ANNUAL REPORT

2001
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## Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACON</td>
<td>AIDS Council of NSW</td>
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<td>AFAO</td>
<td>Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations</td>
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<td>ANCAHRD</td>
<td>Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases</td>
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<td>ANET</td>
<td>AFAO, NAPWA Education Team</td>
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<td>ARC</td>
<td>Australian Research Council</td>
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<td>ARCSHS</td>
<td>Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society</td>
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<td>CTARC</td>
<td>Clinical Trials and Research Committee of ANCAHRD</td>
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<td>NAPWA</td>
<td>National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS</td>
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<td>NCHSR</td>
<td>National Centre in HIV Social Research</td>
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<td>NCHECR</td>
<td>National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research</td>
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<td>NHMRC</td>
<td>National Health and Medical Research Council</td>
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<td>PLWHA</td>
<td>People Living with HIV/AIDS</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAC / GMHC</td>
<td>Victorian AIDS Council / Gay Men’s Health Centre</td>
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The National Centre in HIV Social Research (NCHSR) was established in 1990 by the Commonwealth Government to undertake a program of social research related to HIV. Since that time its focus has broadened to include hepatitis C (HCV) and sexually transmitted infections (STI).

The NCHSR’s major research priorities are:

- To conduct research that contributes to the management of HIV, HCV and related diseases in the most affected communities
- To conduct studies of the shared, everyday understandings of sexuality, sexual practice and illicit drug use, with particular reference to the normative structures and cultural and sub-cultural understandings that inform those practices
- To conduct studies of the individual, interpersonal and cultural impact of HIV, HCV and related diseases on those directly affected, their carers and their communities; and to identify the strategies and health care models appropriate to deal with that impact
- To identify the individual, interpersonal and societal characteristics that contribute to prevention strategies; and to identify the barriers to their adoption by those at risk of HIV, HCV and related diseases
- To conduct studies of the social and personal aspects of the conduct of clinical trials including vaccines, and
- To conduct research into the personal, social, economic and cultural impact of HIV, HCV and related diseases.
2001 was a year of growth as well as one of consolidation of our research program, especially in the areas of education, communication and resource management. In general, research areas devoted to the social aspects of HIV transmission, treatment and care were consolidated while efforts were placed on expanding our research related to hepatitis C and injecting drug use. While we have done this by successfully seeking funding from government and non-government sources, it is true to say that we are still understaffed in the hepatitis C and drug areas and much time has been spent developing proposals and seeking funding to build capacity in this area. Our international collaborations and networks have been expanded over the year. We have been involved in a number of workshops and are currently developing two collaborative research protocols—one with colleagues in Thailand, the other with South African collaborators.

Our Mapping of Risk Practices now covers most of Australia. The Periodic Surveys continue to deliver important data on the nature and levels of risk practice related to both sexual and drug use practices among gay men. Our cohort study of HIV-negative gay men, the Health in Men (HIM) study, is recruiting well—almost 500 men in our first year.

Our study of initiation and transition to injecting drug use among young people finished recruiting and the data are being analysed with reference to correlates of risk, transition to injecting, and differences between young amphetamine and opiate users.

Research in Negotiating the Medical Field has expanded to include studies of the barriers and incentives to drug treatments among drug users and a study of hepatitis C related discrimination particularly with reference to diagnosis and disclosure of hepatitis C status. Our cohort study of people living with HIV and AIDS, the Positive Health (pH) study, has completed its second wave of interviewing and the first reports have been published.

In our third area of research interest the ARC-funded Masculinity, Mortality and Risk project has been completed and the first report will be released in early 2002. This important study examines the interplay between risk-management and risk-taking, experience of death, and masculinity. The Seroconversion and non-occupational Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) studies continued during this year and findings relating to narratives of risk were published. Data collection is well under way in the hepatitis C-related “Blood-Awareness” study, a new study funded through an NHMRC project grant.

Finally in the more applied field, Understanding Health Knowledges, Practices and Policy, we have been involved in evaluating a couple of projects—the AFAO/NAPWA Education Project and in 2001 the ACON Enhanced Care Project. We have also continued our work as part of an international collaboration concerned with the measurement of HIV treatments optimism/scepticism, and we have recently developed a number of new scales in the area of HIV vaccines.

The other areas that need mention are education and communication, resource management, and publications. We have a great resource in our library, our website, our workshops and our in-house reports, which have taken on a professional and distinctive look. All forms of liaison and outreach have been very important in sustaining and building our partnerships with communities, non-government and government organisations, and Australian and other researchers.

In 2001 the NCHSR continued to contribute to sexual health in Australia by housing the office of Venereology, which had a successful year with submissions increasing in number and quality. However the editors regretfully decided to cease publication with the last issue in December 2001 because of lack of funds to develop on-line subscription access.

While collaborative studies continue with the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research and
with the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, we have formed new links with the School of Health, University of New England, and have been involved in collaborative research with Kirketon Road Clinic in Sydney, the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, and the National Centre in Epidemiology and Population Health at the Australian National University (to name but a few).

Internationally we have signed a formal memorandum of understanding that links us to the Centre for AIDS Studies at the University of Pretoria; the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education at the University of London; and the HIV Social, Behavioural and Epidemiological Studies Unit at the University of Toronto. This has already begun to produce research collaborations and staff were invited in 2001 to two workshops funded by the DFID-UNFPA Youth and Adolescent Reproductive Health. The Australian Vaccine Consortium research has also led to developing research ties between Thai and Australian social researchers. Our collaborative efforts have also led to our membership on the Community Advisory Board of the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI).

Closer to home, the NCHSR in 2001 organised two very successful workshops – one focused on depression and the other on changing patterns of communality in gay community. Our colloquium series also attracted a number of excellent speakers as well as large audiences.

