of contact lens related infection (John Kaldor)

Julian Elliott

Expanded use of antiretroviral therapy in resource limited settings (John Kaldor)

Kathleen Glenday

The Australian HIV Observational Database (Matthew Law, Kathy Petoumenos)

Rachael Green (Curtin University)

An ethnographic study of party drug use and related harms among young people in Perth (Lisa Maher)

Rebecca Guy

New initiates in HIV surveillance in Victoria (Andrew Grulich)

Peter Higgs (Monash University)

Factors influencing hepatitis C infection among ethnic Vietnamese heroin injectors (Lisa Maher)

Jeff Hudson (The University of Sydney)

Fluidsexuality: Married men who have sex with men (Garrett Prestage)

Suzie Hudson

Exploring the experiences of Kings Cross street-based sex workers who inject psychostimulants (Lisa Maher)

Azar Kariminia

An examination of the causes of mortality following imprisonment in New South Wales using data linkage (Matthew Law)

Stephen Lambert (The University of Queensland)

A study of *Chlamydia trachomatis* in the Australian Defence Force (Basil Donovan)

Heidi Lim

Transcriptional gene silencing of retroviruses by iRNA (Anthony Kelleher)

Paddy Mallon

Clinical and molecular aspects of HIV-associated lipodystrophy (David Cooper, Anthony Kelleher)

Gail Matthews

Therapeutic strategies in HIV/viral hepatitis co-infection (David Cooper, Greg Dore)

Joanne Micallef

Natural history of newly acquired hepatitis C infection (Greg Dore, John Kaldor)

Ann Mijch (Monash University)

Measuring and managing HIV virological failure (John Kaldor)

Mee-Ling Munier

CD4 T-cells in primary HIV infection (Anthony Kelleher)

Fatemeh Nakhaee

Modelling survival following HIV and AIDS in Australia in the era of HAART (Matthew Law)

Van Thi Thuy Nguyen

Hepatitis B natural history and liver disease burden among Vietnamese populations in Thai Binh province and Australia

(Greg Dore, Matthew Law)

Mary Poynten

Biological and behavioural methods of prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission (Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

Karina Razali

Estimates and projections of HIV and hepatitis C virus in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region (John Kaldor, Matthew Law)

Allison Salmon

Establishing the efficacy of health and psychosocial services and drug treatment referrals provided via a medically supervised injecting centre in Kings Cross, Sydney (John Kaldor, Lisa Maher)

Sarah Sasson

Dysregulation of the IL-7/R system in HIV-1 infection and implications for T-cell homeostasis (Anthony Kelleher)

Preeyaporn Srasuebkul

Evaluating CD4 cell count and HIV viral load monitoring strategies in patients commencing antiretroviral treatment (Matthew Law)

David Templeton

Sexually transmissible infections in homosexual men (Basil Donovan, Andrew Grulich)

David van Bockel

Comparison within long-term nonprogressors of T-cell factors contributing to control of viral infection (Anthony Kelleher)

Marina van Leeuwen

Cancer in people with primary, acquired and iatrogenic immune deficiency (Andrew Grulich, Claire Vaidic)

Chris Weatherall

Characterisation of B-lymphocyte responses in primary HIV infection-neutralising antibodies and immune tolerance

(David Cooper, Anthony Kelleher)

Jialun Zhou

HIV/AIDS natural history and treatment in the Asia-Pacific region: TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database (Greg Dore, Matthew Law)

Master of Applied Epidemiology (Indigenous Health) candidate

Simon Graham (Australian National University) (John Kaldor)

Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV) candidate (treatise supervision)

Mwadi Kakoma (The University of Sydney)

The clinical correlations of lopinavir trough plasma concentrations with adverse events and concomitant medication use.

(Dianne Carey)

Master of Public Health by research awarded Juliet Babirve

The role of infant feeding counselling in prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Uganda (Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor)

Master of Public Health by research candidate Helen Byakwaga

Antiretroviral therapy and the management of HIV/AIDS (David Cooper, Sean Emery, Paddy Mallon)

Master of Science candidate

Aileen Oon

Hepatitis C diversity in acute hepatitis C (Greg Dore)

Course coordination

Case Studies in Epidemiology, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney (Andrew Grulich)

Critical Appraisal, Graduate Programme in Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (Stephen Kerr)

HIV Care and Antiretroviral Therapy Management, HIV-NAT Training of Trainers, Savannakhet, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Chris Duncombe)

HIV/AIDS: Australian and International Responses, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney (Greg Dore, Garrett Prestage)

Rational Drug Use, Graduate Programme in Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (Stephen Kerr)

Short Course in Antiretroviral Therapy for Physicians from Vietnam, HIV-NAT, Bangkok, Thailand (Chris Duncombe)

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Registrars' Training Seminar Series, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Teaching

Academic Women in Leadership Program, UNSW, Sydney

(John Kaldor, Mentor)

An epidemiological approach to the critical appraisal of clinical evidence, short courses to the pharmaceutical industry, Sydney (Andrew Grulich)

Beginnings, Growth and Development 1, Phase 1 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (Rebekah Puls)

Beginnings, Growth and Development 2, Phase 1 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (Cate Carey, Sarah Pett)

Case Studies in Epidemiology, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney

(Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor, Gail Matthews)

Communicable Disease Control, Master of Medicine (Infection and Immunity), The University of Sydney, Sydney

(Basil Donovan)

Critical Appraisal, Graduate Programme in Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (Stephen Kerr)

Day Course in Hepatitis C Medicine, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Greg Dore, Gail Matthews)

Deviance, Bachelor of Arts, UNSW, Sydney (Garrett Prestage)

Global Perspectives on HIV/AIDS, Master of International Public Health, The University of Sydney, Sydney (Basil Donovan, Rebekah Puls)

Health Maintenance, Phase 1 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (Cate Carey)

HIV and other retroviruses, Master of Medicine (Infection and Immunity)/Master of Science in Medicine (Infection and Immunity), The University of Sydney, Sydney (Anthony Kelleher)

HIV Medicine Interactive Session (St Vincent's Hospital), Year 6 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (David Cooper)

HIV/AIDS: Australian and International Responses, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney (Greg Dore, Andrew Grulich, John Kaldor, Anthony Kelleher, Gail Matthews, Garrett Prestage, Rebekah Puls)

Immunology 1, Bachelor of Science, UNSW, Sydney (Anthony Kelleher)

Immunology 2, Bachelor of Science, UNSW, Sydney (Anthony Kelleher)

International Short Course in HIV Medicine, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Melbourne (Sarah Huffam)

Introduction to Clinical Pharmacology, Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney (Dianne Carey)

Introductory Program to HIV and Viral Hepatitis, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney (Greg Dore)

Medical Humanities Course, The University of Sydney, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Epidemiology: an Overview, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (John Kaldor) Post Registration Nursing Course in Hepatitis C, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (Greg Dore)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Infection Control, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (Dianne Carey)

Post Registration Nursing Course in Sexual Health and Venereology, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney

(Janaki Amin, Dianne Carey, Basil Donovan, Greg Dore, Andrew Grulich)

Public Health Aspects of HIV/AIDS, Master of Public Health/Master of International Public Health/Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney (Andrew Grulich)

Public Health Aspects of STDs, Master of Public Health/Master of International Public Health/Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney (John Kaldor, David Regan)

Rational Drug Use, Graduate Programme in Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (Stephen Kerr)

Resident Medical Officer Training Course, Royal Hospital for Women, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Short Course in HIV Medicine for Community Representatives, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Fraser Drummond)

Short Course in HIV Medicine for Pharmaceutical Representatives, Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney (Fraser Drummond)

Short Course in STI Medicine, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Social Health Clinic Training Program, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Dermatology and STD, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (Sarah Huffam)

Society and Health 1 & 2, Phase 1 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (Andrew Grulich)

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Registrars' Trainee Seminar Series, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (Basil Donovan) The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' Membership Course, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Viruses and Disease, Bachelor of Science, UNSW, Sydney (Joanne Micallef)

Tutoring

Clinical Attachment, Master of Medicine (Sexually Transmitted Diseases/HIV), The University of Sydney, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Clinical Teaching (St Vincent's Clinical School), Phase 1 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (Fraser Drummond, Tim Ramacciotti)

Clinical Teaching (St Vincent's Clinical School), Phase 2 Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (Tim Ramacciotti)

Epidemiology for Public Health, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney (Allison Salmon)

Statistics for Public Health, Master of Public Health, UNSW, Sydney (Jialun Zhou)

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine, Registrars' Training Seminar Series, Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Undergraduate Medicine, UNSW, Sydney (Basil Donovan)

Viruses and Disease, Bachelor of Science, UNSW, Sydney (Joanne Micallef)



All amounts listed are in Australian dollars.

Names of funding organisations are as specified at the time the funding agreement commenced.

Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing core grant

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing provided an allocation in 2006 to fund the activities and administration of NCHECR.

