National Drug Research Institute

Student Information Evening 2012
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)
• Staff based around Australia
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
  – Justice health
  – Primary prevention and early intervention
  – Social contexts of drug use
  – People who continue to use alcohol and other drugs
  – Tobacco
  – New technologies
Alcohol Policy Research
Examples of Current Projects

- National Alcohol Indicators Project (NAIP)
- National Alcohol Sales Data Project (NASDP)
- Alcohol: monitoring and policy evaluation
- Off-site outlets and alcohol-related harm
- Meta-Analysis Systematic and Design errors: Alcohol Use and Disease Outcomes
- Meta-analysis of the relationship between alcohol consumption and stroke
- The effect of alcohol outlets and sales on alcohol-related injuries presenting at Emergency Departments in Perth
- Patron Offending and intoxication in night time entertainment districts (POINTED)
- The public health impacts of liquor outlets on Queensland communities: outlet numbers, alcohol sales and alcohol-related morbidity
- Alcohol and other drug use at school leavers’ celebrations
School Drug Education, Prevention and Early Intervention
Examples of current projects

- International Dissemination of the SHAHRP program
- Continuing Dissemination of the School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project
- School Drug education for junior high school students in Victoria - Assessing the impact of a statewide, evidence-based intervention
- Mental disorders and physical illness in childhood and early adulthood: cause, prevention and treatments
- National Indigenous Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Resource Project
- Cochrane Collaboration Review of Workplace AOD Programs
Education, Prevention & Early Intervention Team

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

Nyanda McBride  
Lynn Roarty

Kate Frances  
Candice Rainsford  
Sherry Saggers
Justice Health
Examples of Current Projects

- Social and Cultural Resilience and Emotional Well-being of Aboriginal Mothers in Prison
- Hepatitis C, Prisons and Treatment Opportunities (HePATO)
- From Broome to Berrima: Building Australia-wide research capacity in Indigenous offender health and health care delivery
- Hepatitis C and its Treatment in Australian Custodial Settings
Justice Health Team

Susan Carruthers

Jocelyn Jones
PhD Scholar
(Juvenile offending)

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

• Drinking in the suburbs: the experiences of Aboriginal young people
• National Indigenous Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Resources
• 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, with a particular emphasis on the role of price
• Evaluation of the ‘Makin Tracks’ 3 project
• Culture, Context and Risk: socio-cultural influences on the sexual health of Indigenous young people
• 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 promoting their children’s behavioural and social competence and readiness for school learning
Indigenous Australian Research Team

Dennis Gray  
Ted Wilkes  
Julia Butt  
Mandy Wilson  
Anna Stearne  
Ed Garrison  
Jen Low  
Maurice Shipp
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
- Knowledge Transfer – Bridging the research to policy gap
- A pilot study investigating Silk Road, the anonymous online drug marketplace
- Patterns of synthetic cannabis use in Australia: Legislative impacts
- Online survey of small-scale domestic cannabis - Part of an international research collaboration
- Global Drug Survey and Drugs Meter Project
Drugs and Policy Team

Simon Lenton  Monica Barratt  James Fetherston  Jodie Grigg
Ethnographic Research
Examples of Current Projects

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

David Moore
Nicola Thomson
PhD Scholar
(Methamphetamine use and treatment)

Rachael Green
PhD Scholar
(Recreational drug use)

James Wilson
PhD Scholar
(high-risk drinking young people)

Aaron Hart
PhD Scholar
(Alcohol harm – young urban adults)
Cross-program and Other 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)
• Mental disorders and physical illness in childhood and early adulthood: cause, prevention and treatments
• ADHD in dependent drug and alcohol users: Prevalence, Correlates, and Implications for Diagnosis and Treatment
• Safety Impacts of Alcohol and Other Drugs in Construction
• Khat usage in Australia
• What the punters think: a consumer evaluation of needle and syringe vending machines located in rural WA
• CBRCC Tobacco Control Research Fellow Training program
Cross-program and Other Research Staff

- Jemma Pope
- Michael Cole
  PhD Scholar
  (Harm reduction in South East Asia)

- Rashid Fflewellen
  PhD Scholar

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

- Postgraduate Coordinator: Susan Carruthers
- Postgraduate Administration Assistant: Jo Hawkins
- Postgraduate Committee: Susan Carruthers, Steve Allsop, Dennis Gray, Simon Lenton, Tanya Chikritzhs, David Moore and James Fetherston (Student representative)