We celebrated the graduation of Dr Gillian Hales, a psychologist and clinical trials nurse at the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, who was awarded a doctorate on the basis of her thesis, HIV Clinical Trials: the Australian Experience. We also celebrated the awarding of doctorates to two of our long standing researchers, Dr Juliet Richters and Dr Erica Southgate, as well as congratulating Dr Henrike Korner and Dr Asha Persson who were awarded their PhDs soon after they joined the NCHSR in 2001.

There have been a number of staff changes. We farewelled a number of staff who took up new positions both in Australia and overseas including Jonathan Bollen, Sasho Lambevski, Marsha Rosengarten, Elizabeth Wakeford and Lucy Zinkiewicz. Jonathan took up a position as Lecturer at the University of New England in Armidale, while Marsha and Lucy moved to the United Kingdom; Marsha taking up a Research Fellow position at University College London in the Department of Public Health. The NCHSR also farewelled Hydi Behman and Susan Geason.

We have welcomed a number of new staff: Dr Henrike Korner from the Department of Linguistics and the Learning Centre, the University of Sydney, and Dr Asha Persson and Ms Jeanne Ellard from the Anthropology Department of the same university. We also welcomed Dr Tamo Nakamura, a recent PhD graduate from the Psychology Department at the University of New South Wales, Dr Carla Treloar from the University of Newcastle and Imperial College, London, and Mr Stephen Hodge from Geography at Macquarie University and NSW Health. I have a new administrative and personal assistant, Ms Jan Knapman, and the NCHSR has a new receptionist, Mr Joseph Lopes, and a new Publications Officer, Ms Judi Rainbow. We have also welcomed the return of other staff: Dr Anne Grunseit as an Adjunct Research Fellow and Kane Race as a full-time PhD student.

I thank all those staff who have been instrumental in the consolidation, growth and development of the NCHSR and welcome the new. I also extend the thanks of the NCHSR to its Scientific Advisory Committee members and everyone else who advised and supported us through 2001. With them, the NCHSR faces 2002
The NCHSR is advised by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

**Chair**

Professor Allan Kellehear, Health Sciences, La Trobe University

**Members**

Mr Brent Allan, National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS

Professor Dennis Altman, Politics, La Trobe University

Mr Alan Brotherton, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations

Professor Ann Daniel, Sociology, The University of New South Wales

Ms Debra Gradie, HIV/AIDS & Hep C Section, Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care

Mr Neil Harpley, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The University of New South Wales

Professor John Kaldor, National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, The University of New South Wales

Professor Susan Kippax, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales

Mr Paul Lehmann, HIV/AIDS & Hep C Section, Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care

Associate Professor Wendy Loxley, National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University of Technology

Professor Marian Pitts, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University

Associate Professor David Plummer, Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis and Related Diseases

Professor Sheila Shaver, Social Policy Research Centre, The University of New South Wales

Professor Mary Sheehan, Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety—Queensland, School of Psychology and Counselling, Queensland University of Technology

Professor Bryan Turner, Faculty of Social & Political Sciences, Cambridge University, UK (Corresponding Member)

Dr Paul Van de Ven, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales (Observer)

Dr Catherine Waldby, Department of Human Services, Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK (Corresponding Member)
Professor Susan Kippax, Director

Professor Kippax was appointed Director of the National Centre in HIV Social Research in July 1994 after serving as Deputy Director from 1990 to June 1994.

Dr Kippax graduated from the University of Sydney in 1968 with a BA Hons (Class 1) in Psychology. In 1970 and 1971 she held a Rhodes Travelling Fellowship to Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford and was awarded a PhD (Social Psychology) from the University of Sydney in 1972.

Since 1985 she has worked almost exclusively on researching the impact of HIV and AIDS on individuals and communities, and on documenting social and psychological responses to the epidemic among homosexually active men and heterosexuals as well as those living with HIV and AIDS. Her other major research interest concerns emotions, where her work has uncovered some of the processes in the social construction of emotions and illustrates the advantages of ‘memory-work’, a method that has been used in researching sexuality.

Other members of staff in 2001 were:

**Deputy Director**
Paul Van de Ven, BEd, MA, PhD

**Senior Research Fellow**
Juliet Richters, BA, MPH, PhD

**Research Fellows**
Jonathan Bollen*, BA(Hons), PhD
Stephen Hodge, BA(Hons)
Henrik Körner, BA(Hons), DipEd, MA, PhD
Sasho Lambevski*, MA, PhD (ARC Fellow)
Patrick Rawstorne*, BA(Hons)
Marsha Rosengarten*, BA, Grad Dip Comm, MA, PhD
Erica Southgate, BEd, PhD
Carla Treloar, BSc(Hons), PhD
Lucy Zinkiewicz*, BA(Hons), PhD

**Post-doctoral Fellows**
Helen Keane, MA, PhD (UNSW Vice-Chancellor’s)
Sean Slavin, BA(Hons), PhD (NHMRC)
Shuguang Wang, MA, PhD (NHMRC)

**Senior Research Officers**
Loren Brener, BA, BScSc, MA
Max Hopwood, BA(Hons)
Tamo Nakamura, BSc(Hons), PhD
Patrick Rawstorne*, BA(Hons)
Angela Song, BMed, MPH

**Research Officers**
Clive Aspin*, MA, DipELT, PhD
Jeanne Ellard, BA(Hons), MPhil
Asha Persson, BA(Hons), PhD
Elizabeth Wakeford*, BA(Hons)

**Research Consultants**
Jeanne Abelson*, BA(Hons), PhD
June Crawford†, BA(Hons), PhD

**Adjunct Associate Professor**
Catherine Waldby, BA(Hons), PhD

**Adjunct Research Fellow**
Anne Grunseit, BA(Hons), PhD

**Non-Contract Staff**
Grant Mistler**, BA
Kathryn Owler†, BA, PhD
Ying Pan*, BMed, MPH
Kane Race*, BA(Hons), LLB
Gary Smith*, BA(Hons)