Core allocation 3,693,345

Additional Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing grant

Hepatitis C surveillance and research activities

263,088

Other grants and contracts from public sources

1		
American Foundation for AIDS Research		
TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database	484,137	
TREAT Asia Studies to Evaluate Resistance		
AusAID: Cambodia HIV/AIDS antiretroviral therapy project		
European Medicines Evaluation Agency: Data Collection on Adverse Events of Anti-HIV Drugs Study		
Health Outcomes International Pty Ltd: NSW HIV Economic Evaluation Project	10,000	
Leukaemia Foundation Australia: A pooled analysis of studies of immune risk factors for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	67,500	
Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health: Injection related injury and disease project	22,000	
Medical Research Council, UK: SPARTAC Study	61,807	
NHMRC		
A prospective study to examine the effectiveness and safety of antivirals against pandemic influenza	100 004	
Equipment grant	132,394 80,000	
International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership grant	312,300	
Public Health (Australia) Fellowship for Caroline Day	38,333	
Public Health (Australia) Fellowship for Claire Vajdic	67,250	
The Health Impact of Prostitution Laws	109,915	
The interaction between sexually transmissible infections and human immunodeficiency virus	103,313	
infection in homosexual men	365,100	
NHMRC - Program Grant Subcontract		
Curtin University: Improving understanding of psychostimulant-related harms in Australia	47,710	
The University of Melbourne: HIV infection - immunology and vaccine design	373,480	
The University of Sydney: Mathematical Modelling for improved		
planning of infectious disease control policy	96,000	
NSW Health Department		
Demographic, socio-economic and behavioural risk factors for AIDS in the HAART era	50,000	
Evaluation of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre Phase 2	141,855	
Expert services in HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmissible diseases	100,000	
R&D Infrastructure Grant Program, Infrastructure Support, Stream 2	116,211	

Other grants and contracts from public sources (...continued from previous page)

Queensland Health: Study of risk factors for HIV seroconversion	47,439
University of Minnesota: SILCAAT Study	366,879
US National Institutes of Health	
HIV Vaccine Design and Development Team Contract	15
Longitudinal cohort of newly acquired hepatitis C infection	670,876
Safety and pharmacokinetics of tenofovir and emtricitabine in HIV-negative Thai women	54,511
US National Institutes of Health subcontract	
Johns Hopkins University: Liver disease and HIV-hepatitis B co-infection in the HAART Era	129,312
Massachusetts General Hospital: AIEDRP Study	656,025
Social and Scientific Systems: SMART Study	980,783
Starpharma Holdings Ltd: Microbicide Design and Development Teams	
Thai Red Cross Research Centre: HIV research program in Thailand and Cambodia	145,023
University of Minnesota	
ESPRIT Study	799,519
INSIGHT Study	355,776
STALWART Study	88,319

Pharmaceutical industry funding

Avexa Ltd	12,335
Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd	35,648
Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharmaceuticals (Australia)	178,706
CSL Research and Development	50,025
Gilead Science Inc	1,222,353
GlaxoSmithKline Research And Development (Australia)	20,160
Janssen-Cilag Pty Ltd	45,776
Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd	62,213
Merck Sharp & Dohme	120,443
Merck & Co Inc	20,000
Pfizer Inc	144,454
F Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd (Switzerland)	608,549
Roche Products Pty Ltd (Australia)	318,642
Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd via Quintiles Pty Ltd	5,108
Tibotec Pharmaceuticals Ltd via PPD Australia Pty Ltd	25,019
Virax Immunotherapeutics Pty Ltd	45,200



Annie Tung, Gina Lam, Teresa Wong, Patricia Xu



Disclosure of financial and other relationships with industry

As noted under *Funding for 2006* (see page 80), NCHECR receives financial support for a number of its projects from pharmaceutical companies. In relation to the companies indicated, staff members listed below either served on advisory boards; received individual travel grants, consultancy payments or honoraria; or were the first degree relative of an employee during 2006.

No staff member owned shares, was a personal recipient of a tied or untied grant or had ownership in intellectual property related to any company that funded NCHECR's research program during 2006.

Abbreviated forms of the company names have been used for ease of recognition.

David Cooper	Andrew Grulich
Abbott	CSL
Avexa	Gilead
Boehringer-Ingelheim	GlaxoSmithKline
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Jannsen-Cilag
Gilead	
GlaxoSmithKline	Anthony Kelleher
Janssen-Cilag	Merck
Johnson & Johnson	Virax
LTB4 Sweden	Matthew Law
Merck	Glaxo-Smith-Kline
Monogram Sciences	Janssen-Cilag
Pfizer	Johnson & Johnson
Roche	Roche
Virax	Hourie
	Gail Matthews
Greg Dore	Roche
Bristol-Myers Squibb	
Gilead	Paddy Mallon
Roche	Abbott
Schering-Plough	Bristol-Myers Squibb
raser Drummond	Gilead
GlaxoSmithKline	GlaxoSmithKline
Novartis	Merck
140 Var alo	Roche
Chris Duncombe	Sarah Pett
Johnson & Johnson	Biogen Idec
Roche	Gilead
Coop Emorre	GlaxoSmithKline
Sean Emery	Janssen-Cilag
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Merck
Gilead	ScheringPlough
Janssen-Cilag	
NeuroMolecular Pharmaceuticals	David Regan
RDI	CSL
Roche	

Virax



Presentations at conferences and meetings

Conference oral presentations*

Amin J, O'Connell D, Bartlett M, Tracey E, Kaldor JM, Law MG, Dore GJ. Liver cancer, hepatitis B and C in New South Wales 1990-2002: A linkage study. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Ananworanich J, Gayet-Ageron A, Le Braz M, Prasithsirikul W, Hetchotisakd P, Kiertiburanakul S, Phanuphak, **Cooper DA**, Ruxrungtham K, Hirschel B. CD4-guided scheduled treatments interruptions compared to continuous therapy: Results of the Staccato trial. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Anderson JStC on behalf of the SMART Study Group (Cooper DA, Emery S, Drummond FM, Satchell CS, members). The effect of episodic CD4-guided antiretroviral therapy on quality of life: Results of the quality of life substudy of SMART. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

Blyth CC, Palasanthiran P, Miller A, **McDonald AM**, Kesson AM, Isaacs D, Loh R, Ziegler JB and contributors to the Australian Paediatric Unit. Missed opportunities in prevention of paediatric HIV – has much changed? *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Calmy A, **Petoumenos K**, Lewden C, **Law MG**, Bocquentin F, Hesse K, **Cooper DA**, Carr A, Bonnet F. Combination antiretroviral therapy without a nucleoside analogue: Experience from 334 patients in three cohorts. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Carey DL, Baker D, Easey N, **Petoumenos K, Emery S**, Chuah J, Machon K, Rogers G, **Cooper DA**, Carr A for the FLASH Study Investigators. Poly-L-lactic acid injections for facial lipoatrophy: A randomised, multicentre trial. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Causer LM, Malila A, Williams HA, Metta E, O'Reilly T, Kachur SP, Bloland PB. Evaluation of impact of malaria rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) on healthcare worker prescribing practices – Tanzania, March 2005. *55th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*. Atlanta, USA.

Chel S, **Elliott JH**, **Huffam SE**, Chenda H, Sophea P, Vonthanak S, **Kaldor JM**, **Cooper DA**, Mean CV. Performance characteristics of non-CD4-based criteria for initiation of antiretroviral therapy in an ambulatory

clinic population in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. 13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. Denver, USA.

Chel S, Roeun M, Khem C, Keo S, Mea S, **Huffam SE**, **Elliott JH**, Saphonn V, **Kaldor JM**, **Cooper DA**, Mean CV. The role of peer support workers in adherence support at the Social Health Clinic, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Chel S, Sarun S, Toeung P, **Elliott JH**, **Huffam SE**, Hun C, Pouv S, Saphonn V, **Kaldor JM**, **Cooper DA**, Mean CV. Characteristics and outcomes of tuberculosis treatment in an outpatient HIV clinic in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Cooper DA. Clinical research in resource-limited settings. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Cooper DA. Efficacy and safety of two doses of tipranavir/ritonavir versus lopinavir/ritonavir-based therapy in antiretroviral-naïve patients: Results of BI 1182.33. *Eighth International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection*. Glasgow, UK.

Cooper DA. New drugs in development and their potential clinical use. *HIV DART 2006*. Cancun, Mexico.

Cooper DA. New treatment paradigms for experienced patients. *Eighth International Congress on Drug Therapy in HIV Infection*. Glasgow, UK.

Cooper DA. Recent update on HIV therapy. *4th International Symposium on HIV Infection.* Seoul, Korea.

Coupland H, Maher L. Barriers to hepatitis C treatment uptake among Indo-Chinese injecting drug users. *17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm.* Vancouver, Canada.

Coupland H, Pham A, **Maher L**. Cultural meanings of hepatitis C infection among Indo-Chinese injecting drug users. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference 2006*. Cairns, Qld.

