

The Department of Public Health is involved in individual and collaborative research in many areas, among them: health services and health systems research health, technology assessment, perinatal epidemiology, population health strategies in general practice settings, social epidemiology, occupational hygiene and workplace safety, bioethics, and environmental health with a particular focus on communicable diseases.

These areas of interest link the Department with researchers in other University Departments, the South Australian Department of Health, as well as other Australian and international research institutions. The strategic research of the Department is supported largely through successful competitive grant applications. Applied research is funded by invited tenders and contracts with government and other organisations.

Peng Bi, MBBS, MMedSci, PhD

Disciplinary orientation: Epidemiology and Environmental Health

Areas of Interest: Infectious disease epidemiology, hospital infection control, environmental epidemiology, population health and international health

Current projects: Climate change and its impact on population health; defining the local ecology of Ross River virus infections as a basis for risk assessment and better prevention strategies in Australia; needle stick injuries among healthcare workers and prevention; climate variation, air pollution and population health.

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Annette Braunack-Mayer, BMedSci(Hons) PhD

Disciplinary orientation: Ethics.

Areas of interest: Bioethics theory, qualitative research methods, ethics of health technologies, public health policy, public health ethics.

Current projects: Ethical issues in data collection and management; conflicts of interests in health care; Encyclopedia of Public Health (Elsevier) Section; editor for Ethical and Legal Issues; ethics and health technology assessment; consumer participation in decision-making about health technologies.

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Scott Cameron, MBBS, MD, MPH, FAFPHM

Disciplinary orientation: Infectious disease epidemiology.

Areas of interest: Foodborne disease, emerging infectious disease, environmental health, biological terrorism.

Current Projects: Systems for communicable disease surveillance; incidence of foodborne disease.

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Richie Gun, MB BS

Disciplinary orientation: Occupational and Environmental Health.

Areas of interest: Occupational cancer, chemical exposures, heat stress

Current projects: Mortality and cancer incidence of workers in the Australian petroleum industry (Australian Institute of Petroleum); mortality and cancer incidence of Australian participants in the British nuclear tests (Department of Veterans Affairs).
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Janet Hiller, Dip Soc Studies, BA, MPH, PhD (Professor and Head of Department)

Disciplinary orientation: Epidemiology.

Areas of interest: Perinatal epidemiology - trials and observational studies including the use of surveillance data. Health Technology Assessment. Health care evaluation. Reproductive epidemiology including environmental risk factors. Developments in epidemiological theory.

Current projects: Health Technology Assessment; men's health (Florey Adelaide Men's Aging Study); perinatal trials: Magnesium sulphate for the prevention of mortality and cerebral palsy in preterm infants; Australasian Carbohydrate Intolerance of Pregnancy Study (ACHOIS); antenatal screening; birth after caesarian section.

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Afzal Mahmood, MBBS, MPH, PhD

Disciplinary Orientation: Primary Health Care, Health Systems Development

Areas of Interest: Reproductive Health, Integrated Health Care, International Health, Program Evaluation and Health Management Information System. Coordinate International Health initiatives at the Department of Public Health, and has worked with many international and local government and nongovernment institutions in developing countries including Pakistan, Indonesia, Kenya, China.

Current Projects: Rural Health Services Research & village clinic development project with the Health Department of Shandong Province, Peoples Republic of China; association between living arrangements and health services utilisation: analysis of the National Health Survey data; evaluation of Childrens & Families Integrated Services, Womens and Childrens Hospital; reproductive Health-Safe Motherhood project, Bobonaro District, Timor-Leste: Rotary Australia World Community Services and the Ministry of Health Timor-Leste (2006-2010). Sustainability of reproductive health programs in many communities in Pakistan.

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Vivienne Moore, BSc(Hons), MPH, PhD

Disciplinary orientation: Epidemiology.

Areas of interest: social and behavioural influences on health (life course and eco-social perspectives), women's health, child development.

Current projects: Life course influences on young women's health (menstrual disorders, early and late childbearing, obesity, depression); longitudinal study of children with a focus on family disadvantage and health; early growth of twins and their health and cognitive development; literature reviews of treatments for menstrual disorders.

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John Moss, MSocSci, BEc, MBBS, FCHSE, CHE

Disciplinary orientation: Health economics and health services research.

Areas of interest: Economic appraisals of public health services; pharmacoeconomics; health technology assessment; efficiency in health services; and the transition between hospital and community care.