**Senior Finance Manager**
Sahar Behman, AccCert (with Distinction)

**Personal Assistant**
Janice Knapman, AssDipSocSci

**Administrative Assistant**
Joseph Lopes

**Communication & Education Liaison Officer**
Joseph Jewitt, BA

**Research Resource Manager**
Maude Frances, BA(Hons), Grad Dip Inf & Lib Mgt

**Publications Officer**
Judi Rainbow†*

**Journal Manager**
Louisa Wright**, BJuris, MSc(Journalism), MPH

* Part year  †Part-time  ‡Casual  †Honorary
Research at the National Centre in HIV Social Research falls into four broad areas:

**MAPPING RISK PRACTICE**

**NEGOTIATING THE MEDICAL FIELD**

**EXPLORING CULTURAL DYNAMICS: RISK AND HEALTH**

**UNDERSTANDING HEALTH KNOWLEDGES AND PRACTICES**

The studies listed under this category are all concerned with the mapping of safe and unsafe practices—both sexual and drug use practices. The first study described below is a longitudinal study, the remainder are repeat cross-sectional or 'snapshot' studies. While the snapshot studies of drug use and the national sex survey provide base-line data on risk associated with sexual and drug use practices, the longitudinal and repeat cross-sectional studies allow researchers to monitor practice and to reliably assess changes in risk over time.

All studies examine sexual and drug use practice with reference to the interpersonal and social lives of the populations under study. Thus the meanings of practice are explored and the correlated and, in the case of the longitudinal study, the determinants of risk are identified.

**Health in Men (HIM) cohort study**

An open cohort enrolling approximately 500 HIV-negative gay men per annum was established in Sydney in 2001 to monitor risk practice and HIV incidence in the context of vaccine initiatives. The study examines sexual and drug risk, beliefs and understandings of prophylactic and therapeutic vaccines, expectations of vaccines and motivations with reference to vaccine trials. Data are collected with regard to the nature of sexual relationships, HIV status of self and partner, sexually transmissible infections, HIV optimism-scepticism, and hepatitis A, B, and C. Questions assessing risk practice match those from the earlier cohort study SMASH and are compatible with questions asked in the Periodic Surveys, Male Call/Out projects and the pH cohort study to enable coordinated national data collection on risk practices. The aims of the study are to establish a baseline of risk practice among potential vaccine trial participants, and inform community based organisations and other agencies engaged in health promotion of men’s current understandings of vaccine initiatives. The study is conducted by the NCHSR in collaboration with the NCHECR, AFAO and ACON.

**Gay Community Periodic Surveys**

The first Periodic Survey of gay men’s sexual practice was conducted in Sydney in February 1996 and every 6 months since then. Cross-sectional data has been collected in a number of other major centres in Australia—Melbourne, Brisbane/Gold and
Sunshine Coasts/Cairns, Adelaide, Perth and Canberra. Sample sizes vary according to city/centre but range between 2300 in Sydney to 350 in Canberra. Data are collected on the sexual practice of men recruited from a range of sex venues, social venues and sexual health clinics as well as from annual gay events such as the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day. These data provide useful monitoring of changes in the sexual practice of gay men; they do not provide detailed data on sexual and other practices nor on the interpersonal and socio-cultural contexts of risk. The Periodic Surveys have also provided summary data on drug use among these men. The studies are conducted by the NCHSR in collaboration with the NCHECR and local AIDS Councils.

**MALE OUT 2000**

The Male-Call national telephone surveys provided invaluable data from a broad spectrum of homosexually active men, both gay community-attached men and men who do not identify as gay. In 1992 and 1996 findings documented men’s responses to the HIV epidemic. The findings from these surveys (N = approx. 3000) which reach homosexually active men who are not gay community-attached, as well as men who live in rural areas and regional centres, complement the data from the city-based surveys where the majority of participants identify as gay and whose sexual practice is more likely to be exclusively homosexual. In 2000, a new methodology was adopted. Male Out 2000 involved the distribution of 135,000 questionnaires through one gay and one heterosexual pornography catalogue. The questionnaire focussed on sexual risk practices, relationships, HIV testing and drug use. Data were collected in such a way as to be compatible with data from Male Call 92 and 96, and with data collected in the Periodic Surveys. In total, over 1800 questionnaires were returned. Detailed data analysis and dissemination of results was undertaken in 2001.

**AUSTRALIAN STUDY OF HEALTH AND RELATIONSHIPS**

This is a national study of men’s and women’s sexual health, behaviour and attitudes, in which 16,000 randomly selected people aged between 16 and 60 are being interviewed by telephone. Questions focus on sexual relationships, sexual practice and sexual health. Following successful pilots, interviewing commenced in May 2001 and will be completed by mid 2002. This is a collaborative project with ARCSHS, Central Sydney Area Health Service, and NCHECR.

**UNIVERSITY STUDENT SURVEYS**

This study began in 1988 at Macquarie University. It has surveyed first-year students in Behavioural Sciences or Psychology early each year. The study repeated one that recruited a random sample of students aged 18 to 35 years from the University of Sydney. The data have provided a valuable resource for mapping the sexual practices and HIV and HCV knowledge of young students over an important period of time. The survey was repeated in July 1999 and early 2000 at the University of New South Wales. In 2001, a random sample postal survey of UNSW students was conducted and about 700 surveys were returned.
Initiation and Transition to Injecting Drug Use among Young People

The study documents the history of the initiation and transition to injecting among a range of current injectors 25 years and under, and the relationship between the circumstances of the initial injecting episode and current risk practices with respect to transmission of hepatitis C. The study is original in its focus on transition and initiation and the multiple contexts in which these take place; the range of networks to be studied; the varieties of drugs studied; and the exploration of the interpersonal, subcultural and physical contexts in which young people inject drugs. The project is a collaboration between researchers, educators and clinicians—Ted Noffs Foundation, the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre UNSW, Queensland University of Technology, NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA), Australian IV League (AIVL), and Kirketon Road Clinic. The study has been expanded with the addition of a Northern Rivers arm in 2001.

