



## Changing Faces

**From brand new offices in Melbourne, to new names for old faces in Sydney, the past three months have been a time of change for ACCEPT.**

On the project front, ACCEPT project officers have had another busy quarter visiting general practices across the country. As recruitment and prevalence surveys continue, several of the first clinics to be enrolled in ACCEPT have already been randomised to either intervention or control arms of the study.

The last three months has also seen the Melbourne team move to a new building, and the Sydney team change its name. In March, the Centre for Women's Health, Gender & Society at the University of Melbourne moved into the recently refurbished 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of 207 Bouverie St in Carlton (pictured) to join the rest of the Melbourne School of Population Health.

Meanwhile, the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research at the University of New South Wales changed its name in April to the Kirby Institute for Infection and Immunity in Society, in honour of the former Justice of the High Court of Australia, the Hon. Michael Kirby.



ACCEPT is also sad to be farewelling some of our valued staff members.

Project Officers Anne Shaw and Chantal Maloney are both moving on in early July, and Claire Denby, who has been helping out with administration in Melbourne, has left and is due to have a baby at the end of June. All three will be missed and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours beyond ACCEPT.

Associate Professor Jane Hocking

Principal Investigator, ACCEPT

## Aboriginal Medical Services to Join ACCEPT

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities often face greater health challenges than the general Australian population. Chlamydia is no exception, with diagnosis rates at least three times higher among Indigenous Australians. To ensure that ACCEPT reaches both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in towns recruited to the project, ACCEPT will be approaching Aboriginal Medical Services to take part. Belinda Ford (pictured) has recently joined The Kirby Institute at the University of New South Wales to work with James Ward and Professor Basil Donovan to ensure that ACCEPT's approach is appropriately tailored to the needs of Aboriginal Medical Services. This work brings together two of Belinda's passions – sexual health and Indigenous culture and history. Belinda has a background in psychology, population health and health promotion

work in both Australia and the UK, and is just a few months away from obtaining her Masters in Public Health from the University New South Wales.



## Roads to Recruitment

As each month passes, more and more clinics are signing on to ACCEPT. To date, 80 clinics across 30 towns and urban postcodes in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and South Australia have been recruited. That's a staggering 383 individual GPs that have enrolled in the project so far, and represents an incredible clinic recruitment rate of 85%, indicating tremendous support from the general practice community. As the map below shows, ACCEPT project officers have been travelling far and wide to recruit general practices from Divisions of General Practice dotted throughout Eastern Australia.



Location of Divisions of General Practice where towns have been recruited.

## A Guiding Hand – ACCEPt's Advisory Committee

Since its inception, ACCEPt has benefited from the sage advice and vast experience of the external members of its advisory committee. The advisory committee is chaired by Associate Professor Meredith Temple-Smith, and brings together an array of expertise, from general practice management and practice nursing, to pathology, sexual health and youth affairs. Current members of the ACCEPt advisory committee are:

### **Chair: A/Professor Meredith Temple-Smith**

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

Meredith is a primary care researcher and member of the ACCEPt Executive Committee from 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.

### **A/Professor Jane Hocking**

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

Jane is principal investigator on ACCEPt, heading the 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.

### **A/Professor Marcus Chen**

*MRCP, FACHSHM, PhD*

Marcus is Clinical Associate Professor at the School of Population Health at The University of Melbourne and Senior Specialist in Sexual Health Medicine and Medical Services Manager at the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre. He has a longstanding interest in STI research and headed the Expert Writing Group for the latest edition of the Australasian Contact Tracing Manual. Marcus is on ACCEPt's Consortium of investigators.

### **Dr Natasha Pavlin**

*MBBS, GradDip Rur, GradCert PH(SH), FRACGP, FRAGP*

Natasha is a GP with strong interests in rural and remote health, sexual health, medical education and academic general practice and research. She has experience with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector as well as mainstream general practice, rural hospitals, Universities, Divisions of General Practice and Regional Training Providers. She has an Honorary Academic appointment at The University of Melbourne and has published extensively on chlamydia screening in primary care settings in Australia.

### **Judy Evans**

*RN (Div1), GradCert PractNurs*

Judy has more than 12 years' experience as a nurse in both general practice and campus settings. She has expertise in health promotion and adolescent health, as well as risk management, research and evidence-based practice. Judy is well known for her whole-of-practice approach to triage and has a special interest in e-health.

### **Dr Ian Chambers**

*MBChB, FRCPA, MASM*

Ian is the Director of Microbiology and Immunoserology at Douglas Hanly Moir Pathology. In this role Ian is responsible for the laboratory diagnosis of bacterial, viral and fungal infectious diseases. He is also an infection control consultant to several private hospitals and is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer in Pathology at the School of Medicine, University of Notre Dame.

### **A/Professor Marion Saville**

*MBChB, Am Bd (Anat Path & Cytopath), FIAC, GradDip Med (Clin Epi)*

Marion is the Executive Director of the Victorian Cytology Service, the largest single laboratory reporting Pap tests in Australia. Marion has strong interests in cervical screening policy and planning, and she serves on a number of health advisory committees. Marion also serves as a member of the ACCEPt Consortium of investigators.

### **A/Professor Lena Sanci**

*MBBS, FRACGP, FRANZCOG, PhD*

Lena is a senior lecturer at the Department of General Practice at The University of Melbourne, where she leads the research program in young people's health in Primary Care. Lena also works at a young people's drop in clinic and continues to train GPs, medical students and allied health professionals in young people's health. Lena is on the ACCEPt Consortium of investigators.

### **Dr Nanette Preswell**

*MBBS, FRACGP*

Nan is a GP who has extensive experience working in general practices, and a longstanding special interest in sexual health. In addition, Nan has worked in the community health sector, and has strong interests medical service accessibility.

### **Maureen Goss**

*DipTeach, BEd, Dip Practice Management*

As a practice manager at a busy inner city general practice, Maureen has conducted research investigating Practice Based Research Networks in the General Practice environment. Her research has examined the systems that need to be in place for general practices to engage in longitudinal research studies.

### **Mark Saunders**

Mark is the Sexual Health & Blood Borne Viruses Policy Officer and Male Health Policy Officer at the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO). Through his work with NACCHO, Mark has been involved in implementing health programs to improve men's health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

### **Georgie Ferrari**

*MPHSM*

Georgie is the Chief Executive Officer of the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria. Having worked in the not-for-profit sector for the past 15 years, in youth, health, housing, community education and violence, Georgie is a passionate advocate for young people. Georgie is a board member of the Victorian Council of Social Service and the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition.

### **Previous members**

Other members who have made valuable contributions to the ACCEPt advisory committee include Gae Sawyer from the Western Australian General Practice Network, and Dr Rob Baird from Melbourne Pathology.

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