

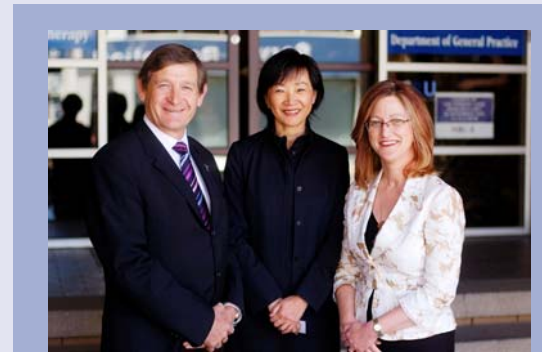
## Welcome to the Primary Care Research Unit (PCR U)

On Wednesday 29th November, 2006 Professor James Angus, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences launched the Primary Care Research Unit within the Department of General Practice. More than 120 guests attended the launch. Professor Doris Young welcomed the guests and introduced Professor Jane Gunn, the inaugural Chair of Primary Care Research at the University of Melbourne who will lead the PCR U. Professor Gunn addressed the launch saying "The PCR U will focus on *first contact* medical care in the community. For Australia *most* primary care is delivered by general practitioners and nurses in the community and the most *common setting* is what we call general practice, with general practitioners delivering more than 102 million health services each year in Australia". She went on to give an historical account of the development of primary care research within the University from the beginnings within the Department of Community Medicine with fractional appointments to 2006 with more than 25 staff working across 25 projects.

2006 has been a highly successful year with two successful NHMRC Project Grants, a success rate of 100%. Congratulations to **Professor Jane Gunn** and **A/Professor Kelsey Hegarty** who led the successful applications. **Professor Doris Young** is a Chief Investigator on a Centre for Clinical Research Excellence (CCRE) in Diabetes and **Professor Jane Gunn** is a Chief Investigator on a successful NHMRC Capacity Building Grant, 'Building public health capacity for complex questions, complex settings and complex interventions'.

A number of staff have been awarded prizes for their research: **Dr Natasha Pavlin** - For 'Best Poster Presentation' at the Australasian Sexual Health Conference; **Dr Gail Gilchrist** - 'Travel Award' from the Royal Society of Edinburgh to the University of Paisley; **Dr Ruth McNair** - 'Alan Chancellor Award for Best First Time Paper Presenter' at the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Annual Scientific Convention and **Dr Marlene Tham** - Australian Association for Academic General Practice (AAAGP) 'Best First Time Presenter Award' at the General Practice & Primary Health Care Conference.

We are pleased to provide a summary of our research output for the year and to provide a brief overview of some of our current projects. We benefit enormously from our networks with researchers, clinicians and policy makers and we invite you to read about our activities in this Newsletter and on our new website at [www.gp.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.gp.unimelb.edu.au)



Prof James Angus, Prof Doris Young and Prof Jane Gunn at the launch of PCR U.

### Spokes in the Research Wheel

PCR U researchers are engaged in collaborative research projects funded by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI).

APHCRI operates as a hub and spoke model, with the hub being based at the Australian National University and the spokes based in the organisations undertaking the programs of work supported by the Institute. To date, PCR U has received funding to undertake projects in the research domains of primary health care models/delivery, mental health, practice nursing, adolescent/child health and workforce issues.

Funding was recently received from APHCRI to investigate strategies revolving around Australia's medical workforce shortage. **Professor Jane Gunn** will lead a project investigating the role of generalism in the 2020 primary care team. This research will involve a systematic synthesis of existing evidence to identify the strengths and limitations of a generalist approach. **Dr Grant Blashki** is leading a project to develop an evidence based policy relevant report on how best to optimise our primary mental health care workforce in Australia.

### Practice-Based Research Network

Our Practice-Based Research Network (PBRN) will be a key component of our knowledge transfer activities.

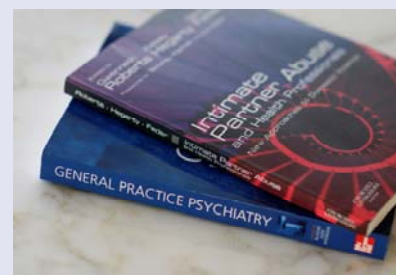
PBRNs exist in the USA, UK and Europe to provide more direct research links with community-based health care providers and to facilitate clinical and translational research. A foundation dinner was held in July and strong interest was shown by practitioners, researchers, Divisions and others with a stake in primary health care research.

A PBRN Coordinator has been appointed to oversee the establishment phase of the network. She has undertaken a comprehensive review of PBRNs from around the globe and we are well underway with a consultation process to develop a working model for the PBRN. If you are interested in being involved in what we think will be an exciting and stimulating adventure, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact **Ms Kate Johnston-Ataata** on +61 3 8344 7276 or email [k.johnston-ataata@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:k.johnston-ataata@unimelb.edu.au)

# 2006 PCRU Publications

## Journal Articles

- Austin D, Blashki G, Klein B & Barton D. 2006. Managing Panic Disorder in General Practice. *Lekarz Rodzinny*. 1 (101):108-115.
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- Gunn J, Hegarty K, Nagle C, Forster D, Brown S & Lumley J. 2006. Putting woman-centered care into practice: a new (ANEW) Approach to psychosocial risk assessment during pregnancy. *BIRTH*. 33 (1):46-55.
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## Book Chapters

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Gilchrist G. 2006. Gender differences in the prevalence of psychiatric morbidity among opiate users in Co-morbidity across Europe. *European Collaborating Centre in Addiction Studies (ECCAS) Monograph Series* 4.

Hegarty K. What is intimate partner abuse and how common is it? 2006. In Roberts G, Hegarty K & Feder G, editors. *Intimate partner abuse and health professionals*. Elsevier, London, UK.

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## Grants Awarded

G Blashki, J Pirkis, J Gunn, J Kroschel, I Ozols & J Day. Reducing Suicide Risk in Men Through General Practice (The SIM Study). *beyondblue* The Victorian Centre for Excellence in Depression and Related Disorders. \$99,943.

G Blashki, J Gunn, C Mihalopoulos & J Pirkis. Optimising the Primary Mental Health Care Workforce in Australia. Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute. \$194,939.

J Gunn, H Herrman, G Gilchrist, K Hegarty, M Kyrios & D Pond. The diamond cohort study-examining depressive symptoms in primary care. National Health and Medical Research Council. \$549,500.

J Gunn, R Kokanovic, C Dowrick, H Herrman, E Hansen & J Furler. Re-ORDER (Re-organising care for Depression & Related Disorders in the Australian Primary Care Setting) - Tasmanian and Cross Cultural Component. Australian

Primary Health Care Research Institute. \$273,051.

J Gunn, R Kokanovic, C Pope & J Lathlean. What is the place of generalism in the 2020 primary care team? Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute. \$194,991.

K Hegarty, J Gunn, A Taft, G Feder, J Astbury & S Brown. Women's Evaluation of a randomised controlled trial for Abuse and Violence in General Practice (WEAVE). National Health and Medical Research

Council. \$654,525.

K Hegarty, R Parker, L Sancic, E Patterson, G Patton & C Pearce. PANACHE - Practice Nurse Adolescent Clinics for Health Evaluation. Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute. \$90,294.

R McNair. Australian Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Attitudes to the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine. Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. \$8,214 (US).

## PCRU Launch Photos



PCRU Mental Health Research Team



PCRU Chronic Disease Research Team



PCRU Young People's Health Research Team



PCRU Launch Attendees



Lynne Walker & Khalil Sukkar from APNA



Prof Teng Liaw, Prof Nicholas Glasgow & Prof Doris Young

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