SWASH: Sydney Women and Sexual Health

SWASH is a questionnaire survey of women’s sexual practice and injecting drug use, conducted first in Sydney in February 1996 and every two years since then. It surveys women in contact with the gay and lesbian community recruited from Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day and a range of other social and community venues and groups. Sample size was 585 in 1996, 774 in 1998 and 1125 in 2000. It is a joint study of the AIDS Council of New South Wales and NCHSR and run with assistance from the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR). Preparations have been undertaken for a further round of data collection in February 2002.

Non-gay Sexual Subcultures

This study is a preliminary mapping of the range of non-heterosexual sexual subcultures within Sydney (for example, B&D, S&M, swingers, singles clubs). In addition, the study will investigate any cross-over between these subcultures and the sex industry. The study aims to pinpoint sites for future ethnographic fieldwork in order to examine sexual risk practices for HIV, STIs and hepatitis in these “high-intensity” sexual subcultures. Mapping is being undertaken via survey of local internet sites, collection and content analysis of subcultural documents (magazines, advertisements, pornography etc), key informant interviews, consultation with sexual health and other health professionals, and targeted field work.
The studies listed here are concerned with the interface between health/illness and clinical practice. They include studies adopting a survey design method but most are studies focused on an in-depth examination of embodied response to medical practice and/or the social production/construction of meaning and practice.

**Positive Health (pH) Study**

This cohort study of PLWHA in New South Wales (n = 340) and Victoria (n = 250) was begun in late 1998. It is a study of treatment uptake and compliance and, more generally, the experience of living with HIV and AIDS. Participants are drawn from non-clinic and clinic populations of PLWHA and from urban and rural centres. It over-samples women and heterosexual men and those who have not taken up new combination treatments. The aims of the study are to document treatment and therapy uptake and use, other health management strategies, and dosing practices in relation to clinical and bodily experience of HIV and AIDS in the context of a range of socio-demographic variables. It also seeks to understand lack of treatment uptake, difficulties of adherence to drug regimens, as well as monitor changes in treatment and therapy uptake and use, and dosing practice over time. It is a collaborative study with NCHECR and ARCSHS. A second round of interviews was conducted in 2001, with questions about relationships and sexual practices added.

**Living with HIV, Health in Context**

This qualitative project investigated how ambulatory gay men using Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy negotiate ‘patient’ and ‘well’ identities, and how the spaces of the medical consultation and the everyday world are traversed in the practices associated with adherence—namely dosing, routine health monitoring and episodic use of health services. The study documented the interplay of different markers of health (from experiential to clinical) in gay men’s health biographies, and their relationships to medication-related practices. It investigated the construction of credibility in relation to different sources of health information. It also examined how the domains of ‘private’ and ‘public’ are negotiated in the context of disclosure of HIV status and other clinical markers, taking medication, and getting support. Detailed analysis of the data is continuing.

**Compliance Supportive Communication Project**

This project investigates the aspects of patient/general practitioner communication, which facilitate the ability of PLWHA to comply with complex treatment regimens. Through a description of linguistic and communicative acts in the clinical encounter, and a comparison of doctors’ and patients’ recounts of particular consultations, analysis identifies a number of successful strategies or techniques for the negotiation of information and treatment processes which are supportive of compliance. The focus is on the language used for consultative negotiations, and the interpersonal/relational and informational contexts produced by such interactions. Detailed analyses and report preparation were undertaken in 2001. This is a collaborative study with the University of Sydney and the University of Western Sydney.
**The 3D Project—Experiences of Diagnosis, Disclosure and Discrimination of People Living with HCV**

The aim of the 3D Project is to explore the experiences of diagnosis, disclosure and discrimination of people living with hepatitis C. The study involves quantitative and qualitative research components with phase one consisting of a self-administered short form questionnaire (N=over 500) focusing on three main areas. These are: the impacts of a positive HCV diagnosis on people’s relationships, work and interactions with health care service providers; the impacts and outcomes of disclosing a HCV positive sero-status; and discrimination and its effects on a person living with hepatitis C, including their ability and desire to access health care. Analysis of these data provides a clear framework for formulating question areas explored during phase two. Phase two of the 3D project comprises the qualitative component, consisting of in-depth semi-structured interviews with people living with hepatitis C. This is a comparative study of experiences of diagnosis, disclosure and discrimination and the role of social support in relation to these.

**Barriers and Incentives to Drug Treatment**

This study aims to identify incentives and barriers to treatment uptake and adherence for substance misuse, and to identify predictors of successful uptake and adherence. Participants are recruited for interviews in 3 capital city and 3 rural sites based on a scoping/consultation process. A purposive sampling frame is utilised in order to recruit 600 participants, according to a number of behavioural and social variables including current treatment status; geographic location; drug of choice; stage in drug use career; social support; and social milieu. Participants are sampled according to the treatment options they have engaged in (methadone maintenance, naltrexone, rehabilitation etc). A structured questionnaire covering areas such as drug use career, treatment history career, functionality, reasons for treatment uptake and adherence, reasons for non-uptake, reasons for non-adherence, current points of access to treatment and referral pathways is being utilised.

The focus of these studies is on the cultural and social contexts in which health and risk is practised. The first study focuses on masculinity as the cultural site of risk production. The second examines a number of different drug-using subcultures, while the remaining are concerned with the interpersonal and discursive production of risk practices.

