Dear Colleagues

The recent release of the UWS Research Landscape document held positive news for FaCH. We are expecting to receive additional funding for some key new research positions. As soon as the details of this additional support are made available, I will pass them on to all members.

The Dementia Conference was a big success, and has attracted a lot of interest. A full conference report is included in this issue of the newsletter. Congratulations to the conference convenor, Esther Chang, and the organising committee, who did a wonderful job.

Further progress has been made on the FaCH office space. We are now listed as being priority one, meaning that work will soon be moving apace. It is estimated that the facilities will be ready in 6-8 weeks. It will be wonderful to have these facilities in place, and will really enhance our research endeavours, and help to carry our work forward.

Our students continue to work well. We have Leah East, Ajesh George and Olayide Ogunsiyi eligible to graduate, and there are also two theses currently under examination. We also welcome Gwen Johnson, a new PhD candidate. Our students and graduates are being snapped up in the employment market, with current candidate (under examination) Bronwyn Everett being appointed to an SL position at UTS, and recent graduates Leila Gholizadeh appointed to a lectureship at UTS, and Jane Phillips appointed Chair in Palliative Nursing at Notre Dame University in Sydney Congratulations to all!

We have an exciting time ahead, with some international Scholars visits coming up. Full details of these visits are given later in these newsletters, but all these visits have some events such as seminars, workshops and lectures associated with them, so please do participate where you can, and also encourage your students to take part in relevant events.

Finally, I will be going on leave during the month of August, and Professor Lesley Wilkes will be taking over the leadership of FaCH during that period.

Message from Debra Jackson

Welcome
New Core Member

We are very pleased to welcome Gihane Endrawes to the University of Western Sydney and FaCH. Recently working at the Australian Catholic University, Gihane joined UWS early this year as a lecturer. Her clinical and teaching
experience is mental health. Gihane has experience in teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level, with experience in research supervision, gaining research grants, publishing papers, and presenting at national and international conferences. Research interests include: women's mental health, mental health & quality of life, mental & physical health, adult learning, cultural diversity and carers' issues.

New Senior Research Associate

We would like to give a warm welcome to Cheryl Ussia, who is the Senior Research Associate for the NHMRC project led by Rhonda Griffiths and Ritin Fernandez. Her background is Community Nursing and has a passion for wound care and the development of standard wound management that will improve client’s quality of live while living with a wound.

Cheryl was born in Queensland and has been married for 37 years with four daughters and three grandchildren, a dog, a bird and six fish. Her interests include travel, bush walking and shopping. Cheryl is situated in building 17 in temporary accommodation, but will join us in the FaCH building once refurbishment is complete. Welcome Cheryl!

New Student

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Gwendoline Johnson.

Ms Gwen Johnson has been successful in being awarded an APAI scholarship for the project entitled "A model of integrated care for dependant older people living in the community". She will be supervised by Dr Liz Halcomb & Professor Rhonda Griffiths. Gwen comes to UWS with experience in aged care management as well as being a past Educator working for the NSW College of Nursing as a Nurse Educator and Course Co-ordinator for the Graduate Certificate of Palliative Care. Prior to this she was the Clinical Nurse Consultant in Palliative Care in WSAHS. We wish you well in your studies Gwen, welcome to FaCH!

Message from Liz Halcomb

New Associate Member

Roslyn Weaver is a Research Officer in the Medical Education Unit of the School of Medicine at UWS. She holds a PhD in English Literature from the University of Wollongong and has professional editing qualifications. She has taught university literature courses, presented her research internationally, continues to publish across the humanities and educational research fields, and facilitates two writing groups at the School of Medicine.

Roslyn’s background in humanities contributes to her interdisciplinary research interests and one of her major areas of research is in medical humanities, an increasingly significant line of research internationally. She is a member of the Culture And Medicine Education & Research Affiliation (CAMERA) at UWS, is involved in curriculum development of medical humanities, and is currently developing a new medical humanities project on medical role models in popular culture.

Roslyn worked in research support in the School of Nursing for five years and continues to collaborate with FaCH members on a range of projects including whistleblowing in the health sector, learning approaches in medical students, supporting ESL students in their academic writing, and cultural diversity at UWS.
FaCH Reports
Dementia Conference and Workshops

“Creating successful dementia care: A multidisciplinary approach” Conference and Workshops. Aged Care and Palliation (ACAP) research stream, School of Nursing and Midwifery 20th and 21st July 2009, UWS Parramatta Campus.