Coupland H, Pham A, **Maher L**. Increasing access and uptake of hepatitis C treatment by Indo-Chinese injecting drug users. *5th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference*. Sydney.

^{*} This section includes presentations on which an NCHECR staff member was the presenting author, apart from presentations made at the 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, the 13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections, and the XVI International AIDS Conference for which all authorships are noted.

Courtney-Vega K on behalf of the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program, NCHECR. Electronic data capture, data reporting and data query resolution. *Phase Forward's International User Conference*. Las Vegas, USA.

Day CA, Dore GJ. Can hepatitis C treatment play a role in prevention? *5th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference*. Sydney.

Day CA, White B, **Doab A**, **Dore GJ**, Thein H-H, Bates A, Holden J, **Maher L**. Experience of hepatitis C testing among injecting drug users. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Donovan B. Ethical and legal issues in sex work. 14th International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections (IUSTI) Asia Pacific Conference on Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV/AIDS. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Donovan B. Screening heterosexual males – is it worth the trouble? *Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2006.* Melbourne.

Donovan B. Sexually transmissible infections – screening and management. *General Practitioner Conference and Exhibition*. Sydney.

Dore GJ. Antiretroviral therapy in special situations. *9th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine*. Bangkok, Thailand.

Dore GJ. Hepatitis C prevention: What still needs to be done? *St Vincent's Hospital Hepatitis B and C Symposium.* Melbourne.

Dore GJ. Hepatitis C treatment in the setting of drug and alcohol dependency. *Drug and Alcohol Nurses Association Conference*. Sydney.

Dore GJ. HIV/hepatitis C co-infection: Therapeutic strategy development. *Shanghai-Hong Kong International Liver Congress 2006*. Shanghai, China.

Dore GJ. Prevention of viral hepatitis-associated hepatocellular carcinoma. *Australian Liver Foundation/Australian Liver Association Combined Single Topic Conference - Liver Tumours.* Melbourne.

Drummond FM on behalf of the SMART Study Group (**Cooper DA**, **Emery S**, **Drummond FM**, **Satchell CS**, members). Episodic CD4-guided use of ART is inferior to continuous therapy: Results of the SMART Study. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Drummond FM on behalf of the SMART Study Group (**Cooper DA**, **Emery S**, **Drummond FM**, **Satchell CS**, members). Episodic CD4-guided use of ART is inferior to continuous therapy: Results of the SMART Study. *Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2006*. Melbourne. **Drummond FM.** Treatment interruptions – dead in the water or in need of rescue? *2nd Australasian Consensus Conference on the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-1 Infected Adults.* Melbourne.

Elliott JH. Tuberculosis and HIV co-infection. *First Phnom Penh Symposium on HIV Medicine*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

El-Sadr W, Neaton J for the SMART Study Investigators. (Cooper DA, Emery S, Drummond FM, Satchell CS, Gunn S, members) Episodic CD4-guided use of ART is inferior to continuous therapy: Results of the SMART Study. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Emery S on behalf of the SMART Study Group (**Cooper DA**, **Emery S**, **Drummond FM**, **Satchell CS**, members). Progression of opportunistic disease or death (POD) in the randomised SMART Study: Why was the risk of POD greater in the CD4+ guided drug conservation arm vs. the virological suppression arm? *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Emery S. Resistance testing: Now recommended but what about access? *2nd Australasian Consensus Conference on the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-1 Infected Adults.* Melbourne.

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Gelgor L, Kelleher AD, Kaldor JM on behalf of the Australian Long-Term Nonprogressor Study Group. Long-term nonprogression in HIV infection: Experience of the Australian cohort. *14th International Symposium on HIV & Emerging Infectious Diseases*. Toulon, France.

Giles ML, **McDonald AM**, Elliott EJ, Ziegler JB, Hellard M, Lewin SR, **Kaldor JM**. Variable uptake of recommended interventions to reduce perinatal HIV transmission in Australia 1982-2004. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

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Grulich AE. Anal sexually transmissible infections and HIV risk: Data from the Health in Men cohort. *Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine 13th Annual Scientific Meeting*. Sydney.

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Guinot D, Ho MT, **Poynten IM**, McAllister J, Pell C, **Grulich AE**. Cost-effectiveness of HIV non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis (NPEP) in Australia. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Harrod ME, Collins G, Jacoby S, Pett SL, Courtney-Rodgers D, Carey C, Emery S, Cooper DA on behalf of the SILCAAT Study Group. Achieving CD4+ T-cell goal and completeness of follow up in SILCAAT. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

Hocking JS, **Regan DG**, Wilson DP. A mathematical model to assess the impact of a chlamydia screening program on the prevalence of *Chlamydia trachomatis* in Australia. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Hudson SL, **Maher L**. Exploring the experiences of street-based sex workers who inject psychostimulants. Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference. Cairns, Qld.

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Kaldor JM. Epidemiological models to project HIV incidence. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Kaldor JM. Global trends in hepatocellular carcinoma incidence. *Australian Liver Foundation/Australian Liver Association Conference on Liver Tumours*. Melbourne.

Kaldor JM. Integrating the needs of public health and research into advanced training for epidemiologists. *15th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Epidemiological Association*. Melbourne.

Kaldor JM. Positive prevention. *First Phnom Penh Symposium on HIV Medicine*. Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Kelleher AD. Drug treatment at seroconversion may affect long-term patient outcomes. *9th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine*. Bangkok, Thailand.

Kelleher AD. HIV vaccines: Arrested development? Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine 13th Annual Scientific Meeting. Sydney. Kulasingam SL, Connelly LB, Conway EL, Hocking JS, Myers ER, **Regan DG**, Roder DM, Ross J, Wain GV. Potential health and economic impact of an HPV vaccine in Australia. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

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Lifson AR, Rhame F, Belloso WH, Dragsted U, El-Sadr W, Gatell JM, Hoy J, Krum EA, Nelson R, Pedersen C, **Pett SL**, Davey RT for the ESPRIT and SILCAAT Research Group. Reporting and evaluation of clinical endpoints in two Phase III recombinant interleukin-2 studies: ESPRIT and SILCAAT. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Maher L, Chant K, Jalaludin B, Kaldor JM, Sargent P. High hepatitis C incidence in new injecting drug users in Australia: A policy failure. *17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm.* Vancouver, Canada.

Maher L, Coupland H, Musson R. Scaling up HIV treatment, care and support for injecting drug users in Vietnam. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

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Maher L, Ho HT, Pham A, Crofts N. Co vay, Co tra: Vulnerability to blood-borne viral infection among ethnic Vietnamese injecting drug users in Australia. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference*. Cairns, Qld.

Maher L, Li J, Dixon D, Kaldor JM. Impact of a natural experiment in heroin supply reduction on patterns of drug use, risk behaviour and incidence of hepatitis C infection: Implications for understanding drug markets and drug-related harms. 68th Annual Scientific Meeting of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence. Scottsdale, USA.

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Mangclaviraj S, **Kerr SJ**, Chaitongwongwatana S, Ananworanich J, Hirschel B, **Emery S**, **Cooper DA**, Ruxrungtham K, Phanuphak P. Nadir CD4 count predicts abnormalities in PAP smear: Women's health in a resource limited setting. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

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McDonald AM, Jauncey M, Kaldor JM for the National HIV Surveillance Committee. The case for AIDS surveillance in the HAART era. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

Middleton MG, McDonald AM, Kaldor JM for the National HIV Surveillance Committee. Birthplace and AIDS incidence in Australia, 1996-2005. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Middleton MG, Vajdic CM, Donovan B, Kaldor JM. The prevalence of Neisseria gonorrhoeae in Australia 1997-2005: A systematic review. *Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2006*. Melbourne.

Munier MLC. PBMC isolation and quality assurance/ quality control. *9th Bangkok Symposium on HIV Medicine*. Bangkok, Thailand.