**Masculinity, Mortality and Risk**

The major aim of this ARC-funded project is to explore the impact of death and illness among inner city men in Melbourne and Sydney on men’s risk-taking in relation to issues of gender (masculinity) and sexuality (heterosexuality and
homosexuality). The study involved a survey of 1412 men (782 in Sydney and 630 in Melbourne) aged over 18 years, drawn from amongst the memberships and attendees of political and community organisations, gyms, and dance parties and nightclubs. The men were surveyed with reference to work environments, sport and other leisure activities, positive feelings (joy, happiness, etc) and negative feelings (depression, rage, anger, etc), risk-taking, risk management and prudentialism, experience of illness and of mortality among friends and family, abuse and harassment, and self- and body-image. Over 40 of these men from Sydney and Melbourne were interviewed in an open-ended fashion to further explore these relationships. Detailed data analysis and report preparation were undertaken during 2001.

**The Social and Cultural Meanings ofInjecting Drug Use**

This project seeks to understand and document the social contexts and cultural meanings associated with injecting drug use in culturally distinct groups of people who inject drugs. It investigates the change in route of administration from non-injecting to injecting and explores whether this is a linear progression. It also investigates the social and cultural context in which these changes in route of administration occur as well as investigating ‘initiation’ into drug use cultures, in particular IDU cultures; and it explores to what extent distinct (injecting and non-injecting) cultures of drug use exist. It further investigates the social and cultural characteristics of drug injection as well as the meanings associated with the use of particular drugs across the different IDU populations. A body of anthropological knowledge is developed to inform and direct future public health efforts to curb the spread of hepatitis C and HIV among IDUs and to provide specific suggestions for possible public health interventions. Further, a body of social theory which explains, at the level of culture, why significant differences in IDU practice and culture exist and which identifies the significant economic, social and political fields where change which reduced risk is initiated.

**Seroconversion Study**

The Seroconversion study is a case-control study recruiting men who have recently seroconverted to HIV. It was begun in 1993. One of its major aims is to identify the determinants of seroconversion. The other is to document and analyse the discursive understandings of risk as they are used in the men’s narrative accounts to explain the events they believe led to them becoming infected. To date over 90 seroconverters have been interviewed. The study is a joint study of the NCHSR and NCHECR.

**Post-exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)**

The PEP study aims to document the reasons for requesting PEP. It was begun in late 1998. Its major aim is to provide an estimate of the demand for PEP and to describe the reasons for requesting PEP. Another aim is to provide a parallel to the Seroconversion Study in its documentation and analysis of the discursive understandings of risk as they are used in the individual narrative accounts of the perceived risk event. So far, over 80 people have been interviewed. This study is conducted in collaboration with the NCHECR.
Technologies of Injection: Health and Risk

This project examines practices and discourses of substance injection in three different sites: 1) Illicit drug use; 2) Anabolic steroid use by recreational body builders and gym goers; 3) Medically authorised insulin use by people with diabetes. The study aims to document, analyse and assess harm reduction and minimisation practices, both formal and informal and elucidate relationships between regimes of body management, and identity formation and understandings of health and risk. The focus is on drug injection as both a successful and effective medical technology and an illicit and taboo practice.

An Analysis of “Blood Awareness” for the Purposes of Hepatitis C Prevention, Education and Health Promotion

The promotion of “blood awareness” has been identified as a key strategy for containing its spread. However, the development of a heightened awareness of blood as a source of infection is fraught with social and health implications, particularly those resulting from increased phobias about blood when the latter is linked to existing sites of discrimination such as injecting drug use, and racial, ethnic and sexual identity categories. This study aims to identify the different ways in which individuals and communities of individuals relate to their own blood and the blood of others; to determine the extent to which understandings of blood play a role in HCV transmission and thus its prevention; and to produce a typology of the ways in which blood can be characterised for effective health promotion. Initial work (since July 2001) has established an advisory group and a number of recruitment sites and methods to involve a wide range of participants: blood donors (autologous and homologous), blood recipients, people with HCV, their partners, ex and current drug injectors and ambulance officers.

Commercial Drug Injecting Rooms in Kings Cross

This—the qualitative arm of a larger study—aims to map the range and types of commercial drug injecting rooms in Kings Cross and risk practices for BBVs as they relate to these rooms and other factors such as policing practice and local government policy. Internationally, shooting galleries have attracted the attention of researchers, policy makers and health professionals. Few studies in the Australian context have systematically examined the phenomenon. Using quantitative and qualitative methods, this study maps the range and density of commercial drug injecting rooms in Kings Cross, including safe houses, brothels, sex clubs, adult book shops and hotels, with an eye to examining the relationship between these environments and risk practices for transmission of BBVs. The project is in collaboration with the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre UNSW.

Risks for Injecting

The study aims to investigate BBV transmission risks for injecting as they relate to specific “tribes” of injectors and spaces for injecting in Kings Cross. Using an ecological approach to risk, the study builds a portable model that integrates micro-
practices of risk for transmission of BBV with broader network, environment, governmental and systemic factors impacting on risk. This qualitative arm of a larger study uses ethnographic techniques including field work in Kings Cross, key informant interviews and in-depth interviews with members of different Kings Cross injecting “tribes”. The study also presents an historical and discursive analysis of the place of injectors within Kings Cross culture.

These studies are more applied and focus on evaluation and needs assessment. In particular they are concerned with levels of health knowledges and modes of education and health promotion delivery in Australia as well as in other countries.

**Hepatitis and Health**

This study documents New South Wales high school students’ knowledge and understandings of hepatitis B and C and their risk perceptions and practices. It provides invaluable input for the development of suitable teacher-training materials for use with secondary students. On the whole, the students had quite poor knowledge about hepatitis, as shown in detailed analyses and report preparation in 2001. It is a collaborative study with ARCSHS (in parallel with NSW Department of Education and Training teaching resources preparation).

**Reflecting on Practice: Current Challenges in Gay Men’s HIV Education**

In 2001, thirteen educators of gay and other homosexually active men were interviewed, from Brisbane as well as regional areas of Queensland. The interviews were semi-structured and covered a range of themes, including: current challenges in gay and other homosexually active men’s education; responses to the challenges; primary sources of information about the epidemic; and perceptions of how education works. Key discourses to emerge out of the interviews were around notions of post-crisis, disengagement from the epidemic and risk management in sexual practice.

