

SYDNEY INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

AUGUST 2023 | NEWSLETTER EDITION 7

Update from the Director

Welcome to our winter newsletter. In the first half of 2023, we have launched several exciting new initiatives and continue to develop strategies to support our affiliates.

In March 2023 we launched an Institute database management consultation service to support affiliates working on quantitative data management and analysis. We have developed 'Institute Consumer Connect', a program to connect our affiliates with District consumer groups; and are progressing the 'Grant review and ideas development panel', to further support our research network.

We have presented events including a health policy webinar regarding adolescent health, and a first 2000 days webinar on using population health data to optimise child health and development. Our team also contributed to hosting the District's stall at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, where we engaged local community members, teachers and students in our interactive education initiative, 'LifeLab Sydney'.

The Institute seed funding program was opened for applications in April 2023, with the opportunity to apply for up to \$20,000 to support research and quality improvement initiatives. Shortlisted applicants are invited to present at the Research X-Factor event on Monday 7 August 2023.

Our student placement program hosted five Masters of Public Health students from UNSW and USYD in the first half of 2023. These students worked on a variety of projects to support our affiliates.

Finally, our 'Institute Mentorship Program' is being evaluated as its pilot phase has been completed. Affiliates will soon be invited to express their interest in taking part in the next round of the Mentorship Program.

We continue to look for ways to support our affiliates and always welcome your feedback.



Dr George Johnson
Institute Director

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SYDNEY INSTITUTE FOR
**women, children
and their families**

Institute services in 2023

As the Institute and our affiliate network continue to grow, so too does the suite of services offered to our affiliates. In 2023, the Institute has launched several new services.

Database management and analytical support

The Institute's Database Manager, Mr Pejman Adily is pleased to provide quantitative data support to affiliates working on research related to women, children and their families.

This consultation service provides support and advice on data cleaning, linkage and analysis; data visualisation and geospatial mapping; software and basic coding advice; and quantitative methodology.



Affiliates are invited to contact Pejman to engage with this service via email:

Pejman.Adily@health.nsw.gov.au

Grant review and ideas development panel

The Institute has brought together a group of established researchers and academics with expertise in grant applications to form the Grant Review and Ideas Development Panel.

Affiliates are invited to submit draft grant applications and research ideas to the panel who can provide advice and support in this space. Emerging, early and mid-career researchers are particularly encouraged to engage with this panel.



Contact Ms Linda Mirabilio for more information. Linda can be reached via email:

Linda.Mirabilio@health.nsw.gov.au

Institute consumer connect

Consumer input and feedback drives innovation in research. Institute Consumer Connect connects its affiliates with established District consumer groups.

The platform provides opportunities to present to consumer groups, receive feedback on your work, and even connect with consumers who may be able to join working groups.



Contact Ms Linda Mirabilio for more information. Linda can be reached via email:

Linda.Mirabilio@health.nsw.gov.au

Our other services

The Institute is proud to continue offering its existing services:

- Seed funding program
- Student placement program
- Mentorship program
- Emerging, early to mid-career research network access
- Research networking meetings
- Invitation to events and webinars



Contact our team for more information. You can reach us via email:

SLHD-SydneyInstituteforWCF@health.nsw.gov.au

Institute governance updates



Welcoming our new Institute Management Group Member

We are pleased to announce that **Associate Professor Brad De Vries** has joined the Institute Management Group. Brad is a practising obstetrician and gynaecologist at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, where he is the Head of Department for Obstetrics and the Head of Research for the District's Women's Health, Neonatology and Paediatrics stream. Brad is also an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Sydney, as well as a Future Fellow at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre at the University of Sydney. We are excited to welcome Brad's expertise to the Institute Management Group.

Establishment of the Institute Advisory Council

The Institute is proud to announce the establishment of its Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will help shape and guide the future of the Institute through providing strategic advice for growth, networking opportunities for new partnerships, and research and academic opportunities. The Council members bring a wealth of experience, skills and expertise to the Institute.