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Phlong P, **Elliott JH**, Teng KH, Teng H, Sarun S, Saphonn V, **Kaldor JM**, **Maher L**, Mean CV. HIV treatment beliefs and practices and adherence to antiretroviral therapy in Cambodia. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Poynten IM, Jin FY, Prestage GP, Mao L, Kippax S, **Kaldor JM**, **Grulich AE**. Use of non-occupational exposure prophylaxis against HIV by homosexual men: Impact on HIV risk behaviours and subsequent HIV infection. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Prestage GP, Hull P, Kippax S, Zablotska I, Rawstorne P, **Grulich AE**. Differences in trends in behaviour among gay men in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

- **Prestage GP, Jin FY,** Mao L, Kippax S, **Kaldor JM, Grulich AE**. 'Party drugs' and risk behaviour in the Health in Men cohort. *9th Social Research Conference on HIV, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases*. Sydney
- Prestage GP, Kippax S, Jin FY, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. What distinguishes casual and regular partnerships among HIV-negative gay men? 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.
- **Prestage GP, Lawrence C, Grulich AE.** Findings from the Queensland survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men who have sex with men. *Annual Conference of Queensland Indigenous Sexual Health Workers.* Gold Coast, Qld.
- **Prestage GP, Lawrence C, Grulich AE.** Findings from the Queensland survey of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men who have sex with men. *Anwernekenhe 4.* Mylor, SA.
- **Prestage GP**. Partyboys, sexpigs and risk behaviour. Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations HIV Educators' Conference 2006. Wollongong, NSW.
- **Prestage GP**. Sexpigs and HIV risk. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.
- **Razali K**, **Law MG** on behalf of the Hepatitis C Virus Projections Working Group. Estimates and projections of the hepatitis C virus epidemic in Australia. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.
- **Regan DG**, Philp DJ, Hocking JS, **Law MG**. Estimating the population level impact of a vaccine on HPV transmission and herd immunity in Australia. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.
- **Regan DG**, Philp DJ, Hocking JS, **Law MG**. Modelling the impact of a vaccine on HPV transmission in Australia. *Public Health Association of Australia 10th National Immunisation/2nd Asia Pacific Vaccine Preventable Diseases Conference*. Sydney.
- **Salmon AM**, Dwyer R, **Jauncey M**, van Beek I, **Maher L**. Prevalence and predictors of injection related injury and disease among injecting drug users attending the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference*. Cairns, Qld.
- **Salmon AM, Jauncey M, Kaldor JM**, van Beek I, **Maher L**. Describing the frequently attending clients of the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre. *17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm.* Vancouver, Canada.
- **Salmon AM, Kaldor JM**, van Beek I, **Maher L**. Evaluation of community attitudes towards the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

- **Salmon AM, Kaldor JM**, van Beek I, **Maher L**. Evaluation of community attitudes towards the Sydney Medically Supervised Injecting Centre. *UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine Postgraduate Research Student Conference*. Sydney.
- Sarim C, **Elliott JH**, **Huffam SE**, Chenda H, Sophea P, Vonthanak, **Kaldor JM**, **Cooper DA**, Mean CV. Performance characteristics of non-CD4based criteria. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.
- **Sasson S.** Ligand-mediated IL-7R down-regulation. 16th St Vincent's & Mater Health Research Symposium. Sydney.
- **Seddiki N.** Expression of IL-2 and IL-7 receptors discriminates between human regulatory and activated T-cells. *29th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Flow Cytometry Group.* Sydney.
- **Templeton DJ.** Post-exposure prophylaxis: STDs, hepatitis C, hepatitis B and HIV. *46th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy.* San Francisco, USA.
- **Topp L, Li J, Kaldor JM, Maher L**. Risk behaviour and antibody hepatitis C seroprevalence among indigenous Australian injecting drug users 1995-2004. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference*. Cairns, Qld.
- Vajdic CM, Grulich AE, Kaldor JM, Fritschi L, Benke G, Hughes AM, Kricker A, Turner J, Milliken S, Armstrong BK. Specific infections, infection-related behaviour, and risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in adults. *97th Annual Meeting of the American* Association for Cancer Research. Washington, USA.
- Vajdic CM, McDonald S, van Leeuwen MT, McCredie MR, Stewart JM, Law M, Chapman JR, Webster AC, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Cancer incidence in kidney failure: Prior to and after treatment by dialysis and transplantation. 15th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Epidemiological Association. Melbourne.
- van Leeuwen MT, Vajdic CM, McDonald S, McCredie MR, Stewart JM, Law M, Chapman JR, Webster AC, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Comparison of cancer diagnoses recorded by clinicians in the Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA) with those recorded by cancer registries. 15th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Epidemiological Association. Melbourne.
- Van Nguyen TT, Razali K, Amin J, Law MG, Dore GJ. Estimates of Hepatitis B-related liver cancer among Vietnam born population in Australia. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

Walsh N, Austin K, Kelsall J, Brogan D, Watson K, Sasadeusz J, **Maher L**, **Dunlop A**, Crofts N. Bridging the divide – bringing two sectors together for one purpose: A clinical workshop on the treatment of hepatitis and HIV in drug users. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Walsh N, **Dunlop A**, Austin K, Kelsall J, van Beek I, **Maher L**, Brogan D, Watson K, Sasadeusz J, Crofts N. Bridging the divide – bringing two sectors together for one purpose: A clinical workshop on the treatment of hepatitis and HIV in drug users. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference*. Cairns, Qld.

Wand H, Calmy A, Carey D, Samaras K, Carr A, Law MG, Cooper DA, Emery S on behalf of the INITIO investigators. Metabolic syndrome, cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes mellitus after initiation of antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected individuals. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

Wright E, Brew B, Kongsaengdao S, Arayawithchanont A, Samintarapunya K, Imran D, Lun W, Kamarulzaman A, Li P, Tau G, Saphonn V, Chel S, **Huffam SE**, Kishore K, Ali ST, Robertson K, Lal L, Lim M, Devadson D, Bain P, Dwyer R, McCormack G, Scholten C, Cherry C, McArthur J, Wesselingh S. Neurocognitive impairment, symptomatic peripheral neuropathy and depression are highly prevalent in HIV infected outpatients within the Asia-Pacific region: Findings of the Asia Pacific NeuroAIDS Consortium (APNAC) Study. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Yap L, Richters J, Butler T, Kirkwood K, Grant L, **Donovan B**. Buying time in NSW prisons: Sexual protection and rejection among men. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Yeung B, Marks P, Dore GJ. Biological specimens tracking database for use in clinical trials.

Australasian Health and Research Data Managers

Association 16th Annual Scientific Meeting. Brisbane.

Zaunders J. Infection of CD127+ (IL-7R+) CD4+ cells and over-expression of CTLA-4 are linked to loss of antigen-specific CD4 T-cells during primary HIV-1 infection. *29th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Flow Cytometry Group.* Sydney.

Zhou J, Dore GJ, Zhang FJ, Lim PL, Chen YMA on behalf of the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. Hepatitis B and C virus co-infection among patients with HIV in TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Zhou J, Dore GJ, Zhang FJ, Lim PL, Chen YMA on behalf of the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. Hepatitis B and C virus co-infection among patients with HIV in TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Zhou J, **Elliott JH**, Ditangco R, Lim PL, Kiertiburanakul S, Kumarasamy N, Merati TP, Pujari S, **Law MG** on behalf of the TREAT Asia HIV Observational Database. Risk of active tuberculosis and prognostic significance of tuberculosis among TAHOD patients. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Other oral presentations

Cooper DA. Current trends in antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS. *The University of Sydney 150th Anniversary of the Faculty of Medicine Symposia: Immunity and Infection.* Sydney.

Cooper DA. HAART's first decade: Success brings further challenges. *UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, Sustaining Treatment Costs* – *Who Will Pay*? Washington DC, USA.

Cooper DA. HIV update. *Australian Government Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs*. Sydney.

Cooper DA. Management of virological failure. Australian Society for HIV Medicine HIV Community Prescriber Case Discussion Evening. Sydney.

Cooper DA. New drugs, new strategies. *Portuguese Society of Infectious Diseases and Portuguese Association for AIDS Clinical Study HIV Meeting*. Lisbon, Portugal.

Cooper DA. New drugs, new strategies. *Princess Alexandra Sexual Health/Sexual Health Society of Queensland, Brisbane Infectious Diseases Microbiology Round*. Brisbane.

Cooper DA. Rational use of protease inhibitors. *St Vincent's Hospital, Centre for Immunology, HIV/Infectious Diseases Immunology Journal Club*. Sydney.

Cooper DA. Selection of HAART regimens to reduce impact of lipodystrophy and other metabolic disorders. *WHO/UNAIDS Women and Adolescents Workshop*. Gaborone, Botswana.

Courtney-Rodgers D on behalf of the ESPRIT and SILCAAT Study Groups. ESPRIT and SILCAAT updates. *ESPRIT, SILCAAT, SMART and STALWART Investigator Meeting*. Sydney.

Courtney-Rodgers D on behalf of the Therapeutic and Vaccine Research Program, NCHECR. US National Institutes of Health regulatory guidelines: A review. *NCHECR Clinical Trial Network Research Coordinators Satellite Meeting*. Melbourne.

Courtney-Vega K on behalf of the STEAL Study Group. STEAL eCRF user feedback. *STEAL Investigator Meeting*. Sydney.

Courtney-Vega K on behalf of the STEAL Study Group. STEAL eCRF user feedback. *NCHECR Clinical Trial Network Research Coordinators Satellite Meeting.* Melbourne.

