

Healthy Development Adelaide

A Research and Innovation Cluster in South Australia

Newsletter

Vol 13, Issue 3 – June 2017



Upcoming

Scientific Meetings

3 - 7 June

Sleep - Boston, USA

6 - 8 June

Parent Engagement - Melbourne, Australia

14 - 17 June

International Society for Stem Cell Research - Boston, USA

2 - 5 July

European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology - Geneva, Switzerland

27 - 30 August

Endocrine Society of Australia & Society for Reproductive Biology - Perth, Australia

29 August - 1 September

Early Childhood Education - Bologna, Italy

16 - 19 September

International Society of Nutri-genetics/Nutrigenomics - Los Angeles, California, USA

For further event info go to www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/events

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www.adelaide.edu.au/hda

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LATEST NEWS

HDA Women's Excellence in Research Award Winner 2017



Congratulations to A/Professor Carol Maher for winning the HDA Women's Excellence in Research Award

On 17 May, HDA held the second Women's Excellence in Research Award presentation. A/Professor Carol Maher from the University of South Australia presented on Children's health, activities and lifestyles around the world.

Carol was awarded \$1,000 in prize money and presented with a plaque for winning this prestigious award. The evening was chaired by Professor Janna Morrison from University of South Australia and a member of the HDA Steering Group and Executive Committee.

The talk can be found at www.adelaide.edu.au/hda/news

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https://twitter.com/HDA_SA

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University of South Australia



Flinders University



novita children's services



Government of South Australia

Department for Education and Child Development
Women's and Children's Health Network



Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children

UPCOMING HDA EVENT

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HDA Thematic Evening Multicultural Youth and Families - Challenges and Solutions

Ms Eugenia Tsoulis OAM

The importance of belonging – young people and inclusivity
Chief Executive Officer, Australian Migrant Resource Centre

Dr Joseph Masika OAM

Policy into practice needs two key ingredients to succeed: sound policy and excellent translation into implementation

White Ribbon Ambassador, Multicultural Services, Department for Child Protection

Ms Rosie Antenucci

Multicultural youth and families in schools: supporting positive outcomes
Manager EALD Program, Learning Improvement Division, Office for Education and Early Childhood,
Department of Education and Child Development

Ms Tamara Stewart-Jones

Intimate Partner Violence among Refugee Minors - the situation in South Australia
Chief Executive Officer, Multicultural Youth South Australia

Wednesday 21 June 2017

5.30 - 7.30pm

{doors open from 5.00pm, networking with light refreshments from 6.30pm}

**Rumours (6th floor), Union House
University of Adelaide (North Terrace campus)**

All Welcome - FREE admission

RSVPs required for seating and catering by Friday 16 June to
anne.jurisevic@adelaide.edu



HDA Co-CONVENOR Professor Claire Roberts
is presenting next week's Grand Round in the
Women's and Children's Hospital

**Women's & Children's Hospital / Robinson Research Institute
Co-hosted Grand Round**

Pregnancy complications: Prevention is better than cure

**Wednesday 7 June; 12:30pm - 1:30pm; WCH Queen Victoria Lecture Theatre,
Level 1, Women's & Children's Hospital, North Adelaide**

HDA RESEARCH MEMBER PROFILE - DR ALISON CARE ROBINSON RESEARCH INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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Dr Alison Care is an NHMRC CJ Martin Research Fellow at the Robinson Research Institute, working with Professor Sarah Robertson. Following her undergraduate training at the University of South Australia, Alison completed her PhD with Professor Robertson at the University of Adelaide. She investigated the role of the macro-

phage in early pregnancy success, and discovered that macrophages in the ovary have an important support role for the newly vascularised corpus luteum.

Alison then took up a postdoctoral fellowship at University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Canada. Alison worked with Dr. Sandra Davidge for a 5 year period, where she was funded by competitive Canadian fellowships from The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and Alberta-Innovates Health Solutions. In Canada, Alison developed high-level techniques and expertise in vascular function research.

Using these skills, she investigated various models of complicated pregnancy. In particular, she developed a rat model of advanced maternal age. She discovered that advanced maternal age (≥ 35 years) leads to altered vascular function during pregnancy, compared to pregnancy at a younger age. This study continues to investigate effects of childbearing later in life on the susceptibility to cardiovascular disease in adult offspring, as well as impact on the postpartum health of the mother.

