

# Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health

## Director's Report

In light of Professor Johann De Vries' resignation as Dean of the School of Dentistry, Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson has been appointed the Interim Dean effective until 31 December 2014. Although she will be sorely missed at ARCPOH, we recognise the contribution she can make as Interim Dean of the School. We support her and wish her all the best in this role. With Professor Roberts-Thomson's extensive leadership and management skills, our School will be in very good hands. As part of the restructure of ARCPOH in 2014, Dr Liana Luzzi took on the role of ARCPOH Deputy Director. Liana's experience, skill, and professionalism is highly recognised and will be an advantage in supporting the leadership within ARCPOH.

I would like to acknowledge the 6<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of the Dental Biostatistics Conference, which, under Dr Gloria Mejia's leadership, is being held in April 2014. The programme has been developed and ARCPOH will be visited by some prominent researchers from Europe, US and Brazil. It will be a good opportunity for staff and students to liaise with, and learn from, some of the most experienced and highly skilled biostatisticians in the world.

With NHMRC grant funding rounds becoming increasingly more competitive, this is creating challenges for ARCPOH as we strive to gain success in being awarded funds to support projects into the future. In the last NHRMC project grant round, ARCPOH staff submitted six new grant applications as principle investigators but unfortunately these were not successful. To strengthen our applications in the March 2014 round, ARCPOH will adopt an external and internal review process as recommended by the Faculty of Health Sciences.



Director, ARCPOH  
Professor Marco Peres



Deputy Director, ARCPOH  
Dr Liana Luzzi

## National Oral Health Promotion Clearinghouse (NOHPC) Workshop: June 2013

The NOHPC workshop was held on Sunday 16 June 2013 as a Satellite workshop to the Australian Health Promotion Association's (AHPA) 21<sup>st</sup> National Conference (17–19 June 2013) at the Sydney Convention Centre. Around 40 participants attended.

The workshop focused on the integration of oral and general health promotion. This was in response to the need for collaboration and dialogue on general and oral health promotion activities as noted in the National Oral Health Plan 2004–2013 and also the Australian National Preventive Health Agency's strategic plan 2010–2015. Aims of the workshop were:

1. To bring together general and oral health promotion practitioners from across Australia in a common space to discuss current programs of integrated health promotion and create opportunities for increased integrated programs in the future.
2. To increase networking and collaboration among oral and general health promoters in order to promote a culture of consultative and coordinated health promotion strategies and reduce duplication of efforts.



### ARCPOH Executive Committee

Professor Marco Peres (Director)

Dr Liana Luzzi (Deputy Director)

Assoc. Professor Jason Armfield

Assoc. Professor David Brennan

Assoc. Professor Loc Do

Assoc. Professor Lisa Jamieson

Assoc. Professor Karen Peres

Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson

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## ARCPOH welcomes new staff

The number of ARCPOH staff continued to grow in 2013 with several new appointments:

### Administrative staff

Ms Annalisa Agresta, (Administrative Officer) provides administrative support to research staff working under projects of the Centre for Research Excellence in Primary Oral Health Care. Annalisa's administrative experience is varied as she has worked in finance, as a personal assistant and in marketing at the University of South Australia. She has also worked as an Assistant Human Resource Consultant with TAFE SA.



Ms Annalisa Agresta

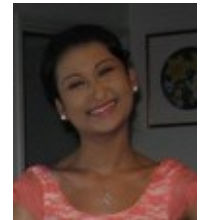


Ms Rose Thomas

Ms Rose Thomas (Administrative Officer) works on administrative aspects of the National Child Oral Health Survey (NCOHS) and is currently working on the report for the Queensland Child Oral Health Survey (QCOHS). Rose has extensive administrative experience and has worked in a number of administrative roles in the Construction and Education industries over the past 15 years. Rose has a Certificate II in Office/Clerical

### Research Staff

Ms Reshika Chand (Research Officer) works primarily with the Indigenous Oral Health Unit for the Baby Teeth Talk Study. She is also concentrating on completing her honours which looks at the frames of reference behind self-rated oral health in Indigenous Australians. Reshika graduated with a Bachelor of Health Science majoring in health promotion and population health from The University of Queensland. She is interested in health inequalities within minority populations and the social determinants of health.