Pictured above top Prof Ladislav Vollicer, Ms Joyce Simard, Prof Esther Chang & Prof Rhonda Griffiths; Prof Esther Chang and Ms Amanda Johnson. Bottom Prof Beryl Hesketh & Hon Justine Elliot; Dr Alison Short, Ms Jan Sayers, Dr John Bidwell.

One hundred and ten delegates were welcomed to the conference by the Executive Dean of the College of Health and Science, Professor Beryl Hesketh. The official opening was undertaken by the Honourable Justine Elliot, the Minister for Ageing, who spoke about the role of aged care and projected health care needs into the future. A further welcome was given by Professor Rhonda Griffiths, AM, Head of School, Nursing and Midwifery, and the Honourable John Watkins, CEO of Alzheimer’s Australia (NSW).

Keynote addresses were given by Professor Ladislav Vollicer, about “Recent advances in dementia research”. Professor Vollicer is recognised as an international expert in advanced dementia. He has published over 200 articles and chapters, and edited four books on clinical management of dementia. The second keynote speaker was Associate Professor Gerald Muench (UWS), presenting “Treatment of Alzheimer disease depending on disease stage”.

Professor Esther Chang spoke about recent UWS research to develop frameworks for dementia care, a project which was developed in partnership with the Sydney West Area Health Service, the Blue Mountains Division of General Practice. These four frameworks, relating to pain, bowel management, weight loss and agitation, were then further explained and outlined by partner clinical nurse consultants: Ms Therese Smeal, Ms Christine Ryan and Mr Roderick Pirotta. Concurrent sessions on themes of clinical leadership and innovative practices also included a wide range of relevant multidisciplinary presentations from many health care and academic professionals. The carers’ perspective on successful care was presented in a keynote address by Ms Sue Pieters-Hawke, who has become a carer and dementia advocate as a result of caring for her mother, Hazel. Ms Joyce Simard’s final keynote address provided further insights into personal and social aspects of dementia care, including her work on Namaste Care and a focus on quality of life for people with dementia. Ms Simard, who majored in sociology/social work, is a private geriatric consultant, an author and an international speaker.
A workshop held in conjunction with the conference was attended by 35 people, and focused on the work of Professor Volicer and Ms Simard. Topics included: quality of life for people with dementia and their carers; dementia prevention, medications and behavioural management; the CLUB and memory enhancement program; medical issues and palliative care; and the Namaste Care approach to end-of-life care. Thanks are due to the ACAP Steering and Scientific Committees for their wonderful work and contributions. In addition, the fantastic support of the School of Nursing and Midwifery, FaCH and the College of Health and Science was gratefully appreciated in the undertaking of such a successful event.

FaCH sponsored seven HDR students to attend the conference Karen Watson, Harprett Kaur, Martha Mansah, Amanda Johnson, Deborah Hatcher, Julie Anne Rossi, & Melanie Sheath.

Message from Professor Esther Chang

Planning and Development retreat

In mid-June FaCH held a two day Planning and Development Retreat at the Camden Valley Inn. The retreat was well attended by core members eager for some concentrated time to consider how best to use group synergies for collaborative programs of research and identify where FaCH should best focus its resources. The first morning of day one members presented key areas of research interest and shared suggestions and strategies for improved grant acquisitions. Later in the day participants presented proposals for further research development. Key areas of expertise and experience among members of FaCH were identified in a broad range of areas from educational research, organisational and professional identity, patient safety and whistleblowing, mental health, student and adolescent health, heart disease, oral health, aged care, maternal, infant and early childhood health as well as linguistic and cultural diversity in health care to name just a few. The second day participants developed new viable streams from identified areas of strength for FaCH members. The following depicts consolidated areas of program research that continue to strengthen and further develop the research focus of the Family and Community Health Research Group members.

Developing programs of research

- Aged care and palliation (ACAP)
- Chronic and complex care
- Cultural diversity in health care
- Exploring pregnancy outcomes (ExPO)
- Mental health
- Moral and ethical dimensions of health care
- Nurturing parents and parenting (NIPPER)
- Support for vulnerable families
- Supporting healthy lifestyles
- Workforce education research in nursing (WERiN)

Message from Michel Edenborough
June Writing Retreat

In June FaCH had its second Writing Retreat for 2009, taking place at the Camden Valley Inn. All who attended intently focused on their journal writing activities with a considerable number of finished manuscripts submitted for publication. In addition, many participants noted the value and benefits of attending the retreat. These writing retreats are designed to support students and early career researchers writing skills. This activity is only possible due to the continued support of mentors who volunteer their time to mentor a number of participants, giving immediate feedback so that participants are able to quickly move forward in their writing. We have another writing retreat scheduled this year in December 14-16th. If you are interested in participating please speak to your supervisors in the first instance and contact Debra or Michel for further information or to express your interest.