Alison then received the prestigious CJ Martin postdoctoral fellowship from the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. As part of her fellowship, she began to investigate the role of maternal immune cells in facilitating maternal vascular adaptation to pregnancy. She has since returned to Adelaide and is currently investigating maternal immune regulation of vascular adaptations during pregnancy, with a particular focus on uterine artery function and placental development.

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HDA TRAVEL GRANT - RECIPIENT REPORT 2017

Helena Silveira Schuch, PhD Student, Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health, / Research Associate, Better Start Child Health and Development Research Group, School of Public Health, University of Adelaide

With support from Healthy Development Adelaide, in March/2017 I had the opportunity to attend and present my research at the annual meeting of the International Association for Dental Research (IADR), in San Francisco, USA. The IADR meeting is the biggest conference worldwide in dental research. Before the 4-day conference, I attended two satellite events, the Epi-Forum and the Global Oral Health symposium. The Epi-Forum is an event promoted by the Behavioural, Epidemiologic and Health Services Research Scientific Group and the Global Oral Inequities Research Network of the IADR, and the keynote speaker of this event was A/Prof. Maria Glymour, with a very interesting presentation entitled Considerations for applying modern epidemiologic methods to dental health research.

I delivered an oral presentation about the effects of income trajectories on periodontal disease, presenting findings from the 1982 Pelotas Birth Cohort Study. This research is part of my PhD project and aimed to quantify the impact of life course income trajectories on periodontitis in adulthood. We constructed income trajectories from birth to age 30 using group-based trajectory modelling, and estimated the effect of such trajectories on periodontal disease. Periodontal disease is a key oral health condition, as reinforced by the 2010 Global Burden of Disease study. To the best of our knowledge, our study is the first in the health literature evaluating the influence of income trajectories on periodontal health outcomes. We observed that life course income trajectories affected moderate-to-severe periodontal disease measured in the fourth decade of life, even after controlling for demographic, behavioural and clinical variables. The findings from our study contribute to identifying income as a structural determinant of this chronic oral condition and inform population-based measures to prevent periodontal disease.

In addition to present my research, I was lucky enough to receive two awards at the conference, the IADR Lion Dental Research Award and the IADR Outstanding Student Abstract Award – Pre-doctoral. The IADR Lion Dental Research Award is intended to support improvements in oral health sciences through the stimulation of junior researchers by recognition of outstanding and innovative research in basic dental science for the improvement of public dental health; and recognition of applied research achievements for improvement and development of oral care products for the prevention or oral diseases. The IADR Outstanding Student Abstract Award is promoted by the IADR Behavioral, Epidemiologic and Health Services Research (BEHSR) group and recognizes excellence in behavioral sciences and health services research by students.

The possibility to attend the Conference was very rewarding, personally and professionally. I was able to participate in interesting oral sessions and workshops and to gain further international perspectives in my area of research. Presenting my research and discussing its findings with prominent researchers in oral health inequalities and epidemiology was a good challenge and I am grateful to HDA for this opportunity.

**Dr Zohra Lassi, Post Doctoral Research fellow
Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide**

With the assistance of 2017 Healthy Development Adelaide Travel Grant I was privileged to attend 15th World Congress on Public Health in Melbourne, Australia. The World Congress on Public Health is held internationally once in every three years and this time the Congress took place in Australia to showcase new data and new learning about public health from all over the world.

This leading Congress brought together approximately 2,000 national and international experts, including researchers (such as scientists and epidemiologists), health care professionals (including midwives, neonatal nurses, neonatologists and obstetricians), policy makers and community members – with the aim of exploring and promoting novel concepts in public health. There were more than 130 sessions during the 5 days conference in a variety of formats, ranging from plenary discussions, to oral presentations, and more hands-on workshops, complemented by poster sessions, and other interest group meetings.

I greatly valued hearing about the latest advancements in public health including vaccinology, maternal, newborn and child health but also in regards to knowledge translation and implementation methods. There were many highlights for me at the Congress, including a variety of presentations on 'The global strategy for Women, Children and Adolescent and sustainable development goals: working together to improve health and equity' (by Judy Lewis, Lisa Hilmi, Nighat Huda, Mario Tristan, Emanuele Copobianco, Deyanira Gonzalez de Leon); 'Child health: can we create more equitable systems of care for the health and development of children?

Implications for what works in policy and practice' (Sharon Golfield, Paul Freeman, Jody Heyman); 'advancing women's leadership in global health: an interactive workshop for men and women' by Roopa Dhatt.