Ms Reshika Chand



Dr Zahra Ghorbani

Dr Zahra Ghorbani (Research Associate) is currently working on 'Trends in oral health inequalities' and 'Life course approach to dental diseases'. Her areas of interest are social determinants of oral health and studying inequalities in oral health and dental care utilisation. Zahra completed her Bachelor of Dentistry and PhD in Public Dental Health at the Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences (SBMU), a leading university in Iran. She has also been involved in teaching and research in the community oral health field at SBMU as an Assistant Professor. She has designed and implemented a telephone survey in Tehran, Iran to study the socioeconomic inequalities in oral health among adults.

Ms Ching Wong (Research Officer) is involved with several ARCPOH projects: 'Study of mothers' and infants' life events affecting oral health'; 'Intergenerational change in oral health in Australia'; and 'Silver fluoride study'. Ching completed her Honours degree in the School of Paediatrics at the University of Adelaide. She is a second year Masters student (Biostatistics) and is concentrating her studies in Epidemiology and Statistics.



Ms Ching Wong

## Research activity update – National Child Oral Health Survey (NCOHS)

The aim of this NHMRC Partnership Project Grant funded study is to look at how dental services for children are organised and delivered, comparing both within and across public programs (school dental/community dental services) and privately provided care (insurance, Teen Dental Plan). ARCPOH researchers are being partnered by all eight states and territories. It is anticipated that some 32,000 children aged 5–14 years will participate in oral epidemiologic examinations and parents will complete a questionnaire. The National Child Oral Health Survey (NCOHS) will also document child oral health and its variation across the Australian child population.

Fieldwork has been completed in three states/territories: South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Fieldwork is underway in Tasmania and the Northern Territory. New South Wales is conducting examinations at a few remaining sites. It is expected that fieldwork in these three states/territories will be completed by mid-year. Ongoing contact between ARCPOH and the examination teams is being closely maintained. A Multi-Institutional Agreement with Victoria has been signed. Ethics clearance has been received. Victoria has commenced fieldwork. Two rounds of examiner training sessions have been conducted.

Questionnaires received from states/territories are being entered. Examination data received from the examination teams is constantly compiled. Quality control of data is ongoing.

## HDR Student Update: Sofia Christofis

**Thesis title: Time trend inequalities in tooth loss among Australian adults: a multilevel approach.**

Sofia Christofis joined ARCPH in September 2013, where she has embarked on a PhD. Sofia graduated from the University of Melbourne with Honours in Biochemistry in 1986, and a Bachelor of Dental Science in 1989. She has worked predominantly as a private dentist, with a particular interest in behaviour management having completed a Diploma in Clinical Hypnosis from the Australian Society of Hypnosis. In 2010, she completed the primaries for the general stream of the Royal College of Australasian Dental Surgeons. In addition to being a dentist, she also has a long standing ambition to pursue research and complete a PhD.

The experience of tooth loss in Australia has fallen over the last couple of decades. Tooth loss, a marker of general and dental health, is affected not only by an individual's characteristics and behaviour, but also by their geographic and socioeconomic environment. The first aim is to examine the individual and contextual level factors of tooth loss so as to determine their relative contributions. The second aim is to investigate how these relative contributions to tooth loss have changed over time. Techniques of time-trend and multilevel analyses will be used to analyse information from the National Dental Telephone Interview Surveys from 1994 to 2013.

Her supervisors are Associate Professor Karen Peres, Dr Liana Luzzi and Dr Jane Harford.



Sofia Christofis

## Staff achievements

Congratulations to Associate Professor David Brennan and Mrs Silvana Marveggio who have dedicated 25 years of service to the University. In September 2013, they were acknowledged in the presence of family, friends and colleagues at the University of Adelaide Silver Jubilee Staff Reception. David, Silvana and other long-serving staff members were presented with a certificate and gift in the Wine Centre Exhibition Hall.