Message from Michel Edenborough

Congratulations

Yenna Salamonson

Dr Yenna Salamonson has the distinguished honour of being awarded an ALTC 2009 Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. This award recognises Yenna's exceptional talents for sharing her extensive knowledge with students and mentoring them. Sincere congratulations Yenna for being responsive to an evolving learning environment, while maintaining focus on inspiring and engaging students, and leading in educational research and scholarly activities.

Leah East, Ajesh George and Olayide Ogunsiji

Leah East, Ajesh George and Olayide Ogunsiji’s PhDs have been examined and all candidates are now eligible to graduate, all that hard work and dedication has paid off, well done new graduands!

Supervisors: Prof Debra Jackson, Prof Louise O’Brien and Dr Kath Peters.

Olayide Ogunsiji - Thesis title: Meaning of Health: Migration Experience and Health Seeking Behaviour of West African Women in Australia.
Supervisors: Prof Lesley Wilkes, Prof Debra Jackson, Dr Kath Peters.

Ajesh George- Thesis title: Working Full Time and Caring for a Child with Chronic Illness
Supervisors: Prof Margaret Vickers and Prof Lesley Wilkes

Well done Ajesh!

Jane Phillips

Dr Jane Phillips will be taking up an exciting new appointment as Chair in Palliative Nursing at Notre Dame University in Sydney in early October 2009. Warm congratulations Jane!

Bronwyn Everett and Elaine Burns

PhD students, Bronwyn Everett and Elaine Burns were awarded prizes at the College of Health Science Annual Prizes and Awards evening on Wednesday 15th of July.

Well done! This is a great achievement.
Nurturing Parents and Parenting (NIPPER)
A Study of service engagement and outcomes for infants and their young mothers

This research is led by A/Profs Virginia Schmied, and Hannah Dahlen, Dr Chris Taylor, Toni Azzopardi and Dr Annie Mills from UWS and Wies Schuiringa from the Benevolent Society. The focus of the research is the Foundations for Young Parents (FFYP) program run by the Benevolent Society. The FFYP is a multi-component antenatal and postnatal parenting and family support program for young parents aged from 16 to 24 years, operating in the Campbelltown local government area. The aim of this research is to explore the strategies used to engage young women into the program and describe the parenting practices, parenting confidence and social and emotional health of the young mothers and outcomes for their infants (health and development) during and after participation in the FFYP. This research builds on preliminary work currently being undertaken by the research team.

Aged Care and Palliation (ACAP)
Decision Making Frameworks in Advanced Dementia - Links to improve care was funded by the Australian Department of Health and Aging.

Professor Esther Chang, from the Aged Care and Palliative (ACaP) research stream, led a team of researchers and clinicians to improve the care of patients with dementia for the last three years. This research has provided a decision-making framework of support that will include guidelines for nurses to enable them to assist people in residential aged care facilities. Four major symptoms were targeted - pain, constipation, weight loss and agitation/confusion. These symptoms have been recognised as particularly reducing the quality of life of people with advanced dementia and as being difficult for the primary care providers to treat.

The Steering Committee, Project Officer Sally Easterbrook, Clinical Nurse Consultants from the Sydney West Area Health Service worked collaboratively with specialist aged/dementia nurses to develop the framework. The framework described when to convene a case conference or seek specialist palliative care advice. This research will enhance nurses’ competence and confidence in providing care and improve symptom control for those being cared for, as well as improve communication with family members of those in residential aged facilities.

Team members include: Ms Amanda Johnson, Professor John Daly and Professor Patricia Davidson, working in partnership with Sydney West Area Health Service Primary Care and Community Health Network and the Blue Mountains Division of General Practice. This Department of Health and Ageing funded project has developed implemented, evaluated and promoted sustainability of a decision-making framework for advanced dementia care.
THERE are hundreds of thousands of Do-It-Yourself investors in Australia and numbers are expected to swell as the baby boomers retire- but one Sydney academic has found that there has been almost no research undertaken on them. "While it’s a social phenomenon and a massive cultural movement, there is very little academic research that has been done into this topic.” University of Western Sydney PhD candidate Lisa Perrone said yesterday.