The main purpose of attending the conference was to present the findings from two of my work. I presented my findings from a Cochrane systematic review on "community based intervention packages for improving the health of mothers and children" in Maternal Health Session. I also presented the findings from another systematic review on "Evidence based nutritional interventions for adolescent health" in Adolescent Health session. These presentations were very well received by the audience and generated some good discussion during the sessions. I also embraced the opportunities to network throughout the conference, for example attending the Welcome Reception, and Congress Party. I also attended one of the field trip to the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the very last day of Congress. It was the three hour trip to the school where we met their researchers and got to know about their work in population and global health. This events and field trip allowed me to further develop relationships and exchanges ideas with researchers in similar roles across the country – including current/future colleagues and collaborators from other universities.

Attendance at the WCPH was extremely rewarding. I extend sincere thanks to Healthy Development Adelaide for the opportunity to share my research findings, to network with national and international colleagues and friends, and to acquire knowledge from experts who are dedicated to improving health and quality of life in Australia, and the world.

HDA RESEARCH MEMBER - BRIEF NEWS



Honour & Award

Dr Femke Buisman-Pijlman (University of Adelaide) has been awarded an Outstanding Paper Award in the 2017 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence for their paper "PhD prepared: research skill development across the undergraduate years". This paper explores student and staff perspectives to approaches to train research skills during undergraduate years in the Adelaide Medical School (specifically the old School of Medical Sciences) and was published in International Journal for Researcher Development. The framework used to increase insight in research skills (RSD7) will be useful for further implementation in other undergraduate degrees.

John Willison, Femke Buisman-Pijlman, (2016) "PhD prepared: research skill development across the undergraduate years", International Journal for Researcher Development, Vol. 7 Issue: 1, pp.63-83, doi: 10.1108/IJRD-07-2015-0018

Access for free for the coming year: <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/full/10.1108/IJRD-07-2015-0018>.

Dr Femke T.A. Buisman-Pijlman

Senior lecturer Addiction Studies, School of Medicine, University of Adelaide

Program leader International Master of Science in Addiction Studies

Postgraduate coordinator Discipline of Pharmacology

Head Behavioural Neuroscience lab

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Ms Kate Bartel, PhD Candidate
School of Psychology, Flinders University

In April 2017, I had the privilege of attending the Canadian Sleep Society Conference, held in Calgary. The conference encompassed an array of disciplines and research interests pertaining to sleep across the lifespan.

As a psychologist and a researcher, one reason I enjoy conferences is that they remind me about the importance of research, and increase my enthusiasm for learning and sharing knowledge. I thank HDA for contributing towards my travel. Discovering what other research groups are doing, and learning about new research that relates to clients, participants and the general population, has been a highlight of my early research career.

A reoccurring theme throughout the conference was the bidirectional relationship between sleep and health/development. For example, a symposium explained that children who experience poor sleep may exhibit symptoms consistent with ADHD, yet poor sleep cannot cause clinical ADHD. It was suggested that improving sleep improves ADHD symptoms, and therefore should be treated prior to other symptoms. Within the same symposium, it was stressed that when treating sleep issues among children diagnosed with Foetal Alcohol Syndrome, biological aspects, the environment and sensory issues need to be considered. An interesting and informative keynote presentation centred on sleep talking and gesturing during sleep. I also learned that rapid-eye movement (REM) sleep (aka dreaming sleep) plays a large role in memory consolidation.

As well as gaining knowledge, another conference bonus is the opportunity to network with other researchers and clinicians. In this case, it provided a platform to discuss employment in Canada. A student-mentor networking lunch was also provided, enabling discussion between

students, and advice from experienced researchers – such as the need for young scientists to get out of their research comfort zone. Meetings run by insomnia and paediatric interest groups evidenced the unique contribution and expertise of each person in the meeting, with everyone working together to improve sleep health.

I was also able to network with researchers involved in an online Canadian program, aimed at promoting healthy sleep among typically developing Canadian children. The next step of this program is disseminating it to parents of children with developmental disorders. An interesting discussion focussed on the barriers of providing such an intervention. For example, each developmental disorder and each family situation is unique, yet there is also a potential for a transdiagnostic treatment approach (i.e., focussing on treating the similarities of sleep issues between developmental disorders).

Other research focused on what drives parents to seek help for their child's sleep. Parents' daytime functioning and the child's irritability/behavioural issues were among the most common motivating factors.

Regarding my research, I presented a poster, titled "Protective and Risk Factors for Adolescent Sleep: Findings from Canada and Australia". My poster identified between country differences in adolescent sleep. There were more similarities (between Canadian and Australian adolescents) in factors affecting sleep than differences, thus research from North America should largely be applicable to Australian adolescents, and vice versa.