- **Donovan B.** Traditional sexually transmissible infection control strategies. *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations National Forum on Sexually Transmissible Infections and Gay Men.* Sydney.
- **Dore GJ**. Advances in hepatitis C therapy including HIV/hepatitis C co-infection. *Northern Rivers Sexual Health Service HIV Update Meeting*. Tinebar, NSW.
- **Dore GJ**. Advances in hepatitis C therapy. *Hepatitis C Council of NSW Annual General Meeting*. Sydney.
- **Dore GJ.** Australian trial in acute hepatitis C (ATAHC Study): Update. *Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Workshop.* Lorne, Vic.
- **Dore GJ**. CHARIOT: Clinical trial update. *Australian Hepatitis Council Hepatitis C Research Forum*. Sydney.
- **Dore GJ**. Hepatitis B public health issues. *Heplink Forum*. Sydney.
- **Dore GJ.** Hepatitis C sexual transmission: Fact or fiction? *Sexual Health Society of Queensland Clinical Meeting.* Brisbane.
- **Dore GJ**. Hepatitis C treatment for injecting drug users: An opportunity for care and advocacy. *National Development and Research Institute Meeting*. New York, USA.
- **Dore GJ**. Hepatitis C treatment update. *Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service Meeting*. Sydney.
- **Dore GJ**. Hepatitis C: A medical perspective. *Hepatitis C Health Writers Forum*. Sydney.
- **Dore GJ**. HIV/hepatitis C co-infection natural history and clinical management. *Asia Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver Consensus on the Diagnosis, Management and Treatment of Hepatitis C: Update 2006*. Singapore.
- **Dore GJ.** New directions in hepatitis C therapy. *St Vincent's Hospital HIV Journal Club.* Sydney.
- **Dore GJ**. Overview of the epidemiology and natural history of hepatitis C in Australia. *Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Hepatitis C Think Tank*. Sydney.
- **Dore GJ**. Public health challenges in hepatitis C. *Sexual Health Society of Queensland Clinical Meeting*. Brisbane.
- **Dore GJ.** Viral hepatitis research overview: NCHECR. *Australian Hepatitis Council Hepatitis C Research Forum.* Sydney.
- **Drummond FM**. SMART results and implications. *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Annual General Meeting*. Sydney.
- **Drummond FM.** SMART results and implications. National Association of People Living with HIV/ AIDS, Treatment Officers' Network Biannual Meeting 2006. Sydney.

- **Elliott JH.** Immune restoration disease during early ART in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. *Workshop on Tuberculosis-Related Immune Reconstitution Inflammatory Syndrome*. Kampala, Uganda.
- **Emery S.** Avian influenza. *Royal North Shore Hospital Grand Rounds*. Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. Anal sexually transmissible infections and HIV risk. *Sexually Transmissible Infections in Gay Men Action Group*. Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. Current status and possible futures of behavioural studies in seroconverters. *Primary Infection Advisory Committee Meeting*. Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. Epidemic update. *Inaugural Meeting of the Australian Population Health Department Principle Committee, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmissible Infections Subcommittee.* Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. Have we under-estimated the range of HIV-associated cancers? Lessons from transplant recipients. *St Vincent's Hospital, HIV/Immunology and Infectious Diseases Unit Journal Club*. Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. HHV8 infection in gay men. *Prince of Wales Hospital Virology Research Laboratory Seminar Series*. Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. HIV and sexually transmissible infections in culturally and linguistically diverse populations in Australia. *Culturally and Linguistically Diverse* (*CALD*) *Roundtable*. Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. HIV and sexually transmissible infections in culturally and linguistically diverse populations in Australia. *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Annual General Meeting*. Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. HIV and sexually transmissible infections: Interstate comparisons. *NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections, Health Promotion Subcommittee Meeting.* Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. Interactions between sexually transmissible infections and HIV in homosexual men. *Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sexual Health Registrars Meeting*. Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. Sexually transmissible infections in homosexual men: What surveillance and epidemiology can offer. *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations National Forum on Sexually Transmissible Infections and Gay Men*. Sydney.
- **Grulich AE**. Update on the HIV epidemic. *Parliamentary Liaison Group Meeting*. Canberra.
- **Grulich AE**. Use of non-occupational exposure prophylaxis against HIV by homosexual men: Impact on HIV risk behaviours and subsequent HIV infection. *1st International Workshop on HIV Transmission Principles of Intervention*. Toronto, Canada.

Grulich AE. Use of non-occupational exposure prophylaxis against HIV by homosexual men: Impact on HIV risk behaviours and subsequent HIV infection. *NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmissible Infections, Health Promotion Subcommittee Meeting.* Sydney.

Harrod ME. IL2 cycling in SILCAAT and ESPRIT. *ESPRIT, SILCAAT, SMART and STALWART Investigator Meeting*. Sydney.

Hudson SL. "A Decent Proposal": Using ethnography to explore the experiences of street sex workers who inject psychostimulants. *UNSW School of Public Health and Community Medicine Postgraduate Research Student Conference*. Sydney.

Huffam SE. HIV treatment and care in Cambodia: Cambodian Ministry of Health and UNSW (NCHECR) Collaboration. *Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sexual Health Registrars Seminar Series*. Sydney.

Iversen JL. The Australian Needle and Syringe Program survey: 2005 selected NSW results. *NSW Needle and Syringe Program Worker's Meeting*. Sydney.

Kaldor JM, **Cooper DA**. NCHECR update. *Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS, Sexual Health and Hepatitis Meeting*. Canberra.

Kaldor JM. Epidemiological analysis. *NSW Health Communicable Disease Control Workshop*. Sydney.

Kaldor JM. Estimation of HIV incidence and prevalence. *Annecy Group Meeting*. Berlin, Germany.

Kaldor JM. HIV in Australia: Recent trends. *Annecy Group Meeting*. Berlin, Germany.

Kaldor JM. HIV in the context of reproductive health in refugee situations. *9th Meeting of Inter-agency Working Group on Reproductive Health Response in Conflict Consortium*. Sydney.

Kaldor JM. HIV/AIDS in Indonesia. *Albion Street Centre Staff Briefing*. Sydney.

Kaldor JM. Population-based linkage studies of mortality and cancer incidence following diagnoses of hepatitis B and C. Seminar at Institut de Santé Publique, de'Épidémiologie et de Développement (ISEPD), Université Victor Segalen Bordeaux 2. Bordeaux, France.

Kaldor JM. Safety studies in preparation for chemoprophylaxis trials. *Thai Red Cross Community Advisory Board Meeting*. Bangkok, Thailand.

Kaldor JM. The epidemiology of HIV, sexually transmissible infections and hepatitis C in Aboriginal communities. *NSW HIV, Sexually Transmissible Infection and Hepatitis C Strategies: Forum Implementation Plan for Aboriginal People*. Sydney.

Kaldor JM. The role of AIDS case reporting in HIV surveillance. *Annecy Group Meeting*. Berlin, Germany.

Kaldor JM. Update on the International Collaborative Indigenous Health Research Partnership resilience project. *National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Members Meeting*. Perth.

Kelleher AD. Abacavir HSR and HLA testing. *S100 Prescribers Meeting*. Sydney.

Kelleher AD. Abacavir Hypersensitivity and HLA-B57 testing. *Sydpath Continuing Education Program.* Sydney.

Kelleher AD. Decimated or missing in action? CD4 T-cells in HIV primary infection. *Burnet Institute - Monash Immunology Joint Seminar Series*. Melbourne.

Kelleher AD. Decimated or missing in action? CD4 T-cells in HIV primary infection. *The University of Melbourne, Department of Microbiology and Immunology Seminar*. Melbourne.

Kelleher AD. Distinguishing vaccine antibody responses from those induced by HIV infection. Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations, Vaccines Policy Working Group Meeting. Sydney.

Kelleher AD. HIV vaccines: Arrested development? *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar*. Sydney.

Kelleher AD. HLA B5701 laboratory methodology and summary results. *HLA B5701 Technical Advisory Board Meeting*. Melbourne.

Kelleher AD. Humoral immune responses: An update/refresher. *NSW Branch of the Australian Society for Microbiology, Clinical Serology and Molecular Special Interest Group Meeting*. Sydney.

Kelleher AD. Primary HIV infection, diagnosis, management and pathogenesis. *Faculty of Allied Health Services Seminar, Chulalongkorn University.* Bangkok, Thailand.

Kelleher AD. Review of the mechanisms of humoral immunity and an update on serological techniques. *Sydpath Continuing Education Program.* Moree and Narrabri, NSW.

Kelleher AD. Update on HIV vaccine development and the STEP trial. *AIDS Council of NSW/Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Community Information Forum*. Sydney.

Kelleher AD. Update on HIV vaccine development and the STEP trial. *Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations Nurse Educators Information Forum*. Sydney.

Kelleher AD. Validation of in-house assay for B57 typing. *Sydpath Continuing Education Program*. Sydney.

Kerr SJ. Academic detailing, rational drug use and quality pharmaceutical care service development. *Khon Kaen University, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Patient-Centered: A New Perspective in the Quality of Pharmaceutical Care Service Development Workshop.* Khon Kaen, Thailand.

Law MG, **Razali K**. HIV and hepatitis C modelling. *Network of Infectious Disease Modellers of Australia Workshop*. Canberra.

Maher L. Innovations from Vancouver. *ANEX Seminar*. Sydney.

Maher L. Vulnerability and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) injecting drug users. Workshop on HIV Prevention, Diagnosis and Support for People from CALD Backgrounds. Sydney.

