



## Welcome to ACCEPT

This is the first issue of **ACCEPTability**, the project newsletter for the Australian Chlamydia Control Effectiveness Pilot.

The ACCEPT project aims to evaluate whether annual chlamydia testing for 16 to 29 year old men and women can

reduce the prevalence of chlamydia in the community, and if it can, how best to design a national testing program. Chlamydia is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmissible infection in Australia, yet most who are infected are unaware they have it. General practice is an ideal setting for annual chlamydia testing, since most young people visit their GP at least once a year.

This Australian Government funded project is a unique and exciting opportunity for GPs to contribute to the future of preventive health in Australia. ACCEPT will trial a multi-faceted intervention designed to help support increased chlamydia testing. General practice clinics and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services in about 50 towns or regions throughout Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland will be invited to take part.

The ACCEPTability newsletter will provide quarterly updates on the progress of ACCEPT.

Dr Jane Hocking

Principal Investigator, ACCEPT

## The Shepparton Team

The first clinics to join ACCEPT are from the Shepparton region of Victoria. This is thanks to the support of Associate Professor Jane Tomnay (pictured) and her team at the University of Melbourne School of Rural Health in Shepparton. Jane heads up the Centre for Excellence in Rural Sexual Health and brings considerable expertise in rural sexual health to the project. The Shepparton team are also the source of vital IT support for the project. Dr Dougie Boyle, Ms Christie McFadden and Mr Grant Pollerd have designed and programmed data management software for the project.



## Improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Chlamydia diagnosis rates are at least three times higher among Indigenous Australians. With this in mind, the ACCEPT team will be recruiting Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to be part of ACCEPT. James Ward (pictured, left) and Basil Donovan (right) at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research are leading the effort.



## Vital Statistics

<b>62,709</b>	Number of chlamydia notifications in Australia in 2009. This is an increase of 334% compared to a decade ago
<b>4</b>	Percentage of young adults infected with chlamydia
<b>60</b>	Percentage of sexually active adults who have not had an STI check-up since they last had unprotected sex
<b>80</b>	Percentage of people with chlamydia (men and women) who are asymptomatic
<b>14</b>	Average duration (in months) of chlamydia infection if left untreated
<b>JUST 1</b>	Number of antibiotic doses required to effectively treat chlamydia infection

## Earn Professional Development Points with ACCEPT

By participating in ACCEPT, you are eligible to earn Quality Assurance & Continuing Professional Development (QA&CPD) Points from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP). An Active Learning Module, "Chlamydia and health consequences in young adults" was designed for ACCEPT participants and will earn you 40 Category 1 QA&CPD points. To find out more, contact Dr Simone Poznanski at ACCEPT on (03) 8344 0792.

## Showcasing ACCEPT

- Dr Jane Hocking will be presenting at the 12<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Human Chlamydial Infections, to be held in Salzburg, Austria, 20–25 June, 2010. [www.chlamydia-symposia.org](http://www.chlamydia-symposia.org)
- A poster will be on display at the Primary Health Care Research Conference, to be held in Darwin, 30 June – 2 July, 2010. [www.phcris.org.au/conference/2010](http://www.phcris.org.au/conference/2010)

## Who We Are:

The ACCEPt project brings together an international team of researchers with expertise in sexual health, epidemiology, primary care research and statistics.

### The Executive Committee



**Dr Jane Hocking**

*BAppSc(MLS), MPH, MHSc(PHP), PhD*

Jane heads the ACCEPt research team from the Melbourne School of Population Health at The University of Melbourne. Jane is an epidemiologist and has published extensively on her research into sexual health and the epidemiology of chlamydia.



**Professor Basil Donovan**

*MBBS, MD, FAFPHM, FRCPI, FACHSHM*

Basil is Head of the Sexual Health program at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research and practises at the Sydney Sexual Health Centre. He has made many contributions toward research and the control of STIs and HIV in Australia.



**Professor Christopher (Kit) Fairley**

*MBBS, PhD, FAFPHM, FACHSHM, FACSHP, FRACP*

As the Director of the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre (Alfred Hospital) and Professor of Sexual Health at The University of Melbourne, Kit has considerable expertise as a sexual health physician, researcher and educator.



**Professor Matthew Law**

*BA(hons), MSc, PhD*

Matthew is a statistician and head of the Biostatistics and Databases Program at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research. He has extensive experience in the design and analysis of cluster randomised controlled trials.



**Dr Rebecca Guy**

*BAppSc, MAppEpid, PhD*

Rebecca is an epidemiologist at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research. Her research interests include complex surveillance systems for STIs and the evaluation of STI interventions.



**Professor Jane Gunn**

*MBBS, FRACGP, FRANZCOG, PhD*

Jane is the Director of the Primary Care Research Unit and the Head of the Department of General Practice at The University of Melbourne. She is a part-time GP who is highly regarded in conducting primary care research.



**Professor John Kaldor**

*PhD*

John is a Professor of Epidemiology at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research. His research interests include the epidemiology and prevention of HIV and hepatitis C infections, other blood-borne viruses, STIs and cancer.



**A/Professor Meredith Temple-Smith**

*BSc, Dip App Child Psych, Dip Movt Dance, MPH, DHSc*

Meredith is a primary care researcher at the Department of General Practice at The University of Melbourne, who has published extensively on sexual health. As Director of Research Training, she helps teach primary care clinicians how to conduct their own research.



**Professor Nicola Low**

*BSc, MBBS, MRCP, MSc, MD, FFPH*

Nicola is an internationally renowned chlamydia epidemiologist based at the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, at the University of Bern in Switzerland. Nicola led a large interdisciplinary study of chlamydia screening in the UK.

### Staff on the ground

*University of Melbourne*

Ms Alaina Vaisey, Dr Dyani Lewis, Dr Simone Poznanski, Ms Jenny Walker, Dr Danielle Newton (pictured, left to right)



### The ACCEPt Consortium

The Executive Committee is supported by an expert team of research scientists and medical professionals that, in addition to the Executive, comprise the ACCEPt Consortium:

- Dr David Regan, University of New South Wales
- A/Professor David Wilson, University of New South Wales
- Mr James Ward, University of New South Wales
- Professor John Imrie, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- Professor Rob Carter, Deakin University
- Professor Marian Pitts, La Trobe University
- A/Professor Anne Mitchell, La Trobe University
- A/Professor Marion Saville, Victorian Cytology Service
- A/Professor Dorota Gertig, Victorian Cervical Cytology Registry
- Dr Lena Sanci, The University of Melbourne
- Dr Marie Pirotta, The University of Melbourne
- A/Professor Sepehr Tabrizi, Royal Women's Hospital
- A/Professor Marcus Chen, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
- A/Professor Margaret Hellard, Burnet Institute

This project has been commissioned and is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

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