

## ACTING DIRECTOR - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR KIRSTY DOUGLAS



Kirsty Douglas

Associate Professor Kirsty Douglas joined APHCRI as Acting Director at the end of January. Her appointment is for six months, while the recruitment of a permanent director is finalised.

Associate Professor Douglas is a general practitioner with an interest in research. After completing her medical studies at the University of Adelaide, Professor Douglas undertook doctoral studies at Oxford, investigating the epidemiology of eclampsia in the United Kingdom. Returning to Australia she completed her GP specialty training and took up practice in Canberra.

She later joined the staff of the University of Sydney Canberra Clinical School and then the ANU Medical School where, initial Acting Associate Dean for Rural and Community, she helped to establish the medical school's GP and population health curricula and its Rural Clinical School. Professor Douglas' prime focus during the formative years of the ANU Medical School has been on curriculum development and teaching, but

she has maintained a research interest in childhood obesity, general practice workforce issues and social epidemiology. Throughout this time she has continued to work in clinical general practice initially in private and during the past 12 months at the local Aboriginal Controlled Medical Service Winnunga Nimmityjah.

Professor Douglas will be in the APHCRI office part-time, from Wednesday to Friday. Contact: [kirsty.a.douglas@anu.edu.au](mailto:kirsty.a.douglas@anu.edu.au)

## APHCRI IN 2008

The Institute will undergo a number of changes in 2008, but the pace of work will not be slowing and the initial workplan for the year sets APHCRI Hub staff and Spokes a number of interesting and exciting challenges.

In the first instance we say farewell to Foundation Director Professor Nicholas Glasgow, who has moved into his role as Dean of the ANU Medical School. This will not end Professor Glasgow's involvement with the Institute, however, as he remains an observer on the Research Advisory Board and as

Dean of the Medical School he is also Dean of the ANU College of Medicine and Health Sciences, of which APHCRI is a part.

Also this year the evaluation of the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Strategy is underway and APHCRI will be part of this process. The Institute welcomes the opportunity to discuss its successes and to receive feedback on ways to improve the work we do for researchers and policy advisers through the evaluation process.

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE APHCRI TEAM

### OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE - LAURANN YEN



Laurann Yen

To maintain the flow of work through the Institute, Laurann Yen will join the team at the end of February to allow the operational side of APHCRI. Laurann Yen is a consultant to APHCRI and a Visiting Fellow at the Menzies Centre for Health Policy. A clinical psychologist by training, she worked for a number of years in community health practice in Tasmania and South Australia, before moving into health services management.

She has held executive positions in health services management and planning in Australia and the UK, most recently as the General Manager of ACT Community Health. In the UK she was involved in national and regional planning and management of the GP fundholding initiative as Assistant Director of Primary Care with Yorkshire Regional Health Authority; and worked extensively in primary care development with the Office for Public Management, where she was a Fellow. Laurann provides leadership and research support to the SCIPPS project as Research Director.

Laurann will be available in the APHCRI office from Monday to Wednesday each week.

Her email is: [laurann.yen@anu.edu.au](mailto:laurann.yen@anu.edu.au) and her office number is: 02 6125 8088

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## HEALTH ECONOMICS EXPERTISE AT THE HUB - IAN MCRAE



Ian McRae

In 2008 APHCRI will be adding health economics expertise to the team. Ian McRae will join the team in March.

Ian has worked with APHCRI on a number of projects, most recently with Associate Professor Beverly Sibthorpe on the economic analysis of the Southern Highlands Division of General Practice diabetes program.

Ian has just submitted his PhD which explores the economics of the general practice market in Australia. Prior to commencing his PhD Ian spent five years at the Department of Health and Ageing managing a range of programs, including GP financing issues like MBS schedule items and the practice incentives program.

After his initial studies in statistics Ian worked in the Australian Bureau of Statistics before moving into the Bureau of Labour Market Research to set up what was then Australia's largest longitudinal survey of the labour market. He then moved to the Department of Finance where he managed the team whose role was the oversight of health policy, before moving to the Department of Health. Ian's interests are in health policy and financing, including the economic assessment of new technologies and new approaches to the delivery of health care.

## INSTITUTE MANAGER - APPOINTMENT EXPECTED SOON

The Institute Manager's position was recently advertised internally at ANU and should be filled by the end of this month.

## STREAMS UPDATE

Stream Seven researchers – participants in the APHCRI Travelling Fellowship Program – have returned to Australia. All reported that the trips have been invaluable in promoting our research to international audiences and in building links with overseas colleagues. These researchers, along with Dr Paul Grinzi who travelled as part of the APHCRI/Robert Graham Center Visiting Fellowship, will give a presentation to the Department of Health and Ageing in April.

It is expected that a similar exchange between an APHCRI-sponsored Fellow and the Robert Graham Center will be repeated later this year.

## RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD

The Research Advisory Board meets at the end of March for the first time in 2008. The RAB will be finalising the announcement of new Streams of research at that meeting, with the intention of releasing information for applicants as soon after the meeting as possible.

Please send all information about your events, publications and presentations to the editor for inclusion in future newsletters.

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