Matthews GV. Acute hepatitis C and ATAHC Study overview. *National Development and Research Institute Meeting*. New York, USA.

Matthews GV. Non-invasive staging of liver disease, *St Vincent's Hospital HIV Journal Club*. Sydney.

Matthews GV. Updates in hepatitis B and HIV. *HIV Community Prescriber Case Discussion Evening*. Sydney.

McDonald AM, Cunningham P, **Kelleher AD**, **Kaldor JM**. Comparison of two assays for identifying incident infection among cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection. *Serologic Testing Algorithm for Recent HIV Seroconversions (STARHS) Workshop*. Toronto, Canada.

McDonald AM, Nadew K, Elliott E, Zurynski Y, **Kaldor JM**, Ziegler J. Perinatal exposure to HIV in Australia, 1982-2005. *The Children's Hospital at Westmead*. Sydney.

Munier MLC. Development and optimisation of a priming assay: Cytokine amplified multi-parameter intracellular cytokine staining assay and HIV Vaccine Development and Design Team vaccine trial results. *Garvan Institute Immunology Work in Progress Meeting.* Sydney.

Prestage G. Findings from the Melbourne Periodic Survey. *Victorian AIDS Council Workshop*. Melbourne.

Prestage G. Findings from the Queensland Periodic Survey. *Queensland AIDS Council Workshop.* Brisbane.

Prestage G. Partyboys, sexpigs and risk behaviour. *Terrence Higgins Trust Workshop*. London, UK.

Prestage G. Updates on social research findings: HIV risk among gay men. *NCHECR Clinical Trial Network Research Coordinators Satellite Meeting.* Melbourne.

Ramacciotti T. A review of the HIV EIA screening test window period. *NSW Health Department Reference Laboratory Meeting*. Sydney

Ramacciotti T. A review of the HIV EIA screening test window period. *Primary HIV Infection Working Group Meeting*. Sydney.

Sasson S. Dysregulation of the IL-7/IL-7 receptor system: Implications for HIV infection and oncogenesis. *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar*. Sydney.

Seddiki N. Immune restoration disease in HIV patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar*. Sydney.

Seddiki N. Regulatory T-cells: Role in immune restoration disease in HIV patients receiving antiretroviral therapy. *Garvan Institute Immunology Work in Progress Meeting*. Sydney.

van Bockel D. Analysis of immunodominant B*2705 restricted HIV-specific cytotoxic T lymphocyte response during chronic infection. *Garvan Institute Immunology Work in Progress Meeting*. Sydney.

van Bockel D. Studies of T-cell receptor diversity in antigen specific cytotoxic T lymphocyte. *Centre for Immunology Research Seminar*. Sydney.

van Bockel D. Studying T-cell receptor diversity in fixed antigen specific cytotoxic T lymphocyte. *NHMRC Program Grant Meeting.* Melbourne.

Wand H, Calmy A, Carey DL, Samaras K, Carr A, Law MG, Cooper DA, Emery S on behalf of the INITIO investigators. Metabolic syndrome, cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes mellitus after initiation of antiretroviral therapy in HIV-infected individuals. 8th International Workshop on Adverse Drug Reactions and Lipodystrophy in HIV. San Francisco, USA.

Zaunders J. Ag-specific CCR5+ CD38+++ CD4+ CTL, gut-homing, and IL-7 signalling in primary HIV infection. *Garvan Institute Immunology Work in Progress Meeting*. Sydney.

Zaunders J. Antigen-specific CCR5+ CD38+++ CD4+ cytotoxic T lymphocytes in primary viral infections. Westmead Millennium Institute for Medical Research, Centre for Virus Research Seminar. Sydney.

Zaunders J. Generation of resting memory CD4+ T-cells with integrated HIV DNA. *Primary HIV Infection Working Group Meeting*. Sydney.

Zaunders J. Gut-associated lymphoid tissue, CCR5+CD4+ T-cell depletion and IL-7 signalling during primary HIV infection. *NHMRC Program Grant Meeting*. Melbourne

Conference poster presentations*

Allison WE, Kiromat M, Vince J, Schaefer M, **Zhou J**, **Kaldor JM**. Current practice in testing admitted children for HIV serostatus at Port Moresby General Hospital. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

^{*} This section includes all posters co-authored by an NCHECR staff member for the 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, the 13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections and the XVI International AIDS Conference, as well as other selected posters.

Ammaranond P, **Petoumenos K**, **Middleton MG**, Doong N, Finlayson R, McMurchie M, **van Bockel D**, **Cooper DA**, **Kaldor JM**, **Kelleher AD** on behalf of the Australian Long-Term Nonprogressor Study Group. Escape from an immunodominate epitope in HLA-B27-positive individuals predicts viral load outcome. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Avihingsanon A, **Kerr SJ**, **Boyd M**, Ungsedhapand C, **Duncombe C**, Ubolyam S, Pussadee K, Ruxrungtham K, Lange J, **Cooper DA**, Phanuphak P and the HIV-NAT 006 Study Team. Long-term efficacy, safety and tolerability of indinavir-based therapy in nucleoside experienced HIV-1-infected patients in a resource limited setting: 272 weeks follow-up of HIV-NAT 005 study. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Avihingsanon A, **Matthews GV**, Lewin SR, Rerknitmitr R, Petcharat P, **Marks P**, Sasadeusz J, **Cooper DA**, Bowden S, Locarnini S, Ruxrungtham K, **Dore GJ**. Characteristics and predictors of hepatic flares within a randomized study of hepatitis B therapy in antiretroviral-naïve HIV/hepatitis B co-infected patients in Thailand. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Burke M, Kippax S, Rajabu M, Crawford J, **Kaldor JM**. Abstinence practices in pregnancy as a risk factor for mother-to-child transmission in rural Tanzania. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Burke M, Rajabu M, Kippax S, Crawford J, **Kaldor JM**. Men and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) in Tanzania – included or excluded. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Calmy A, **Petoumenos K**, Lewden C, **Law MG**, Bocquentin F, Hesse K, Carr A, Bonnet F. Combination antiretroviral therapy without a nucleoside analogue: experience from 334 patients in three cohorts. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Carey C, Pett SL, Courtney-Rodgers D, Wentworth D, French M, Finlayson R, Emery S, Cooper DA for the ESPRIT Study Group. ESPRIT (Evaluation of Subcutaneous Proleukin® in a Randomised International Trial): Baseline and on-study predictors of CD4+ T-cell response with subcutaneous recombinant interleukin-2 at month 36. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

Chel S, **Huffam S**, **Elliott JH**, Hun C, Pouv S, Saphonn V, **Kaldor JM**, **Cooper DA**, Mean CV. Monitoring of antiretroviral therapy rationing procedures at a single site in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Chel S, **Huffam SE**, **Elliott JH**, Pouv S, Hun C, Saphonn V, **Kaldor JM**, **Cooper DA**, Mean CV. The Social Health Clinic, an international partnership in Phnom Penh, Cambodia: First 15 months of operation. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Clayton S, Gray B, Berry S, **Prestage GP**. Making sense of HIV: Turning scientific concepts into community language. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Cohn D for the SMART Study Group (**Cooper DA**, **Emery S**, **Drummond FM**, members). Severity and types of clinical events by proximal CD4 cell counts in the SMART Study. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Day CA, White B, **Dore GJ**, **Maher L**. Hepatitis B among injecting drug users: Prevalence, vaccination and knowledge of status. *Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and Other Drugs Conference 2006*. Cairns, Qld.

De Rose R, Batten CJ, Smith MZ, Fernandez CS, Peut V, Thomson S, Ramshaw IA, Boyle DB, **Law MG**, Kent SJ. Comparative immunogenicity and efficacy of subtype AE SHIV priming and boosting vaccines in pigtail macaques. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Duncombe C, Kerr SJ, Ungsedhapand C, Avihingsanon A, Bunupuradah T, Pumpradit W, Ruxrungtham K, **Cooper DA**, Lange J, Phanuphak P and the HIV-NAT Study Group. Immune recovery and stopping cotrimoxale prophylaxis in Thai patients treated with NNRTI-based HAART for 216 weeks. 13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. Denver, USA.

El-Sadr W for the SMART Study Group (**Cooper DA**, **Emery S**, **Drummond FM**, members). Inferior clinical outcomes with episodic CD4-guided antiretroviral therapy aimed at drug conservation in the SMART Study: Consistency of findings in all patient subgroups. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Gallagher S, Berry S, **Prestage GP**. Talking to people living with HIV about condoms and sexual health. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Gelgor L, Anderson B, Baker D, Finlayson R, Genn W, MacFarlane R, McMurchie M, **Kelleher AD**, **Kaldor JM** on behalf of the Long-Term Nonprogressor Study Group. Long-term nonprogression in HIV infection: Update of the Australian cohort. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Glenday KA, **Li J**, Thein HH, Shourie S, White B, **Maher L**. A decade of anit-hepatitis C prevalence and risk behaviour surveillance among injecting drug users: The National Needle and Syringe Program Survey. 17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm. Vancouver, Canada.