"It’s both a career or a lifestyle choice so people are doing it to escape the rat race or to obtain more freedom. “I’m looking at people who are both part-time and full-time DIY investors, people who trade shares, contracts for different options or futures and also property investors.” She said. Ms Perrone said she would also look at the explosion in investment education.

“One DIY educator claims to have taught 225,000 DIY investors in Australia and New Zealand.” She said. Ms Perrone is seeking DIY investors for interviews. Anyone interested can email her at l.perrone@uws.edu.au

Peter Gosnell

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**Advanced Notice- Visiting Scholars**

We would like to take this opportunity to let readers know of a number of upcoming visiting scholars for this year.

- **Monday 3rd August**, for two weeks, Christine Kettle, Professor of Women's Health at Staffordshire University will be visiting, presenting a seminar at Auburn Hospital on Tuesday 11th August; Caring for women with complex perineal and pelvic floor needs. On Wednesday 12th August Christine will lead a discussion on “Challenges in conducting RCTs” at the Staff Research Supervisors Forum at Campbelltown. All are welcome.

- Soo Downe, Professor in Midwifery Studies from the University of Central Lancashire will be presenting a one day seminar at Karitane on Friday 16th of October; information will be circulated closer to the event.
Professor Philip Darbyshire will be visiting the School from September 4th to 10th. His scheduled of activities will be circulated closer to the event. However, Philip will be presenting a keynote address in the afternoon at the 2nd Adolescent and Young Peoples Health Research Forum at Westmead Hospital. Please note the forum’s organising committee has extended the $55 registration rate to all members of FaCH. This is a fantastic saving please take advantage of this great offer. The program and registration form can now be downloaded from http://www.caah.chw.edu.au/events/

Professor Roger Watson will also be visiting the School once again in November. His schedule will be disseminated later in the year.

Advanced Notice: 2nd Adolescent and Young People’s Health Research Forum

You are warmly invited to attend a special one day Forum on 7 September 2009. The Youth Health Forum Organising Committee, in conjunction with the FaCH UWS, will be hosting this one-day forum looking at youth health research and the use of evidence to improve youth health care. The Forum will take place in the Lorimer Dods Lecture Theatre, Level 4 at The Children's Hospital at Westmead and will provide an opportunity for delegates to network with each other and hear about the most recent research in youth health care.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: The Committee has extended the $55 registration rate to members of FaCH. NB (Not UWS staff members). The program and registration form can now be downloaded from http://www.caah.chw.edu.au/events/

Please feel free to create a link to the website.

Farewell

Dr Shantala Mohan, Senior Research Officer at the Clinical Nursing Research Unit, Nepean Hospital resigned in early July to take up a position working for the National Prescribing Service Limited in Central as a Senior Research Officer/Epidemiologist. She will be conducting research that provides information nationally for Doctors/consumers about quality use of medicines. During her time at the CNRU and with FaCH she contributed significantly to research and student support and will be greatly missed.

We wish Shantala every success.

Pictured above, Glenda McDonald Shantala Mohan, Michel Edenborough, Ajesh George, Lesley Wilkes, Anna McManus and Rebecca O’Reilly farewelling Shantala at Georges of Campbelltown
Dr Leila Gholizadeh is leaving UWS in early August to take up a position at UTS. Thanks Leila for all your contributions during your time with FaCH, we wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

Dr Alison Short, research fellow for Aged Care and Palliation (ACAP) research stream, will also be leaving us in early August. Her support of ACAP was appreciated enormously. Alison takes up a fulltime position at UNSW.

We wish her every success.

Contributions to the e-Newsletter

Latest FaCH Conference Information

For all the latest information on upcoming conferences please go to our FaCH vUWS site or facebook group. If you know of any conferences, forums, seminars or workshops you would like to see included there please forward to Michel m.edenborough@uws.edu.au

In addition, if you have any recent articles, photos or information that you would like to share in future editions of the FaCH eNewsletter, you can also send them to Caitlin c.edenborough@uws.edu.au

- Publications
- Conferences, events & grants
- Staff activities & articles of interest
- Special interest groups
- Achievements
- Graduation ceremonies
- Media or press articles
- Research projects

List of Member Publications 2009


attributes to avert violence in the ED. International Journal of Nursing Practice, 15: 205-212.

Please let Michel know if you would like to add your publication to the FaCH list m.edenborough@uws.edu.au