Overall, the conference was an excellent experience, which broadened my knowledge of sleep, and how different areas of sleep interact with development and everyday functioning. I was fortunate to be able to meet other researchers and clinicians, and establish contacts in Canada. Thank-you HDA for assisting my travel to this conference!

NEW HDA RESEARCH MEMBERS

Dr Megan Cooper, Lecturer
School of Nursing and Midwifery, UniSA
Focus - water birth, women's experiences

Holly Groome, PhD Student
Robinson Research Institute, University of Adelaide
Focus - reproductive immunology

Cele Richardson, PhD Student
School of Psychology, Flinders University
Focus - adolescent sleep

Danielle Pollock, PhD Student
School of Nursing and Midwifery, UniSA
Focus - stillbirth

Dr Charlene Thornton, Lecturer/Epidemiologist
School of Nursing and Midwifery, Flinders University
Focus - birth, maternal health, data linkage

Ludivine Delon, PhD Student
Future Industries Institute, UniSA
Focus - microfluidics (organ-on-a-chip technology)

A/Prof Jane Warland
School of Nursing and Midwifery, UniSA
Focus - stillbirth

Mitchell Lock, PhD Student
Sansom Institute for Health Research, UniSA
Focus - heart development

Get Healthy in Pregnancy SA Health service

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Pregnancy – there is never a better time to Get Healthy!

SA Health has launched the free *Get Healthy in Pregnancy* service, an addition to the successful Get Healthy Information and Coaching Service©.

Pregnancy provides a great opportunity for women to focus on health for their own benefit as well as their growing baby.

Get Healthy in Pregnancy can offer 10 telephone calls

with a personal qualified health coach to support women to manage their pregnancy weight increase within the RANZCOG Guideline recommendations. Appropriate and safe advice on eating well and being active during pregnancy, together with tips on how to achieve sustained lifestyle change, support to stay motivated and helpful print resources are available to women who register with the service. A one-off call and resource pack are also available if preferred.

SA Health data shows that in 2014 more than 40% of pregnant women were overweight or obese. *Get Healthy in Pregnancy* can help women manage their weight and reduce their risks of gestational diabetes, pre-eclampsia or complications during birth and set them up to make healthy choices for them and their families in the future.

For more info, to make a referral or order print resources visit <https://www.gethealthy.sa.gov.au/tailored-programs>

Start your Get Healthy Journey to achieve and maintain a healthy weight during pregnancy

CALL TODAY Monday-Friday 8am-8pm 1300 806 258



SLEEP PROBLEM?

Do you know a child or teenager who:

- refuses to go to bed at night
- has trouble falling asleep
- wakes up and cannot get back to sleep
- has trouble waking up or getting out of bed in the morning
- often sleeps in their parents' bed or bedroom/ needs a parent present to help them fall asleep
- misses school or feels fatigued throughout the school day

The **Child & Adolescent Sleep Clinic** at Flinders University offers treatments for children and adolescents and adults of all ages (including infants from 6 months of age).

To book an appointment, please call or email us on the contact details below.

Child & Adolescent Sleep Clinic

School of Psychology, Flinders University

Ph: 8201 7587 or email casc.enquiries@flinders.edu.au



Three charts on: Australia's changing drug and alcohol habits

1 June - The Conversation

Australians are using less alcohol, tobacco and other drugs than they did a decade ago, new results from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's (AIHW) National Drug Strategy Household Survey show.

Although the drug of most concern to the general public is methamphetamine, the rate of methamphetamine use has been showing a steady decline since 1998 and, at 1.4%, is now at its lowest point since the survey began, down from 2.1% three years ago.

For the full story go to <https://theconversation.com/au>

Media Release - 19 May, University of Adelaide



Infertile couples have a major opportunity to achieve a successful pregnancy without the need for IVF, thanks to new research into a 100-year-old medical technique.

The now lesser known technique – which involves flushing the woman's fallopian tubes with an iodised poppy seed oil – has been proven to have significant benefits for fertility, according to the largest study undertaken by a team involving researchers in the Netherlands and Australia.

The results of the study will today be published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*. They will also be presented at the 13th World Congress on Endometriosis in Vancouver, Canada, by project leader Professor Ben Mol, from the University of Adelaide's Robinson Research Institute, and a member of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute's Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children theme.

