Research Overview
and Opportunities

Professor Steve Allsop
NDRI Director
Overview

• History
• Part of Faculty of Health Sciences and Tier 1
• WHO Collaborating Centre
• Relevance of NDRI to national strategy and beyond
• Key result areas:
  – Conduct high quality research that will contribute to primary prevention of harmful drug use and reduction of drug related harm
  – Disseminate research findings to policy makers, practitioners, public health professionals, other researchers, community interest groups and the public; and contribute to the building of national capacity for research in the prevention of drug related harm
• Links to a range of stakeholders (e.g. Health; Police; Drug consumers; Community)
Activities, Outputs and Outcomes

• Wide range of opportunities for HDR supervision and for casual work/research careers

• Varied professional background:
  – Psychology
  – Public Health
  – Epidemiology
  – Anthropology
  – Medicine
  – Sociology

• Engage in range of research and related activities:
  – Alcohol policy
  – Indigenous Australians
  – Offender health
  – Primary prevention and early intervention
  – Social contexts of drug use
  – People who continue to use alcohol and other drugs
  – Tobacco
  – New technologies
Possible Post-graduate research opportunities

- Research areas staff are interested in providing supervision and co-supervision include:
  - FASD Prevention with Young People
  - Indigenous SHAHRP Study
  - Cannabis
  - Young people and AOD
  - Gender-related topics
  - On-line interventions
  - The impact of on-line promotions on young people’s drinking
  - Influences on drinking among young people
  - Criminal justice, AOD use and Aboriginal people
  - Interventions for hard to reach populations
  - Alcohol and drug use at work
Alcohol Policy Research
Examples of Current Projects

• National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP)
• Alcohol and other drug use at school leavers' celebrations in Western Australia
• Meta-Analysis Systematic and Design errors: Alcohol Use and Disease Outcomes
• Australian Alcohol Aetiologic Fractions for Emergency Department Presentations (AAAFED)
• National Alcohol Sales Data Project (NASDP)
• Cochrane Collaboration Review of Workplace AOD Programs
• NDSHS 2004 & 2007 drinking prevalence study
• Early warning system for young people’s drinking
• Impact of alcohol promotions on young people
Alcohol Policy Research Team

Tanya Chikritzhs
Richard Pascal
Will Gilmore

Paul Catalano
Ben Liang
Wendy Loxley
Tina Lam
PhD Scholar
(School leavers)
Prevention, Early Intervention and Inequality
Research Strands

- National Indigenous Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Resource Project
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) knowledge and referral pathways in early childhood settings
- Mothers with an Alcohol-Related Diagnosis in Western Australia 1983-2007: The impact on the health of mother and child
- Pandemic Influenza Containment Strategies in Aboriginal Communities
- Second Stage Local evaluation of East Kimberley Communities for Children initiative for children and their families
- Warlpiri Early Childhood Care and Development Program
- Social inclusion through community embedded, socially supported university education
Prevention, Early Intervention & Inequality Team

- Collaborative research also with Professor Dennis Gray, A/Professor Ted Wilkes, Ms Annalee Stearne and Dr Mandy Wilson (Indigenous Australian Research Team)

Sherry Saggers
Lynn Roarty
Kate Frances
Colleen O’Leary
Community and School Interventions
Examples of Research Strands

- School Drug education for junior high school students in Victoria - Assessing the impact of a statewide, evidence-based intervention
- MY-Peer project (Marginalised youth - Participation, Engagement and Empowerment through research)
- Interventions to reduce alcohol use during pregnancy: Systematic literature review
- SHAHRP Refresh: Updating the School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project
- National and International Dissemination of the SHAHRP program
  - Northern Ireland SHAHRP Study
Community and School Interventions Team

Nyanda McBride  Clare Stevens

• Susan Carruthers, Sherry Saggers and Colleen O’Leary also involved in FASD research
Offender Health
Examples of Current Projects

• Social and Cultural Resilience of Aboriginal Mothers in Prison (SCREAM)
• Hepatitis C, Prisons and Treatment Opportunities (HePATO)
• Hepatitis C and its Treatment in Australian Custodial Settings
• From Broome to Berrima: Building Australia-wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health and health care delivery
• 2010 National Prison Entrants' Bloodborne Virus and Risk Behaviour Survey
Offender Health Team

Susan Carruthers
Jocelyn Jones
PhD Scholar
(Juvenile offending)

James Fetherston
PhD Scholar
(Hepatitis C in prison)
Indigenous Australians
Examples of Current Projects

- National Indigenous Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Resource Project
- Kava usage in Indigenous and Pacific Islander Communities
- Safe and Sober Support Service Evaluation
- A longitudinal study of influences on alcohol consumption and related harm in Central Australia
- What difference does treatment make? Psychometric properties of a measure of young people's progress in residential rehabilitation
- Second Stage Local evaluation of East Kimberley Communities for Children initiative for children and their families
- Culture, Context and Risk: socio-cultural influences on the sexual health of Indigenous young people
- Warlpiri Early Childhood Care and Development Program
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cannabis Interventions (NCPIC)
- The role of resiliency in responding to blood borne viral and sexually transmitted infections in Indigenous communities
- Support of Tangentyere Council Research Hub
- Restor(y)ing Aboriginal Parenting: Development and evaluation of a culturally relevant program to support Aboriginal parents
Indigenous Australians Research Team