Advisory Council Members:

Professor Stephen Simpson AC (Chair)
Dr Teresa Anderson AM
Ms Tish Bruce
Professor Joshua Burns
Professor Jonathan Carapetis AM
Ms Laila Hallam
Professor Mark Harris
Professor Richard Henry AM

Professor Martha Hickey
Professor Don Nutbeam
Ms Catherine Taylor
Mr Michael Tidball
Mr Frank Tracey
Ms Linda Tucker
Professor Donna Waters

Events

Webinars

Health Policy: Adolescent health research snapshot

Chaired by Professor Sue Woolfenden, with talks from Professor Rachel Skinner and Dr Santuri Rungan, this webinar provided updates on how research in the adolescent health space is impacting policy.

First 2000 Days: Using population health data

Chaired by Professor Raghu Lingam, with talks from Professor Natasha Nassar and Dr Michael Hodgins, this webinar presented how health systems can draw on child population data to improve outcomes and prevent disease.



Interested in seeing the recordings of these webinars?

Please email us for access: SLHD-SydneyInstituteforWCF@health.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Health Partners Clinical Academic Groups

The **Child and Adolescent Health Clinical Academic Group**, which is co-led by Institute Co-Chair Professor Sue Woolfenden, held an in-person workshop at the Health Precinct at Westmead Hospital. Hosted by the Guunu Maana (Heal) Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander health team at The George Institute. The workshop discussed concepts of culturally-appropriate research.

The **Reproductive, Maternal and Newborn Health Clinical Academic Group**, which is co-led by Institute Co-Chair Professor Adrienne Gordon, hosted a multidisciplinary workshop day and symposium at the University of Technology Sydney. There were presentations from speakers with expertise in neonatology, reproductive health, nursing and midwifery, and a networking event.



The Child and Adolescent Health Clinical Academic Group workshop

Upcoming Institute events



August 2023

- Research X-Factor: Seed funding finalist pitches - Monday 7 August 2023 at 9am.
- Health policy webinar: Preconception care - Wednesday 9 August 2023 at 12pm.
- Student placement webinar - Wednesday 30 August 2023 at 12pm.

Affiliate spotlight

Meet our affiliate Professor Paul Haber



What's your research focus?
Developing and implementing new approaches for treatment of alcohol use disorders.

What are you looking forward to this year?
We are implementing new services following the commission of enquiry into the drug ice. We are also implementing four new clinical trials into the treatment of alcohol use disorders. It's a big year for our team.

What has your career path looked like?
I was a medical student at UNSW and Prince of Wales Hospital. I trained in gastroenterology and did a research degree in alcohol-related pancreatitis. I continued research in alcohol metabolism and toxicity at Mt Sinai School of Medicine New York before returning to Sydney, where I took up my present post in addiction medicine at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1998. My role has evolved as our service has grown in size and complexity since then.

What would you like to achieve in the next 5-10 years?
Implementation of current enhancements and service developments take years. I lead a National Health and Medical Research Council Synergy program for alcohol treatment medications. I'd like to come up with at least one new medical option!

What benefits you as an Institute affiliate?
We are expanding services and research into populations relevant to the Institute: pregnancy, vulnerable families, and young people. I believe there are opportunities for increased collaboration with the Institute.

What is your top research tip or secret?
My mentor Charles Lieber said to me that if you ask a \$64 question, you may or may not get a \$64 answer. But if you ask a \$2 question, you'll never get more than a \$2 answer. So, go for a big question that really matters!

Any recent or upcoming publications?
We completed a trial comparing naltrexone against topiramate for treatment of alcohol use disorders and the findings are close to submission for publication.

Affiliate achievements

Kai Cheng
*Surgical Innovation Research Manager
Institute of Academic Surgery
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital*

Kai has recently worked with Professor David Storey, who is the Adjunct Director of Surgical Skills Laboratory, to develop an endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography training model. A validation study was conducted last year, and an article titled '*Anatomical endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography simulator using moulded meshed silicone: A novel simulator pilot study*' has been accepted by the ANZ Journal of Surgery.