Known as the *H2Oil* study, the project compared the benefits of flushing the fallopian tubes with either an oil-based or water-based solution in 1119 women. With Professor Mol, this work was conducted by Dr Kim Dreyer and Dr Velja Mijatovic from the Department of Reproductive Medicine, VU University Medical Centre, Amsterdam, and a research team from 27 medical centres in the Netherlands.

100-year-old technique

The procedure, known as hysterosalpingography (HSG), is a dye test of the fallopian tubes conducted under X-ray. The procedure was first carried out in 1917, and since the 1950s both water-based and oil-based solutions have been used.

"Over the past century, pregnancy rates among infertile women reportedly increased after their tubes had been flushed with either water or oil during this X-ray procedure. Until now, it has been unclear whether the type of solution used in the procedure was influencing the change in fertility," says Professor Mol, who himself was conceived after his mother underwent such a procedure.

"Our results have been even more exciting than we could have predicted, helping to confirm that an age-old medical technique still has an important place in modern medicine," he says.

Results show clear benefits of oil-based solution

Almost 40% of infertile women in the oil group and 29% of infertile women in the water group achieved successful pregnancies within six months of the technique being performed.

The oil-based product used in the study was Lipiodol® Ultra-Fluid, an iodised solution of fatty acids from poppy seeds. This product is currently available in 47 countries around the world.

"The rates of successful pregnancy were significantly higher in the oil-based group, and after only one treatment. This is an important outcome for women who would have had no other course of action other than to seek IVF treatment. It offers new hope to infertile couples," Professor Mol says.

The big question: why?

"It was long believed that testing a woman's fallopian tubes could have fertility benefits through 'flushing out' the kind of debris that hinders fertility. The reality is, we still don't really understand why there is a benefit, only that there is a benefit from this technique, in particular for women who don't present with any other treatable fertility symptoms," Professor Mol says.

"Further research would need to be conducted into the mechanisms behind what we're seeing. For now, and considering the technique has been used for 100 years without any known side-effects, we believe it is a viable treatment for infertility prior to couples seeking IVF. Not only is there a known benefit, but this flushing procedure is also a fraction of the cost of one cycle of IVF. Considering that 40% of women in the oil-based group achieved a successful pregnancy, that's 40% of couples who could avoid having to go through the huge costs and emotions associated with IVF treatment," he says.

Turning around infertility – a family history

Until he embarked on this study, Professor Mol had no idea that he himself was the result of a successful pregnancy following such a procedure.

In the 1960s, after being considered infertile for nine years, Professor Mol's mother underwent an HSG which, coincidentally, also used Lipiodol®. "It was only after I started researching this technique that my family told me what had happened," Professor Mol says.

"My mother went from being infertile for many years to becoming pregnant, and I was born in 1965. I also have a younger brother. So it's entirely possible – in fact, based on our team's research, it's highly likely – that my brother and I are both the result of this technique helping my mother to achieve fertility."

What can infertile couples do?

"The use of Lipiodol® itself is not currently practiced widely, so the first thing couples need to do is to speak with their doctor about it," Professor Mol says.

"Professional bodies responsible for guidelines, funders of health care, and fertility clinics all have a role to play in assisting infertile couples to make this intervention available to couples before IVF is started," he says.

This study received no financial assistance from the makers of Lipiodol®. Professor Mol's research is supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Media Release - 22 May, University of Adelaide



An Adelaide geneticist who has led several groundbreaking discoveries in the field of intellectual and physical disability has been elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.

Professor Jozef Gécz, Head of Neurogenetics with the University of Adelaide's Robinson Research Institute, and member of the Healthy Mothers, Babies

and Children theme at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), is one of 21 Australian researchers to be newly elected to the Academy.

This is the nation's highest honour in science, recognising outstanding research at an international level.

Professor Gécz is a laboratory scientist whose work sits at the interface between fundamental science and health care delivery.

For three decades, Professor Gécz and his research team have discovered or contributed to the discovery of more than 150 genes that either directly cause or are linked to neurodevelopmental disorders in patients with intellectual disability, autism, epilepsy and cerebral palsy.

His research has helped to further the world's understanding of brain function through the identification and characterisation of naturally occurring mutant genes that cause these conditions. Many of these genes point to new and unexpected biological pathways essential for normal brain function.

Professor Gécz began working on the genetics of epilepsy in 1994 as a postdoctoral researcher at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide. In 1996, he identified the first gene for mild to borderline intellectual disability that was otherwise not associated with any signs or symptoms.