Current projects: The economic and/or quality of life aspects of the following: evaluation of industry submissions to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee; assessment of medical procedures and devices for the Medical Services Advisory Committee; Australian Carbohydrate Intolerance Study in Pregnancy (ACHOIS); domiciliary oxygen therapy for chronic respiratory disease; Veterans' Medicines Advice and Therapeutics Education Services (Veterans' MATES); Evaluation of the process and outcomes of discharge from the acute hospital using the PREPARED instrument.

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Dino Pisaniello, BSc(Hons), MPH, PhD, FRACI, FAIOH, CChem, CIH, FSIA

Disciplinary orientation: Occupational and environmental hygiene.

Areas of interest: Occupational and environmental health.

Current projects: Exposure assessment; OHS Intervention research; hazard surveillance; asthma epidemiology; small business OHS; environmental air pollution and lung cancer; indoor air quality and modelling; visual ergonomics; OHS education; hazardous materials incidents management.

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Philip Ryan, MBBS, BSc, FAFPHM

Disciplinary orientation: public health medicine, biostatistics.

Areas of interest: Chronic disease epidemiology, design and conduct of clinical trials, data management systems in public health.

Current projects: The Second Australian National Blood Pressure Study (High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia); the National Joint Replacement Registry (Australian Orthopaedic Association); Nuclear Veterans Study (Dept Veterans Affairs); Veterans MATES project (University of South Australia and Dept of Veterans Affairs); DINO Trials of DHA supplementation in preterm infants (Child Health Research Institute); Point of Care Testing (POCT) trial of pathology tests in general practice (Dept General Practice and Commonwealth Dept Health and Ageing).

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Amy Salter, B.Sc. (Ma.& Comp.Sc.) (Hons in Statistics) PhD.

Disciplinary orientation: Biostatistician.

Areas of interest: Multivariate Survival Analysis; design and analysis of data from clinical trials; trials for the treatment of opiate-dependence; statistics in public health.

Current projects: Statistical Researcher/Analyst for data from a randomised, double-blind clinical trial (Edinburgh, Scotland), to investigate the potential benefits of Dihydrocodeine versus Methadone in the treatment of opiate dependent individuals; investigation into factors associated with long-term eye health; investigation into predictive factors for the pain management of individuals; use of angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors in reducing cardiovascular co-morbidities; investigator on a randomised trial of DHA in pregnancy to prevent postnatal depressive symptoms and enhance neurodevelopment in children; the extension of statistical theory associated with recurrent or dependent multiple-event survival data.

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David Scrimgeour, BMedSc;MBBS; MPH; FAFPHM

Disciplinary orientation: Indigenous Health, Health Policy

Areas of interest: Health policy; Indigenous health issues; refugee health issues; International health, and the effects of globalisation on health.

Current projects: Working part-time in the Department of Public Health. A senior medical practitioner at the Port Adelaide Community Health Service, as Medical Director for Tullawon Health Service at Yalata Aboriginal community, and as a sessional medical practitioner with the Migrant Health Service. Course co-ordinator of the “Aboriginal Health Policy” unit taught to undergraduate and graduate students.

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Jacqueline Street, B.Sc (Hons), PhD, Grad. Dip.PHC

Disciplinary orientation: Public Health, Science

Area of Interests: Social justice and ethical practice in research, interface of science and public health, community participation in decision making for health policy and practice

Current projects: Looking for practical solutions for quality assessment of grant proposals and publications in Aboriginal health research.

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Ruth Walker, BA (Hons), PhD

Disciplinary Orientation: Psychology, Social Epidemiology

Areas of interest: Women’s health; older women’s health; relationships between place and health; caesarean section including women’s role in decision-making.

Current Projects: Older women’s perceptions of health-supporting neighbourhood characteristics in metropolitan Adelaide; the dynamics of spousal relationships in very late life: transitions, informal care, psychological health and longevity; health service utilization among elderly women living alone in Adelaide.

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He Wang, MBBS, M Med, Ph.D

Disciplinary orientation: Occupational and Environmental Health

Areas of interest: Occupational and environmental respiratory diseases.

Particularly interested in dust-induced lung diseases. He has established non-invasive methods for early detection of various diseases and conditions caused by exposure of airborne hazards. He also established animal models to study molecular changes after exposure to various dusts. Toxicity test of nanomaterials is being conducted by cell culture methods to study the potential health and environment impact.

Current Research: Geno-toxicity of dust extracts and nanoparticles; non-invasive and invasive measures of lung inflammation in silica exposed workers and patients with silicosis; epidemiology of pneumoconiosis; exhaled carbon monoxide and biomarkers in breath condensate; role of Clara cells in inflammation of premature lungs; lung function test and measurement of nitric oxide level in exhaled air; Cytology and molecular biology in induced sputum.

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