Dennis Gray

Ted Wilkes

Julia Butt

Mandy Wilson

Anna Stearne

Ed Garrison

Martyn Simons

Maurice Shipp

ndri.curtin.edu.au
Drugs and Policy

Legislative and Regulatory Approaches
- Legislative options for cannabis
- Research on strategies to respond to drink and drug driving
- Research and advocacy for peer access to naloxone (Narcan)

Illicit Drug monitoring
- IDRS - Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDUs)
- ERDS – Ecstasy and Related Drugs (‘party drugs’)

Other projects and interests
- Drug users and the on-line environment
- Knowledge Transfer – Bridging the research to policy gap
Drugs and Policy Team

Simon Lenton

Candice Rainsford

Monica Barratt
Research Fellow
and PhD Scholar
(Drugs and online)
Ethnographic Research
Examples of Current Projects

- Developing the capacity to model the impact of interventions that target high-risk drinking among young Australians
- Reducing the health, social and economic burden of injection drug use in Australia
- Understanding and reducing alcohol-related harm among young adults in urban settings: Opportunities for intervention
- Understanding the barriers to improved access, engagement and retention of methamphetamine users in health services
- Analysing addiction concepts for improved public health outcomes: A Victorian Pilot Study
- The ethnography of party drug use and related harms in the Melbourne club/rave scene
- The ethnography of recreational party drug use and related harms in Perth
Ethnographic Research Team

David Moore

Robyn Dwyer

Nicola Thomson
PhD Scholar
(Methamphetamine use and treatment)

Rachael Green
PhD Scholar
(Recreational drug use)

Amy Pennay
PhD Scholar
(Alcohol and party drug use)

Christine Siokou
PhD Scholar
(Psychostimulant use in clubs)
Cross-program Research
Examples of Current Projects

- Impact of Parental Substance Use on Infant Development and Family Functioning
- Locating alcohol and drug prevention and treatment interventions within national healthcare reform: research for change (Patient Pathways)
- Disadvantage and Disease Experience of type 2 diabetes in a low socioeconomic area in Perth Western Australia
- Mental disorders and physical illness in childhood and early adulthood: cause, prevention and treatments
- Khat usage in Australia
Cross-program Research Staff

- Jesse Young
- Irene Ngune
- Beatriz Cuesta Briand
  PhD Scholar
  (Diabetes and disadvantage)
- Michael Cole
  PhD Scholar
  (Harm reduction in South East Asia)

- Aurora Popescu and Lauren Bell also working on Parental Substance Use project
Staff and HDR Student Support
Post-Graduate and Business Support Team

- Post-Graduate Co-coordinator: Susan Carruthers
- Post-Graduate Administration Assistant: Jo Hawkins
- Post-Graduate Committee: Susan Carruthers, Steve Allsop, Dennis Gray, Simon Lenton, Tanya Chikritzhs, James Fetherston (Student representative)

- Business Manager: Fran Davis
- Grants, Contracts and Travel: Patricia Niklasson and Jo Hawkins
- Administration and Clerical Support: Jodie Koch, Angela Riccardi, Jillian Evans and Clare Dalais
- Communications Officers: Rachael Lobo and Vic Rechichi
- IT support: Paul Jones
Tanzi Collinge

Former NDRI Honours Student,
Family Drug and Alcohol Worker
Uniting Care West
Beatriz Cuesta Briand

NDRI PhD Scholar, 
Research Associate
Centre of Excellence for Science, Seafood and Health (CESSH)
Where does NDRI fit????
At NDRI you will find a wide range of projects, methodologies, collaborations, approaches...

Talk to staff, ask them about the work they do, tell them about your interests!
Clare Stevens
Research Associate
Community and School Interventions
What I’ve done...

- **National Summit on Tobacco Smoking in Prisons**
  Aimed to reach a broad consensus on how best to tackle the high rates of tobacco smoking amongst prisoners and to identify the best ways forward to reduce harms caused by tobacco in custodial settings.

- **Point of Sale Promotion**
  Aimed to investigate alcohol promotions in alcohol outlets and to examine the impact of these promotions on the attitudes and behaviours of 18-25 year olds.
- **Illicit Drug Reporting System (IDRS) & Ecstasy and Related Drugs Reporting System (EDRS)**
  Monitor price, purity, availability and patterns of use of illicit substances.

- **School Health Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP)**
  Educational resource for school children. Aims to reduce the level of alcohol related harm experienced by young drinkers.

- **Future work**
  Updating video resource.
Why I like working at NDRI

- Diversity in projects
- Contact with a diverse range of academics
- Autonomy
- Flexibility
- Additional work
- Easy commute
- Support
- Opportunities for advancement
Scholarship opportunities, and other Postgraduate info

Susan Carruthers
For further information on scholarships, bursaries and research:

HDR research@NDRI
ndri.curtin.edu.au/students

Curtin
curtin.edu.au/research/futurestudents/
ndri.curtin.edu.au
or sign up to our email list