"While initially regarded as a somewhat separate field to epilepsy, our discoveries in intellectual disability genetics have shown increasing overlap with epilepsy. This helps

to explain their frequent co-occurrence," Professor Gécz says.

Some of his key discoveries include:

- identifying neurodevelopmental disease genes on the human sex chromosome X, affecting males as well as females
- revealing that even identical mutations of the same gene can give rise to different forms of neurodevelopmental disability
- with the Australian Collaborative Cerebral Palsy Research Group, showing that 1 in 4 cases of cerebral palsy may have a genetic origin
- identifying unusual mutational mechanisms and biological pathways underlying neurodevelopmental disabilities
- proposing a treatment for a debilitating form of epilepsy that affects girls only.

"In recent years, we've developed a stronger focus beyond gene discovery towards better understanding the role and functions of the genes, and how that might impact on therapy for patients," Professor Gécz says.

"This field is very exciting and, thanks to great leaps forward in technology over the years, we have been able to make some real progress into better understanding how to prevent and manage serious neurodevelopmental disorders.

"These conditions can be devastating for individuals and entire families, therefore it's important for our research team to make the strongest possible impact we can. We are always striving to translate our laboratory work into new knowledge that is relevant for patients, their families and health professionals," he says.

Professor Gécz says he is honoured to become a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.

"I am humbled by the Academy's decision, but I am thrilled that this also honours the work of my colleagues and my team, and it recognises the field of genetics in helping to unravel the mysteries of neurodevelopmental disorders," he says.

Professor Gécz is also an NHMRC Senior Principal Fellow and winner of the Channel 7 Children's Research Foundation Chair for the Prevention of Childhood Disability.

The rare honour will be formally bestowed on him along with 20 other Australian researchers at a ceremony in Canberra tonight, organised by the Australian Academy of Science.

Not all students with a disability need funding

1 June - The Conversation

The Australian Education Union's (AEU) claim that over a quarter of a million students with a disability are not receiving any additional funding in school was widely picked up by the media.

But this claim misrepresents what the data shows, and falsely suggests that all students with disability need extra funding. In fact this is not the case.

So where does this figure come from?

For the full story go to <https://theconversation.com/au>

Media Release - 1 June, Flinders University



Bullies are everywhere, but international experts are working hard to crack down on schoolyard violence.

Flinders University has joined forces with one of Italy's oldest institutions, the University of Bologna, to establish a range of new international research initiatives including the intro-

duction of South Australia's successful anti-bullying program known as the 'PEACE Pack' in Italy.

The PEACE Pack is a leading anti-bullying and violence prevention program developed by educational and child development experts at Flinders University. The University of Bologna researchers, led by Professor Antonella Brighi, are coordinating European research projects to prevent bullying and cyberbullying.

"School bullying is a leading cause of psychological and social pressure affecting the mental and emotional wellbeing of children and young people," she says.

Together, experts at Flinders and Bologna University will liaise under a new research laboratory agreement signed in Italy earlier this year by Flinders Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Robert Saint and University of Bologna Rector, Professor Francesco Ubertini.

Professor Saint said the joint laboratory agreement would support important research collaborations, resource sharing, staff and student exchanges including cotutelles, summer schools and more. It joins a long line of other research collaborations between Flinders and leading overseas universities.

"To work with one of Italy's oldest and top-ranking re-

search universities is a great way to form the first joint laboratory agreement in Humanities and Social Sciences at Flinders," Professor Saint says.

"This initiative will help to promote student wellbeing and positive mental health outcomes in a number of ways, including by focusing on preventing violence and aggression, bullying and cyberbullying.

"By better informing teachers and educators about child wellbeing and prevention of bullying, we can work together for better outcomes and happier children and teenagers coming to higher education and their adult lives."

Child development psychologist Professor Phillip Slee, who leads the Student Wellbeing and Prevention of Violence (SWAPv) Research Centre at Flinders with co-director Dr Grace Skrzypiec, says up to 20 per cent, or almost 500,000 Australian children and teenagers, are victims of cyberbullying alone.

"There is increasing evidence that both traditional face-to-face bullying and cyberbullying has lasting effects on children and their families, including low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and even suicidal thoughts," Professor Slee says. "Our PEACE Pack has consistently been shown to significantly reduce instances of severe bullying among schoolchildren everywhere it is used."

The SWAPv Research Centre will initially collaborate with the University of Bologna on related research on socio-emotional learning and early intervention for better mental health outcomes.