**International Collaboration on HIV Optimism**

This study focuses on the use of common scale items to measure optimism-scepticism in the context of current HIV treatments. In 1999 a reliable 12-item scale was developed to provide a measure of optimism-scepticism with regard to the likelihood that those with low viral load will transmit HIV. The scale is being used in surveys both in Australia and overseas. A network of researchers from Australia, Europe, the UK and Canada has been established to provide comparative data.
HIV Vaccine Attitudes

This study aimed to develop reliable and valid scales of HIV vaccine attitudes. In all, 776 gay men were recruited at the 2001 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day and completed a questionnaire containing 38 items about HIV vaccines. Factor analysis revealed four distinct factors: Comfort with Participation in HIV Vaccine Trials; Optimism about HIV Vaccines/Vaccine Trials; Sexual Freedom; Willingness to Participate. The preliminary evidence is of sound reliability and validity. Alongside HIV vaccine trials, these scales will be a useful adjunct to social research in gay communities.

Preventing HIV across the Dual Social System of the People’s Republic of China (PRC)

This project (funded through an NHMRC Sidney Sax post-doctoral fellowship) examines HIV risk behaviour and prevention among self-employed young men in the dual employment system of the PRC. It will assess various peer-based interventions within urban, suburban and rural contexts, centred on the city of Chengdu and the nearby town of Yaan in Sichuan Province, PRC.

AFAO/NAPWA Education Project Evaluation

This evaluation project aims to monitor changes in practices advocated by education campaigns, to assess the distribution, reach and recognition of campaign resources, and to explore the impact of campaigns with their target audiences. Case studies will combine information on campaign development and implementation with data from group interviews (undertaken in Sydney, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast) that explore the significance, relevance and context of campaign resources. The evaluation will also draw on quantitative data from various Gay Community Periodic Surveys.

Evaluation of NSW GP Enhanced Care Project

The Enhanced Care Project is an eighteen-month demonstration project. The evaluation gathers data through three instruments: interviews with GPs referring clients to enhanced care; interviews with the enhanced care project officers; and data collected from the clients referred to enhanced care. The project is assessing the process of enhanced care, the impact of enhanced care on GPs and clients, as well as documentation of any changes over the time of the project. Data collection in all three arms of the project commenced in 2001. The project is in collaboration with staff from The University of Sydney, AFAO and ACON.
An Epidemic of Difference: Analysis of Hepatitis C-related Discrimination

As part of a State-wide enquiry into hepatitis C-related discrimination, the Anti-Discrimination Board of New South Wales conducted hearings in Sydney, Wollongong, Goulburn, Dubbo, Lismore and Newcastle throughout 2001. NCHSR assisted in the analysis of submissions tendered to the enquiry by providing a sociological analysis of the central themes, using stigma and social identity theory to understand hepatitis C-related discrimination. A key finding illustrated that hepatitis C-related discrimination is often driven by a confounding of hepatitis C infection with injecting drug use. Because injecting drug use is an illegal and highly stigmatised activity, assumptions are often made regarding hepatitis C positive people’s lifestyle and moral character. Such assumptions resulted in people living with hepatitis C experiencing discriminatory practices, especially in the health care sector.

Social Research Needs Consultation: Hepatitis C

This project—commenced in 2001—involves two arms, a review of the social research literature and consultations with peak bodies, user groups and Hepatitis C Councils. The review of the literature will identify existing literature and present it in review format as well as indicate particular areas where there is a lack of social research. The consultations with the Australian Intravenous League (AIVL), the Australian Hepatitis Council (AHC) and their member organisations will be aimed at further identifying the social research needs and priorities of the sector.
The NCHSR has established relationships with other research institutions, universities, government bodies, non-government organisations and the community. These are listed below.

Members of the National Centre in HIV Social Research serve on the following committees:

**INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL**

- Membership of the International Advisory Committee of the Polaris HIV Seroconversion Study: Understanding the Evolution and Impact of HIV Infection, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Canada (Kippax)
- Member (ex officio) of the Clinical Trials and Research Committee (CTARC) of ANCAHRD (Kippax)
- Member of the HIV/AIDS Committee of ANCAHRD (Kippax)
- Chair, CTARC Working Group—Best Practice Guidelines for Prevention of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases in Correctional Settings (Kippax)
- Member, the Program Executive Committee of the Australian Vaccine Consortium (Kippax)
- Member, the Clinical Program Committee of the Australian Vaccine Consortium (Kippax, Van de Ven)
- Member, the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (Kippax)
- Member, the Scientific Advisory Committee of the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (Kippax)
- Member, Scientific Advisory Committee, 6th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (Kippax, Van de Ven)
- Member, Board of Advisers, Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Studies in the Wolfson School of Health Sciences: Thames Valley University, London (Kippax)
- Commonwealth Countries HIV and AIDS Research Group: National Centre in HIV Social Research, UNSW, Sydney, Australia; The HIV Social, Behavioural and Epidemiological Studies Unit, University of Toronto, Canada; Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London, United Kingdom; and Centre for the Study of AIDS, University of Pretoria, South Africa
- Member, Australasian Sociological Association, Health and Women’s Sections, (Richters)
- Board Member, Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research (Frances, Slavin)
- Organising Committee, Health in Difference: Fourth National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health Conference (Frances, Jewitt, Richters)
- Board of Trustees, Reproductive Health Matters, London (Richters)
- Organising Committee, Performing Technologies Conference, Sydney (Keane)
State/Community