- Business Manager: Fran Davis
- Grants, Contracts and Travel: Patricia Niklasson and Jo Hawkins
- Administration and Clerical Support: Candice Roberts, Jillian Evans and Clare Dalais
- Communications Officers: Rachael Lobo and Vic Rechichi
- IT support: Paul Jones
PhD and onwards at NDRI

Tina Lam
PhD

PhD supervisors:
Prof. Steve Allsop
Prof. Tanya Chikritzhs

18th October 2012
Alcohol and other drug use at school leavers’ celebrations in WA
My PhD process

2008 – Literature reviews, methodology design, piloting, and observation of the celebrations

Oct 2009 – 500 pre-Leavers surveys

Nov 2009 – 400 post-Leavers surveys and observation/ informal interviewing at the celebrations

2010-2011 – Analysis and writing
Hurrah!
2012 work projects

Jan-Feb - Literature review on civil commitment
Jan-Jun - POINTED
Jan-current - Pathways
July-current - Young Australians’ Alcohol Reporting System (YAARS)
Thanks!

Come talk to me later.

I want to sit down now.
Experiences of Co-supervision at the National Drug Research Institute

Jesse Young, MPH
Welcome to NDRI Student Night!
Overview

• NDRI’s role in my development
• Project
• How NDRI can help your career
• A little advice
ADHD Project at NDRI

• Australian arm of the International ADHD and Substance use disorders (SUD) Prevalence (IASP) study.
• Coordinated by the Trimbos Institute of Mental Health and Addictions (Netherlands) – A WHO Mental Health Partner
• 25 clinical/research institutes in 15 countries
• Collaboration with The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) at the University of New South Wales (UNSW).
In the beginning

• Established contacts / foster connections
  – Eight inpatient and outpatient treatment centers in Perth area
  – Organised participant interview protocol

• Administered questionnaire to participants attending Perth-area drug and alcohol treatment centres

• Collected genetic samples over a span of 11 months
NDRI Fostering My Development

• UWA dissertation
• Senior staff encouraged me to do my dissertation on the ADHD study data.
• Dr. Carruthers was quick to offer to co-supervise
• One step further:
  – Supported my request for the NSW dataset!
    • Request was granted...
  – I now had:
    • A nationally representative dataset
    • Good sample size / statistical power
      – Highly Publishable!
My Dissertation

Research Question:

• Does Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) among Dependant Substance Users increase risk-taking behaviour?
Aims

• Explore whether ADHD further modulates risk-taking behaviour in a dependent substance using population

• As certain the excess degree and extent of:
  – Substance use
  – Criminal offending
  – HIV risk-taking
  – Driving-related risk-taking behaviour

• As likely attributable to ADHD in the sample
The Benefits

• Largest research study on ADHD and SUD ever conducted in Australia.
  – Nationally representative sample of 489 adults
• Part of a large international consortium of research
  – The largest international study of it’s kind.
• Highly publishable area
• Support, input, and guidance from three premier Australian research institutes:
  – NDRI
  – NDARC
  – UWA, Centre for Health Services Research
• Implications for treatment / public health advocacy
Results

• ADHD is overrepresented in SUD populations
  • 55% of participants screen positive

• ADHD is associated with
  – Increased substance use
  – Other psychiatric disorders
  – Increased HIV-risk taking behavior
  – Increased driving-related risk-taking
Results Cont’d

• No association was found between ADHD and
  – Offending behaviour
  – Total Driving Convictions
My Top NDRI Benefits

• NDRI is part of a national consortium of research centres
  – NDARC (UNSW, Sydney)
  – NCETA (Flinders Uni, Adelaide)
• NDRI is a World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre
• The staff and their research is world-class and highly regarded in the addictions field
• Interest in fostering professional development
• Flexible work environment
• It’s a family atmosphere
Advice for Students / Proposals

• Research NDRI staff backgrounds and interests
• Align proposals with NDRI’s research priority areas
• Be proactive – go that extra step, push your limits, and make yourself invaluable
• Rejection / criticism is commonplace
  – Learn to take it positively
  – Use it as motivation
GOOD LUCK!
Thank you for your time!
Possible Research Topics
Possible Postgraduate Research Topics

1. **Impact of alcohol and other drug use on infant development**
   - This would provide access to a large cohort and examination of factors that influence parental decisions about alcohol and drug use, and the impact of parental alcohol and drug use on infants. 
   - **Contact: Steve Allsop**