The Flinders PEACE Pack, which is used by several SA and a range of Australian schools, is a recognised evidence-based program for reducing school bullying. The program has been embraced by the Government of Malta in Italy, as well as a growing number of local and state school authorities in Australia, Greece, Japan, Korea and soon the US and other Italian cities and provinces by 2018-19.

CHALLENGES TO LIVING TOGETHER: TRANSCULTURALISM, MIGRATION, EXPLOITATION FOR A SEMIOETHICS OF HUMAN RELATIONS. *Challenges to Living Together. Transculturalism, Migration, Exploitation*, introduction, pp. 15-31, by Susan Petrilli, [with M. Augoustinos, L. J. Burton, N. Chomsky, A. Cranny Francis, K. McDonald, C. Due, P. Gale, Brian Medlin, D. Michell, G. Mininni, A. Moreton-Robinson, P. M. Petrilli, A. Ponzio, G. D. Postle, J. Pugliese, M. Rann, D. W. Riggs, H. Rijswijk, G. Sykes, R. Summo O'Connell, R. Traversa], [Philosophy 20], Milan, Mimesis International, Mimesis, 2017, 490 pp. ISBN 9788869770937

Extending the gaze to all signs of life, semiotics as global semiotics evidences the condition of interrelatedness and interdependency not only among the sign systems forming the anthroposphere, but also between the latter and those forming the biosphere, ultimately between nature and culture. As "the art of listening", "of caring", semiotics practiced as semioethics shows how the relation with the other, whether the other of self or the other from self, is inevitable and cannot be escaped. The vocation of the sign, of life, of communication, verbal and nonverbal, is the other. The other is a constitutive part of the world inhabited by all living beings. Challenges to human and nonhuman life in today's world are numerous and appear unsurmountable. In reality, these are challenges to living together, but living together is possible. Semiotics as global semiotics and semioethics tells us as much. This book designs a common vision from different perspectives all essentially oriented by the belief that living together can only be fully achieved when the business of living exposes diversity and care for the other as the principle of unity, when the unifying principle is difference.

Susan Petrilli (bn. Adelaide, Australia), 7th Thomas A. Sebeok Fellow of the Semiotic Society of America, is Professor of Philosophy and Theory of Languages at the University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Italy, where she teaches Semiotics and Semiotics of Translation, and Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide, South Australia.

Media Release - 2 June, Flinders University

Maternal, child and family health nurses provide the most accessible and freely available health services for vulnerable families in Australia. Now a comprehensive new set of national standards will enhance their ability to work with families in all states and territories to support the health and wellbeing of Australian children.

The new quality framework will not only define this work but provide the best platform for service delivery, says project leader Associate Professor Julian Grant, from the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Flinders University.

“Nurses don’t just give families information and weigh babies, we develop relationships with families and support them where and when they need us,” she says. “Their core skills are enhancing growth and development, supporting maternal mental health, building parent capacity while providing information to support behavior and attitudinal change.”

Currently all maternal, child and family health nurses meet the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Registered Nurse standards for practice. Some also meet the Registered Midwife standards for practice. The National Standards of Practice for Maternal, Child and Family Health Nurses framework will help reduce the widening gap between less advantaged, developmentally vulnerable children in Australia, A/Professor Grant says. “This is increasingly important when number of children who are developmentally vulnerable at age five and living in the most disadvantaged areas is growing. “More than one in 10 Australian children aged under five are vulnerable in some area of social, emotional or physical health at any time compared to less disadvantaged children.”

Professional nursing in early years will help these children and their families, to achieve their developmental milestones in health, wellbeing and academic achievement.

Adjunct Professor Sally Brinkman, Head of Child Health

Development and Education and Co-director of the Fraser Mustard Centre at Telethon Kids Institute, says: “In an increasingly difficult and complicated world, it is crucial that the maternal, child and family health workforce has a consistent set of standards across the country. “Maternal and child health nurses are most often the first line of support for young families who are about to embark on the most important journey of their lives – raising their children,” Professor Brinkman says. “A well trained, skilled and modern maternal, child and family health workforce is fundamental to support the health and wellbeing of our children; the future of our country.”

UniSA Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott says the new framework is an important milestone in the proud history of the nursing profession in Australia. “These national standards are a blueprint for providing highest standard of maternal, child and family health nursing to all children in our land.”