- HIV/AIDS Library Network (Frances)
- Hepatitis C Council of NSW Medical Advisory Panel (Kippax)
- NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS (Kippax)
- The Social Research Advisory Committee of AIDS & Infectious Diseases Branch of NSW Health (Kippax)
- Steering Committee, Enquiry into Hepatitis C-related Discrimination, Anti-Discrimination Board of New South Wales (Kippax)
- NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on PEP (Kippax, Rosengarten)
- AIDS Council of NSW Liaison Committee (Kippax, Van de Ven)
- AFAO/NAPWA Education Team Steering Committee (Race)
- AIDS Council of NSW Sydney Women and Sexual Health Research Project Management Committee (Richters)
- NSW Health Department Sexual Health Advisory Committee (Richters)
- Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS Strategy, Health Promotion Sub-committee, NSW Health (Jewitt, Rawstorne)
- NSW HIV Health Promotion Implementation Sub-committee (Jewitt)
- NSW HIV Health Promotion Implementation Forum Sub-committee (Jewitt)
- AIDS Council of NSW, Sydney & Western Sydney Evaluative Investigation of Fun and Esteem Reference Group (Southgate)
- Rainbow Visions: Hunter Lesbian and Gay Community Development Project Steering Committee (Southgate)
- NSW Users and AIDS Association Tribes Funding Committee (Southgate)
- Settlement Neighbourhood Centre, Redfern Aboriginal Warriors Who Needs Drugs Project Steering Committee (Southgate)

University

- Standing Committee, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of New South Wales (Kippax)
- Postgraduate Coordinator, National Centre in HIV Social Research (Richters)
- NCHSR representative, Postgraduate Research Committee, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of New South Wales (Richters)
NCHSR staff members edit professional journals/newsletters and book series and sit on editorial boards.

NCHSR houses the editorial office of Venereology: The Interdisciplinary, International Journal of Sexual Health, supporting it through provision of office space and a computer. Venereology is the society journal for members of the International Union against Sexually Transmitted Infections Asia-Pacific branch, the Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicians and several Australian state sexual health societies. The co-editors of Venereology are Dr Juliet Richters, senior research fellow at NCHSR (and an honorary associate of the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Sydney), and Dr Basil Donovan, director of the Sydney Sexual Health Centre and clinical professor with the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Sydney. The part-time journal manager, who handles the business management, administration and production of the journal, is a member of NCHSR’s staff. Venereology is unique among journals in sexuality or sexual health in attracting submitted articles and readers from researchers working in the social sciences and cultural studies, as well as in clinical or public health practice.

NCHSR Editors

- Venereology (Richters, co-editor)
- Culture, Health and Sexuality (Kippax, co-editor)
- BioFutures, BioCultures book series, Routledge (Waldby, editor)
- The DART: The Newsletter of the Australian Psychology Society’s Division of Research and Teaching (Zinkiewicz, editor)

Editorial Board Members

- AIDS Care (Kippax)
- Critical InQueeries (Waldby)
- Feminist Theory (Kippax)
- Health: An interdisciplinary journal for the social study of health, illness and medicine (Waldby)
- International Journal of Critical Psychology (Kippax)
- Journal of Medical Humanities (Waldby)
- Reproductive Health Matters (Richters)
- Sexualities (Kippax)
- Venereology (Kippax)
In 2001, NCHSR staff continued to review articles for a number of prominent journals, including:

- Addiction
- AIDS
- AIDS Care
- Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health
- Body & Society
- British Journal of Social Psychology
- British Journal of Medicine
- Culture Health and Sexuality
- Drug and Alcohol Review
- Feminism and Psychology
- Health and History, Body and Society
- Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine
- International Journal of Drug Policy
- Journal of Adolescence
- Journal of Health Psychology
- Journal of Psychosomatic Research
- Medical Anthropology
- Medical Humanities
- Rethinking Marxism
- Sexualities
- Social Science and Medicine
- Venereology

In addition to reviewing NHMRC and ARC grant applications, NCHSR staff have been involved in reviewing all ANCAHRD health promotion publications and grant applications to the Health Research Council of New Zealand. They have also reviewed material for the Hepatitis C Council of NSW, the 5th AIDS Impact Conference, the 6th International Conference of AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, and the 13th ASHM Conference.
The Research Link project is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to undertake activities to enhance relationships between those undertaking HIV social research and those working in the fields of HIV education, health promotion, policy development and care and support. The project does this by improving communications between researchers and practitioners, and by developing the capacities of each to better engage with the work of the other.

**RESEARCH DISSEMINATION**

The Research Link project plays an important role in supporting the dissemination of HIV social research findings to those working in HIV education, health promotion, policy development and care and support. Dissemination strategies aim to provide timely access to relevant social research findings and opportunities to explore the implications of these findings for HIV education and health promotion.

A Newsletter is widely distributed to those working within the HIV, hepatitis and illicit drug use sectors and provides brief updates on key research projects being undertaken at the Centre as well as featuring articles which explore significant emerging issues.

The internet has proven to be a popular medium for the dissemination of findings. The NCHSR website was redeveloped in 2001 to enable easier navigation through the site. It provides direct access to the latest NCHSR reports, which can be downloaded as PDF files. The site also provides direct access to the NCHSR library catalogue.

An email list has been established to provide regular updates of social research activities. This new strategy was adopted in response to requests from HIV education and health promotion staff for more electronic communication.

An important and ongoing strategy of the research link project is organising feedback sessions for social research projects. These sessions involve the presentation of new research findings and the opportunity to explore the implications of these findings for HIV education and health promotion. In 2001, sessions were organised for the Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra Gay Community Periodic Surveys, the Male Out 2000 Survey, the Positive Health (pH) study, and the Clinical Markers study. Regular social research updates for the AFAO Education Strategies Group were also organised.

**COMMUNICATION AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING**

The project plays a crucial role in developing and fostering collaborative relationships between government departments, health promotion and education agencies and research organisations.