2. **Looking at adolescent alcohol use – influences, contexts of use and harm**
   - We are about to commence a study that will examine patterns of alcohol use and influences on and contexts of use among young people. There is the opportunity to examine these issues in a PhD that uses access to this population and beyond to examine the factors that influence choices about alcohol use, risky alcohol use and related harm. 
   - **Contact: Steve Allsop**

3. **Drug Trends (IDRS AND EDRS)**
   - As part of these projects, each year we interview 100 West Australians who inject drugs and 100 users of ecstasy and other related drugs. In the past we have had honours and masters students add modules of interest to these data collections and analyse and report on results. 
   - **Contact: Simon Lenton**

4. **Silk Road: the anonymous online drug marketplace**
   - Online observations and interviews are being conducted with Silk Road users and sellers to better understand the dynamics of this new kind of drug market. A student may be able to join this effort by applying their own theoretical frameworks or questions to this environment. 
   - **Contact: Monica Barratt**

5. **Alcohol Harm Reduction with young people – how can Apps help?**
   - This PhD will use mixed methods to identify content, issues and strategies for the formative development of an App to reduce alcohol related harm with young people; and an assessment of the App’s effectiveness in reducing alcohol related harm. 
   - **Contact: Nyanda McBride**
Possible Postgraduate Research Topics

- **School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project – Phase 3**
  Phase 3 of SHAHRP is a second booster phase provided to students in upper secondary schools. This phase will be refined using formative intervention research processes (focus groups, systematic literature review, pilot of draft intervention for feedback) before assessing impact. **Contact: Nyanda McBride**

- **Alcohol use during pregnancy – mainstream and Indigenous perspectives**
  (Australian aspect of possible Tri-nation study). These studies will use mixed methods to identify intervention strategies, methods and content to reduce alcohol-exposed pregnancies in mainstream and Indigenous populations. **Contact: Nyanda McBride**

- **Alcohol use during pregnancy – paternal perspective**
  This study will use mixed methods to identify intervention strategies, methods and content to reduce alcohol-exposed pregnancies through paternal involvement. **Contact: Nyanda McBride**

- **Social networking to inform women of childbearing age about FASD - YouTube, Facebook**
  This study will use mixed methods to identify intervention strategies, methods and content to reduce alcohol-exposed pregnancies using social media. **Contact: Nyanda McBride**

- **Conscious parenting and chaotic lives**
  How does parenting style and parental drug use impact on attachment and infant opportunities for learning? This study will use mixed methods to identify the impact of parenting style and parental drug use on attachment and infant opportunities for learning. **Contact: Nyanda McBride**
Possible Postgraduate Research Topics

• **Comparing the impact of ‘fly in, fly out’ employment on family dynamics**
  This study will use mixed methods to identify the impact of FIFO on family dynamics and drug use. *Contact: Nyanda McBride*

• **Working mothers, day care and attachment**
  What impact does exposure to day care have on mother’s attachment and child development, and does parental drug use modify this impact. This study will use mixed methods to identify the impact of exposure to day care and parental drug use on attachment and child development. *Contact: Nyanda McBride*

• **English as second language families**
  This study will use qualitative comparative analysis methods to gain an understanding of concepts of family and of childrearing for families with English as a second language, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and how high and low drug use impacts on their parenting. *Contact: Nyanda McBride*

• **Maternal constructions of children and childhood**
  This study will use mixed methods to identify the discourses that mothers/expectant mothers draw on to inform understandings of children and childhood and how these expectations are met through concrete childrearing practices. *Contact: Nyanda McBride*

• **Injecting drug use in Melbourne (PhD Scholarship)**
  Drawing on social theory and qualitative research methods, this project explores its place in policy, popular culture, the law and public health. *Contact: David Moore (in Melbourne)*
For further information on postgrad@NDRI:

ndri.curtin.edu.au/students

or sign up to our email list

Drugs, Policy and Public Health 500

Alcohol and other drug use present some of the greatest contemporary public health challenges.

Presented by experts at the National Drug Research Institute and other international opinion leaders, this one-week intensive postgraduate unit covers relevant theoretical models and provides practical insights into enhancing drug policy with specific populations, the community and in emerging areas such as drugs and the internet.

The aim is to provide participants with a framework to improve integration of research into drug policy formulation at local, state, national and international levels.

DATE: Monday 3 - Friday 7 December 2012
TIME: 9am - 4.45pm
VENUE: National Drug Research Institute
Curtin University Health Research Campus, Shenton Park

ENROLMENTS CLOSE WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2012

Enrolment is through Curtin Health Sciences Student Services Office. Visit the NDRI student page ndri.curtin.edu.au/students for further information about the unit and enrolment process.