Images of the model developed by Kai and David

Dana Georgevsky
*Research Officer and Trial Coordinator
Women and Babies
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital*

RPA performed their first living donor uterine transplant case in February 2023. The recipient is a 25 year old female with Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome, which is a congenital condition where a person is born without a uterus, cervix, and upper portion of the vagina. The living donor and recipient are recovering well, and neither have encountered any significant complications thus far. Dana is continuing in her role as the coordinator for this important trial and provides support to clinician researchers and patients. Dana and the team have recently published on this with an article titled '*First uterine transplant case at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital*' in the ANZ Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Recent affiliate publications

A snapshot of our affiliates' recent publications:

George, A., Kong, A., Sousa, M. S., Villarosa, A., **Ajwani, S.**, Dahlen, H. G., et al. (2023). Long-term effectiveness of the midwifery initiated oral health dental service program on maternal oral health knowledge, preventative dental behaviours and the oral health status of children in Australia. *Acta Odontologica Scandinavica*, 81(2), 164-175.

Cheney, K., **Black, K.**, Pelosi, M., & **Dorney, E.** (2023). Introduction of the London Measure of Unplanned Pregnancy at the booking visit and the midwives' perspective. *BMJ sexual & reproductive health*, 49(2), 112–117. <https://doi-org.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/10.1136/bmjshr-2022-201576>.

Laws, R. A., **Cheng, H.**, Rossiter, C., Kuswara, K., Markides, B. R., Size, D., et al. (2023). Perinatal support for breastfeeding using mHealth: A mixed methods feasibility study of the My Baby Now app. *Maternal & Child Nutrition*, 19(2), e13482.

Amaratunga, H., Bostock, K., **Cunich, M.**, Steffens, D., & Carey, S. (2023). Systematic review of service improvements for home enteral tube feeding in adults. *Nutrition in clinical practice: official publication of the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition*, 38(2), 329–339. <https://doiorg.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/10.1002/ncp.10900>.

Smith S., & **Johnson G.** (2023). A systematic review of the barriers, enablers and strategies to embedding translational research within the public hospital system focusing on nursing and allied health professions. *PLoS One*. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0281819.

Carrello, J., **Hayes, A.**, Baur, L. A., & Lung, T. (2023). Potential cost-effectiveness of e-health interventions for treating overweight and obesity in Australian adolescents. *Pediatric obesity*, 18(4), e13003. <https://doi-org.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/10.1111/ijpo.13003>.

Logge, W. B., Morley, K. C., **Haber, P. S.**, & **Baillie, A. J.** (2023). Impaired decision-making and skin conductance responses are associated with reward and punishment sensitivity in individuals with severe alcohol use disorder. *Neuropsychobiology*, 1–13. Advance online publication. <https://doi-org.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/10.1159/000529156>.

Musgrave, L., Homer, C., & **Gordon, A.** (2023). Knowledge, attitudes and behaviours surrounding preconception and pregnancy health: an Australian cross-sectional survey. *BMJ open*, 13(1), e065055.

Khan, J. R., Hu, N., Lin, P. I., Eapen, V., **Nassar, N.**, John, J., et al. (2023). COVID-19 and pediatric mental health hospitalizations. *Pediatrics*, 151(5), e2022058948.

Wen, L. M., Xu, H., Phongsavan, P., Rissel, C., Hayes, A., Taki, S., et al. (2023). Twelve-month effectiveness of telephone and SMS support to mothers with children aged 2 years in reducing children's BMI: a randomized controlled trial. *International Journal of Obesity*, 1-8.

Wong-See, H., **Calik, A.**, Ostojic, K., Raman, S., & **Woolfenden, S.** (2023). Clinical pathways for the identification and referral for social needs: A Systematic Review. *Pediatrics*, 151(3).

Become an Institute affiliate

We invite researchers, clinicians, educators, and partners to formalise their affiliation with the Institute. Benefits of an affiliation with the Institute include networking, collaboration, and training and education opportunities. If you would like to know more about becoming an affiliate, email:

SLHD-SydneyInstituteforWCF@health.nsw.gov.au



Sydney
Local Health District



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