Grey P, Smith D, Bloch M, McFarlane R, Finlayson R, Doong N, Chuah J, Carr A, **Cooper DA**, **Kelleher AD** and the PULSE Study Team. Follow-up (median of four and a quarter years from baseline) of patients who were treated at primary HIV infection, achieved virological suppression, and then followed a structured interruption strategy. Proportion who restarted their therapy, has there been any progression? *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Grulich AE, Jin FY, Prestage GP, Emery S, Kippax S, Mao L, Kaldor JM on behalf of the Australian-Thai HIV Vaccine Consortium. Defining high incidence groups of homosexual men for HIV prevention studies. 13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. Denver, USA.

Grulich AE, Jin FY, Prestage GP, Mao L, Kippax S, **Kaldor JM**. Previous use of non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis against HIV and subsequent HIV infection in homosexual men: Data from the Health in Men cohort. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Grulich AE, Jin FY, Prestage GP, Mao L, Kippax S, Pell C, **Donovan B, Templeton D**, Cunningham P, Taylor J, Mindel A, **Kaldor JM**. Sexually transmissible infections as risk factors for HIV infection in homosexual men: Data from the Health in Men cohort. *1st International Workshop on HIV Transmission* – *Principles of Intervention*. Toronto, Canada.

Grulich AE, **Jin FY**, **Prestage GP**, Mao L, Kippax S, Pell C, **Donovan B**, **Templeton D**, Taylor J, Mindel A, **Kaldor JM**. Herpes simplex virus types 1 and 2 and HIV infection in homosexual men: Data from the Health in Men cohort. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Grund B for the SMART Study Group (**Cooper DA**, **Emery S**, **Drummond FM**, members). Predictors for the initial CD4 decline after antiretroviral treatment interruption in the SMART Study. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Hoy JF for the SMART Study Group (**Cooper DA**, **Emery S**, **Drummond FM**, **Satchell CS**, members). Predictors for the initial CD4 decline after antiretroviral treatment interruption in the SMART Study. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Hoy JF for the SMART Study Group (**Cooper DA**, **Emery S**, **Drummond FM**, **Satchell CS**, members). Severity and types of clinical events by proximal CD4 cell counts in the SMART Study. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Hudson SL, **Maher L**. "A Decent Proposal": Using ethnography to explore the experiences of street sex workers who inject psychostimulants. *17th International Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm.* Vancouver, Canada.

Ip S, Zaunders J, Munier MLC, Murray J, Petoumenos K, Grey P, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Elevated CD28+CD38+HLA-DR+ subset of CD8 T-cells correlates with viral control in primary HIV-1 infection. 29th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Flow Cytometry Group. Sydney.

Ip S, Zaunders J, Munier MLC, Murray J, Petoumenos K, Grey P, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Elevated CD28+ CD38+ HLA-DR+ subset of CD8 T-cells correlates with viral control in primary HIV-1 infection. *16th St Vincent's & Mater Health Research Symposium*. Sydney.

Jin F, Prestage GP, Zablotska I, Kippax SC, Pell CM, Donovan B, Cunningham PH, Templeton DJ, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Sexually transmissible infections in a cohort of HIV-positive homosexual men in Sydney: The Positive Health Study. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

Jin FY, Prestage GP, Mao L, Kippax S, Pell C, Donovan B, Templeton D, Cunningham P, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Anal sexually transmissible infections as risk factors for HIV seroconversion: Data from the Health in Men cohort. XVI International AIDS Conference. Toronto, Canada.

Kariminia A, Butler TG, **Law MG**, Levy MH, Corben SP, **Kaldor JM**, Grant L. Mortality among prisoners and ex-prisoners: What are the risk factors? An Australian experience. *9th European Conference on Drugs and Infections Prevention in Prison*. Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Kinloch S, Lampe F, Perrin L, **Cooper DA**, Hoen B, Goh LE, Tsoukas C, El-Habib R, Theofan G, Phillips A and the QUEST Study Group. QUEST Study: Follow-up at 1 year post-stopping treatments in primary HIV infection subjects on long-term antiretroviral therapy randomised to therapeutic immunisation vs placebo. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Lamoury J, Lamoury FMJ, **Zaunders J**, Veas LA, Brew BJ. IFN-b and copaxone modulate the expression of chemokines and chemokine receptors in human mesenchymal stem cells. *The 3rd Australian Health Medical Research Congress*. Melbourne.

Lawrence C, **Prestage GP**, Leishman B, Tatow D, Costello M, **Grulich AE**. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men who have sex with men in Australia. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Layton MR, Sritanyarat W, Chadbunchachai S, **Kerr SJ**, Tangcharoensathien V. A qualitative study of influences on Thai physicians' prescribing of promotional targeted drugs. *National Medicines Symposium 2006.* Canberra.

Layton MR, Sritanyarat W, Chadbunchachai S, **Kerr SJ**, Tangcharoensathien V. Prescribing promotional targeted drugs: Qualitative study of influences on Thai physicians. *7th International Interdisciplinary Conference Advances in Qualitative Methods*. Gold Coast, Qld.

Lim H, Suzuki K, **Cooper DA, Kelleher AD**. Promoter targeted siRNAs induce gene silencing of simian immunodeficiency virus infection *in vitro*. *16th St Vincent's & Mater Health Research Symposium*. Sydney.

Lim H, Suzuki K, **Cooper DA, Kelleher AD**. Promoter targeted siRNAs induce gene silencing of simian immunodeficiency virus infection *in vitro*. *UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Day*. Sydney.

Maher L, Li J, Jalaludin B, Chant K, Jayasuriya R, Sladden T, Kaldor JM, Dixon D. Impact of national reduction in heroin supply reduction on patterns of drug use, blood-borne virus risk behaviour and hepatitis C incidence in injecting drug users. XVI International AIDS Conference. Toronto, Canada

Mangclaviraj S, Chaitongwongwatana S, **Kerr SJ**, Ananworanich J, Hirschel B, **Emery S**, **Cooper DA**, Kametmoto L, Ruxrungtham K, Phanuphak P. CD4 count and monthly income predict cervical squamous cell abnormalities in PAP smear: Results from the Women's Health Clinic at the Anonymous Clinic of the Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Matthews GV, Cooper DA, Dore GJ. Reversal of end stage liver disease in patients with HIV/hepatitis B-related cirrhosis treated with tenofovir. XVI International AIDS Conference. Toronto, Canada.

Matthews GV, Cooper DA, Dore GJ. Reversal of end stage liver disease in patients with HIV/hepatitis B-related cirrhosis treated with tenofovir. 5th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference. Sydney.

McDonald AM, Cunningham P, Kelleher AD, Kaldor JM. Comparison of two assays for identifying incident infection among cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

McDonald AM, Kaldor JM for the Collaborative Group on Sentinel HIV Surveillance in Sexual Health Clinics. Monitoring HIV transmission in sexual health clinics in Australia, 1993-2004. *Australasian Sexual Health Conference 2006.* Melbourne.

McDonald AM, Kaldor JM for the Collaborative Group on Sentinel Surveillance in Sexual Health Clinics. Monitoring HIV transmission in sexual health clinics in Australia, 1993-2004. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Munier MLC, Zaunders J, Ip S, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Development, optimisation and performance of a culture-amplified multiparametric intracellular cytokine assay for assessment of vaccine immunogenicity. UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Day. Sydney.



Lisa Howard, Charles Tran

Munier MLC, Zaunders J, Ip S, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Development, optimisation and performance of a culture-amplified multiparametric intracellular cytokine assay for the assessment of vaccine immunogenicity. 36th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology. Auckland, New Zealand.

Munier MLC, Zaunders J, Ip S, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Development and optimisation of a culture-amplified multiparametric intracellular cytokine assay for the assessment of vaccine immunogenicity. 29th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Flow Cytometry Group. Sydney.

Munier MLC, Zaunders J, Ip S, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Development, optimisation and performance of a culture-amplified multiparametric intracellular cytokine assay for assessment of vaccine immunogenicity. 16th St Vincent's & Mater Health Research Symposium. Sydney.

Murray J, **Zaunders J**, **Munier MLC**, **Grey P**, **Kelleher AD**, Bloch M, Finlayson R, Carr A, **Kaldor JM**, **Cooper DA**. The effect of rapidly changing HIV-1 viral load on T-cell subsets. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Nakhaee F, Black D, Wand H, McDonald AM, Law MG. Estimation of mortality rates following HIV and AIDS in Australia, 1980-2003: A population based study. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

Nelson M , Bhagani S, Fisher M, Leen C, Brook G, Mandalia S, Reilly G, Pillay D, **Matthews GV**. A 48-week study of tenofovir or lamivudine or a combination of tenofovir and lamivudine for the treatment of chronic hepatitis B in HIV/hepatitis B-co-infected individuals. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Nelson M, **Cooper DA**, Schooley R, Katlama C, Montaner J, Curtis S, Hsu L, Lu B, Smith S, Rooney J and the Viread Global Expanded Access Programme. The safety of tenofovir DF for the treatment of HIV infection: The first 4 years. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA. Nuesch R, **Srasuebkul P**, Ananworanich J, Ruxrungtham K, Phanuphak P, **Duncombe C** and the HIV-NAT Study Team. Monitoring toxicity of antiretroviral therapy in resource limited settings: A prospective clinical trial cohort in Thailand. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Petoumenos K, Law MG, Ayyar A on behalf of the Australian HIV Observational Database. Competing risk covariate analyses. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine.* Melbourne.