The *National Standards of Practice for Maternal, Child and Family Health Nurses in Australia* will be launched at biennial Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses Conference at The Peninsular, Docklands in Melbourne (Friday 2 June). The framework was developed in collaboration with nurses and nursing bodies, the industry and community with funding from Maternal, Child and Family Health Nurses Australia (MCAFHNA), Gymparoo Australia and Flinders University. A/ Professor Grant says the research included an international review of child and family health nursing practices and key elements from existing state based standards to inform draft standards. These were then reviewed by industry, community and the professions through a qualitative online survey. The resulting draft was then tested using a modified Delphi survey for maternal, child and family health nurses and reached 97.8% consensus on the proposed framework.

Others in the research team were Creina Mitchell (Griffith University), Lesley Cuthbertson (Flinders University), Sarah Fraser (Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia) and Lola Bishop (Flinders).



Risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect

Child Family Community Australia Resource Sheet— May 2017

This paper provides an overview of the risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect in families. It is designed for practitioners and policy-makers who work in the areas of child maltreatment. This paper was developed using a scan of relevant literature on risk and protective factors for child abuse and neglect (1998-2016). It is for information purposes only and should not be used as a risk assessment tool in child protection practice.



Stay-at-home dads

Facts Sheet— May 2017

It's generally perceived that "stay-at-home dads" are becoming more common, as modern families strive to juggle their work and care responsibilities. This Families Week fact sheet takes a close look at the data, to see if that perception matches reality. We have confined our analysis to two-parent, opposite-sex families; this allows us to compare and contrast stay-at-home-father families with stay-at-home-mother families. And because we are focussing on that comparison, other family forms, such as single-parent and same-sex-parented families, are not covered in this fact sheet.

For further info go to <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications>

South Australian Joint Agency Social Work Symposium Social Work Futures

Vol 13, Issue 3 –
June 2017



The South Australian Joint Agency Social Work Symposium 2017
"Social Work Futures"

22-23 June, University of South Australia, City West Campus

This symposium will bring thought leaders and challengers from across the practitioner spectrum together to discuss four key elements of shaping change for the future of social work. Be part of the conversation about the future of human rights in social care, supervision models, reclaiming professional judgement and ethical deliberation. Building a sustainable and accountable professional practice for the future begins with a refocus on how, not just what we do, in social work practice.

This event has been brought together by The Australian Association of Social Workers, SA Health, Department for Child Protection, Flinders University and The University of South Australia.

For registrations and costs go to <https://www.aasw.asn.au/events/event/social-work-futures-south-australian-joint-agency-symposium>

How do you feel about that? Working therapeutically with children and their emotions

How Do You Feel About That ? Working Therapeutically with Children and their Emotions

30 June, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm

Level 2, 55 Gawler Place, Adelaide

Catherine Sanders & Dr Nicole Nelson

Cost \$300.00

Audience: Professionals working in the field of psychology, social work, mental health, community services & education

Dr Nicole Nelson is a Developmental Psychologist whose research centres on how children and adults learn about and understand emotional expressions, including how we integrate facial, postural and vocal expression cues. Dr Nelson is located in the School of Psychology, University of Queensland.

Catherine Sanders is a Clinical Psychologist, a Family and Systemic Therapist and a Director of Bower Place Psychology, Psychiatry, Family Therapy.

Participants will be able to submit questions prior to the workshop to allow the presenters to tailor the workshop to your needs and requirements. For further info or to register, please contact Bower Place at info@bowerplace.com.au

SA Refugee Week 2017 - A Place to Call Home



SA Refugee Week 2017 - A Place to Call Home

18 June – 24 June

Please support this important social and community event on SA's annual calendar by spreading the word and the links..... for the full array of over 20 events go to <https://amrc.org.au/events/sa-refugee-week-2017>

Organised by the Australian Migrant Resource Centre with participating partners Government of South Australia, University of South Australia, and the City of Adelaide

ARACY 2017 Fiona Stanley Forum

Achieving great outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids

ARACY is thrilled to welcome an impressive line-up of speakers for this year's Fiona Stanley Forum featuring:

The Hon Ken Wyatt, Minister for Indigenous Health; Prof Kerry Arabena, Professor and Chair of Indigenous Health, University of Melbourne; and Dr Ngiare Brown, Professorial Fellow, University of Wollongong, NSW; in an important and timely discussion of how early intervention can create positive outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids.

20 July, 12.30pm-3.00pm at The Terrace, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, 2 Riverside Quay, Southbank VIC

Cost: ARACY Members: Free / Non members: \$55.00

Registrations are now open at <https://www.aracy.org.au/events/category/annual-forums>