Mrs Silvana Marveggio, Professor Marco Peres  
& Professor Kaye Roberts-Thomson

**25 years  
Silver Jubilee Celebration**



Mrs Silvana Marveggio & Professor Johann de Vries

### Other achievements include:

- Jason Armfield, IADR ANZ Division: following the August Bangkok meeting appointed for the term August 2013 – September 2016 as Treasurer. Jason was also awarded the 2013 Australian Dental Industry Association (ADIA) Research Award supported by the Australian Dental Research Foundation (ADRF). ADIA's grant supports research into dental anxiety and fear in children.
- Marco Peres has been appointed as Regional Councillor for the Asia and Pacific region of the IADR Global Oral Health Research Network.
- Marco Peres, John Spencer and Loc Do appointed as members of the Nutrient Reference Values – fluoride expert working groups; Marco Peres will be the deputy chair of the group.
- Career Development Fellowships awarded to: Jason Armfield – Understanding the development of dental fear among Australian children and adults; Lisa Jamieson – Associations between diabetes and periodontal disease among Indigenous Australian adults.
- Haiping Tan, IADR General, Geriatric Oral Research Group: appointed as an Executive Committee Member, 2013–2015.
- Haiping Tan, Australian Association of Gerontology SA Division: Research Committee, appointed as an Executive Committee Member, 2013–2015.

## Publications

### ARCPQH Published Papers 2013

#### *Data Watch*

ARCPQH, Jamieson LM (2013). Oral health and other characteristics of pregnant Aboriginal women compared with general population estimates. *Aust Dent J (Data Watch)* 58(1):120–4.

ARCPQH, Tan H (2013). Dental behaviours among older adults over an 11-year period. *Aust Dent J (Data Watch)* 58(2):262–5.

ARCPQH, Jones K (2013). Success for a novel approach to priority-setting in SA public dental clinics. *Aust Dent J (Data Watch)* 58(3):378–83.

ARCPQH, Pradhan A (2013). Oral health impact on quality of life among adults with disabilities: carer perceptions. *Aust Dent J (Data Watch)* 58(4):526–30.

#### *Journal Articles*

Anikeeva O, Brennan DS and Teusner DN (2013). Household income modifies the association of insurance and dental visiting. *BMC Health Serv Res* 13:432.

Armfield JM (2013). Predicting dental avoidance among dentally fearful Australian adults. *Eur J Oral Sci* 121: 240–6.

Armfield JM (2013). What goes around comes around: revisiting the hypothesised vicious cycle of dental fear and avoidance. *Community Dent Oral Epidemiol* 41(3):279–87.

Armfield JM and Heaton LJ (2013). Management of fear and anxiety in the dental clinic: a review. *Aust Dent J* 58(4):390–407.

Armfield JM, Mejía GC and Jamieson LM (2013). Socioeconomic and psychosocial correlates of oral health. *Int Dent J* 63(4):202–9.

Armfield JM, Spencer AJ, Roberts-Thomson KF and Plastow K (2013). Water fluoridation and the association of sugar-sweetened beverage consumption and dental caries in Australian children. *Am J Public Health* 103(3):494–500.

Arrow P (2013). Child oral health-related quality of life (COHQoL), enamel defects of the first permanent molars and caries experience among children in Western Australia. *Community Dental Health* 30:183–8.

Arrow P, Raheb, J and Miller M (2013). Brief oral health promotion intervention among parents of young children to reduce early childhood dental decay. *BMC Public Health* 13:245.

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Brennan DS, Anikeeva O and Teusner DN (2013). Dental visiting by insurance and oral health impact. *Aust Dent J* 58:344–9.

Broughton JR, Maipi JTH, Person M, Thomson WM, Morgaine KC, Tiakiwai S, Kilgour J, Berryman K, Lawrence HP and Jamieson LM (2013). Reducing disease burden and health inequalities arising from chronic disease among indigenous children: an early childhood caries intervention in Aotearoa/New Zealand. *BMC Public Health* 13:1177.

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Teusner DN, Brennan DS and Gnanamanickam ES (2013). Individual dental expenditure by Australian adults. *Aust Dent J* 58(4):498–506.

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#### **Letter**

Jamieson LM, Steffens MA and Paradies YC (2013). Associations between discrimination and dental visiting behaviours in an Aboriginal Australian birth cohort. *Aust NZ J Public Health* 37(1):92–3 (letter).

#### **ARCPH Newsletter Committee**

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