Pisith P, Roberts J, Sim S, Grant J, Stein E, Khol V, Saphonn V, Ly PS, Mean CV, **Kaldor J**, Page-Shafer K. HIV prevention using tenofovir: Community participation in the formative phase of HIV prevention trial in Cambodia. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Prestage GP, Jin FY, Mao L, Kippax S, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. 'Party drugs' and risk behaviour among HIV-negative gay men in Sydney: Data from the Health in Men cohort. XVI International AIDS Conference. Toronto, Canada.

Prestage GP, Kippax S, Hull P, Zablotska I, Rawstorne P, **Grulich AE**. Trends in HIV-prevalence among gay men in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Prestage GP, Zablotska I, **Grulich AE**, Rawstorne P, Hull P, McGuigan D, Honnor G, Kippax S. Trends in unprotected anal intercourse among Sydney gay men. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Ramacciotti T, Grey P, Cunningham P, Jin FY, Finlayson R, Bloch M, McFarlane R, Kaldor JM, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD and the PHAEDRA, AIEDRP and Sydney Primary HIV Physicians Network Study Groups. A comparison of methods for estimation of date of HIV infection. 13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. Denver, USA.

Razali K, **Amin J**, **Law MG**. Calibration of a hepatitis C virus projection model using linkage data. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Razali K, Kaldor JM, Law MG. A mathematical model of HIV transmission and the HIV epidemic in developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Read T for the SMART Study Group (Cooper DA, Emery S, Drummond FM, Satchell CS, members). Inferior clinical outcomes with episodic CD4-guided antiretroviral therapy aimed at drug conservation in the SMART Study: Consistency of finding in all patient subgroups. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

Regan DG, Philp DJ, Hocking JS, **Law MG**. Estimating the population level impact of a vaccine on HPV transmission in Australia. *23rd International Papillomavirus Conference and Clinical Workshop*. Prague, Czech Republic.

Sarim C, **Huffam SE**, **Elliott JH**, Hun C, Sophea P, Saphonn V, **Kaldor JM**, **Cooper DA**, Mean CV. Monitoring of antiretroviral therapy rationing procedures at a single site in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Sasson S, Stanley K, Foster N, **Cooper DA, Kelleher AD.** Ligand-mediated interleukin-7 receptor down-regulation. *36th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology.* Auckland, New Zealand.

Sasson S, Stanley K, Foster N, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Ligand-mediated interleukin-7 receptor down-regulation. *16th St Vincent's & Mater Health Research Symposium*. Sydney.

Sasson S, Stanley K, Foster N, **Cooper DA, Kelleher AD**. Ligand-mediated nterleukin-7 receptor down-regulation. *UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Day*. Sydney.

Sasson S, Zaunders J, Zanetti G, King E, Merlin K, Smith DE, Stanley K, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Decreased IL-7R_ (CD127) and increased cytokine γ-chain (CD132) expression correlates with elevated plasma IL-7 levels in HIV infection and precedes loss of viral control. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Satchell CS, Drummond FM, Cooper DA,

Ananworanich J, Hirschel B. CD4-guided scheduled treatment interruptions compared to continuous therapy: Results of the STACCATO trial. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Schneidewind A, Brockman MA, Lahaie MP, Adam R, Brander C, **Kelleher AD**, Walker BD, Allen TM. Impact of HLA-B27-associated CTL escape mutations on HIV-1 replicative fitness. *Keystone Symposia: HIV Vaccines (X6)*. Keystone, USA.

Seddiki N, Fazekas de St Groth B, Santner-Nanan B, **Zaunders J, Sasson S**, Landay A, Solomon M, Alexander SI, Nanan R, **Cooper DA, Kelleher AD**. Expression of interleukin-2 and interleukin-7 receptors discriminates between human regulatory and activated T-cells. *16th European Congress of Immunology*. Paris, France.

Seddiki N, Munier MLC, van Bockel D, Lau K, Ip S, Sasson S, Marriot D, Pett S, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Regulatory abnormalities associated with aberrant CD4+ T-cell responses in HIV patients with immune reconstitution disease (IRD). *36th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology*. Auckland, New Zealand.

Srasuebkul P, Ungsedphand C, Ruxrungtham K, **Boyd MA**, Phanuphak P, **Cooper DA**, **Law MG** and the HIV-NAT and TAHOD Study Teams. Parametric models of immunological failure in HIV-infected Thais receiving antiretrovirals at HIV-NAT and validation using TAHOD. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Suzuki K, Ishida T, **Lim H**, Watanabe T, **Cooper DA**, **Kelleher AD**. Promoter targeted siRNA silence HIV-1 by a transcriptional gene silencing, with a minimal contribution from a post-transcriptional mechanism. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA.

Suzuki K, **Lim H, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD**. Promoter-targeted siRNA induces HIV-1 gene silencing and chromatin remodelling. *The 3rd Australian Health Medical Research Congress*. Melbourne.

Vajdic CM, McDonald S, van Leeuwen MT, McCredie MR, Stewart JM, Law MG, Chapman JR, Webster AC, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Cancer incidence in kidney failure: Prior to and after treatment by dialysis and transplantation. 15th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Epidemiological Association. Melbourne.

van Bockel D, Price D, Asher T, Ambrosak D, Seddiki N, Venturi V, Davenport M, Douek D, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Molecular analysis of antigen specific CD8+ T-cell repertoire profile within HLA B*2705 restricted long-term nonprogressors indicate differences in mounting an effective response against HIV p24 Gag during chronic infection. 36th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology. Auckland, New Zealand.

van Bockel D, Price D, Asher T, Ambrosak D, Seddiki N, Venturi V, Davenport M, Douek D, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Validation of CDR3 junction sequencing in assessing clonal expansion of *ex vivo* cytotoxic T-lymphocytes to immunodominant epitopes during chronic viral infection. *16th St Vincent's & Mater Health Research Symposium.* Sydney.

van Bockel D, Price D, Asher T, Ambrosak D, Seddiki N, Venturi V, Davenport M, Douek D, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Validation of CDR3 junction sequencing in assessing clonal expansion of *ex vivo* cytotoxic T-lymphocytes to immunodominant epitopes during chronic viral infection. *UNSW Faculty of Medicine Research Day*. Sydney.

van Bockel D, Suzuki K, Warton K, Ammaranond P, Douek D, La Gruta N, Stanley K, Turner S, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Clonotypic analysis of the TCRBV repertoire from formaldehydefixed PBMC: Molecular characterisation of virusspecific CD8+ T-cells in the absence of a contained cell sorter. *13th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections*. Denver, USA. van Leeuwen MT, Vajdic CM, McDonald S, McCredie MR, Stewart JM, Law MG, Chapman JR, Webster AC, Kaldor JM, Grulich AE. Comparison of cancer diagnoses recorded by clinicians in the Australian and New Zealand Dialysis and Transplant Registry (ANZDATA) with those recorded by cancer registries. 15th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Epidemiological Association. Melbourne.

White B, **Day CA**, Thein H-H, **Doab A**, Bates A, Holden J, **Maher L**. Acceptability of blood-borne virus testing methods among injecting drug users. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Winston A, Mallon PWG, Satchell CS, Macrae K, Williams K, Law MG, Cooper DA, Emery S. The pharmacokinetic profile and safety of saquinavirritonavir administered once daily with ataznavir or twice daily with a nucleoside backbone using the saquinavir-500mg formulation in HIV-1 infected subjects. 18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine. Melbourne.

Yap L, Butler T, Richters J, Kirkwood K, Grant L, Saxby M, Ropp F, **Donovan B**. Do condoms cause rape and mayhem? The long-term effects of condoms in New South Wales prisons. *18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine*. Melbourne.

Zablotska I, Rawstorne P, Mao L, **Prestage GP**, Fogarty A, Kippax S. HIV status disclosure by HIV-positive gay men is not independent of a casual partner's known or suspected serostatus. *XVI International AIDS Conference*. Toronto, Canada.

Zaunders J, Ip S, Munier MLC, Kaufmann D, Suzuki K, Brereton C, Sasson S, Seddiki N, Koelsch K, Landay A, Grey P, Walker BD, Fazekas de St Groth B, Cooper DA, Kelleher AD. Infection of CD127+ (IL-7R+) CD4+ cells and over-expression of CTLA-4 are linked to loss of antigen-specific CD4 T-cells during primary HIV-1 infection. *16th St Vincent's & Mater Health Research Symposium*. Sydney.

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