The NAPWA Social Science workshop was a half-day workshop which provided an opportunity for representatives from AFAO, NAPWA, ARCSHS, NCHSR and other organisations to come together and discuss key issues and challenges concerning future social research for people living with HIV/AIDS.
The Sexuality and Depression workshop was a one-day workshop held in collaboration with the Tomkins reading group from The University of Sydney. This workshop explored understandings of depression and how these understandings relate to HIV, in particular, how to best investigate the relationship between depression and HIV in future research.

The HIV and Communality Forum was developed in partnership with ACON, NAPWA and AFAO. This one-day forum provided the opportunity to discuss and explore various understandings of community, in particular, the role these notions of community have played in shaping the response to HIV within Australia.

During 2001 the Research Link project was involved in the establishment of a PLWHA reference group. This reference group meets to discuss and explore new and emerging issues relating to the research of PLWHA. Members of this reference group consist of representatives from ANET, NAPWA, NCHSR, NCHECR and ACON.

**Building capacity**

An important aspect of the project is developing the capacity of HIV social researchers and those working in HIV education and health promotion to engage with the work of the other. With researchers this is done through the project officer’s participation in academic meetings at NCHSR, NCHSR research discussion days, joint research days held with ARCSHS, and joint centres meetings held with NCHECR, AFAO, NAPWA, NSW Health, ACON and PLWHA(NSW).

The Research into Educational Practice project is a pilot project initiated by the Research Link Project and developed in collaboration with The University of Western Sydney, Nepean. The pilot is currently being conducted in New South Wales and is funded by NSW Health. It involves the project officer and a social researcher from UWS working with a team of HIV health professionals to facilitate incorporation of social research findings into the development and implementation of education and health promotion programs.
The NCHSR has undertaken a Memorandum of Understanding with the HIV Social, Behavioural and Epidemiological research Unit, University of Toronto; the Centre for the Study of AIDS, University of Pretoria, South Africa; and the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London, UK.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between NCHSR and the School of Health, University of New England, Armidale, NSW.

NCHSR continues to work collaboratively with the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, Melbourne.

Other Collaborative Research has been undertaken with:

NCHECR, NDARC, NCEPH at ANU, Canberra, and other institutions, such as:
AIDS Action Council of the ACT
AIDS Council of New South Wales
AIDS Council of Queensland
AIDS Council of South Australia
AIDS Council of Victoria/Gay Men’s Health Centre
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Inc (ASHM)
Australian Intravenous and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)
Hepatitis C Council
Kirketon Road Centre, Sydney, NSW
Ted Noffs Foundation, Randwick, NSW
University of Western Sydney, Sydney, NSW
Western Australian AIDS Council

The NCHSR has also established productive research relationships with a number of individuals:

Michael Woodhouse, Chris Lawrence and Michael Costello, AIDS Council of New South Wales
Annie Madden, Australian IV League
Anne Maree Weatherall, NSW Users’ and AIDS Association
John Howard, Ted Noffs Foundation
Jeremy Davey, Sandy Smith, Graham Fraine, Queensland University of Technology
Jan Copeland, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW
Ingrid van Beek, Kirketon Road Clinic
Geoff Woolcock, University of Queensland
Gabrielle Bammer, National Centre in Epidemiology and Population Health
Adrian Mindel, Academic Unit of Sexual Health Medicine, University of Sydney
Michael Kidd, Medicine, University of Sydney
During 2001, all items in the NCHSR library catalogue were added to the HIV/AIDS Library Network Database, available online through RMIT.

The HIV/AIDS Database (HIVA) covers 1980 to the present time and includes over 31,700 records. The database is a bibliographic one of journal articles, books and audiovisual titles listed in the catalogues of the NSW HIV/AIDS Library Network.

HIVA deals extensively with clinical, nutritional, medical, social and psychological aspects of HIV/AIDS, as well as the relationship between alcohol and other drugs to HIV/AIDS.

As Australia’s most comprehensive HIV and AIDS collection, HIVA is designed to provide invaluable information support for doctors, health care workers and allied professionals, students, researchers and people living with HIV/AIDS.

HIVA includes the library catalogues of the following organisations:

Albion Street Centre
Centre for Education and Information on Drugs and Alcohol (CEIDA)
AIDS Council of NSW (ACON)
FPA Health
NSW Department of Corrective Services
NCHSR

Professor Mary Crewe, Director, Centre for the Study of AIDS, University of Pretoria, South Africa, *The state of the nation: Theorising AIDS in South Africa.*

Mar 2  Professor David Halperin, W H Auden Collegiate Professor of English Language and Literature, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, *Homosexuality's closet.*


Apr 3  Professor Gaston Godin, GRIPSUL, Faculty Des Sciences Infirmières, Université Laval, Sainte-Foy, Canada, *Adherence to treatment among people living with HIV: Measurement and prediction.*

Apr 20  Professor Ian Lubek, Psychology Department, The University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, “It’s not us, it’s them”: Changing personal, community and institutional perceptions and behaviours concerning HIV/AIDS in northern Cambodia’.

May 25 Dr Clive Aspin, Program Manager, Resource and Education Program for Injecting Drug Users (REPIDU), Central Sydney Area Health Service, *Te haerenga mai ki Poi Hakena i te wa o te mate arai kore. Maori migrants to Sydney in the time of AIDS and lessons for HIV prevention among indigenous peoples.*

Jun 8  Ms Frances Lovejoy, School of Sociology, The University of New South Wales, *Safe sex on campus.*

Jul 19 Emeritus Professor Leo Bersani, Department of French, University of California Berkeley, *Cruising and sociability.*

Aug 10 Dr John Howard, Director, Program Development and Research, Ted Noffs Foundation, *Same sex attracted young people and suicidal behaviour.*
Aug 24  Dr Catherine Waldby, Reader in Sociology and Communications, Department of Human Sciences, Brunel University, *Stem cells, tissue cultures and the production of biovalue.*

Sept 7  Ms Patricia Preston & Ms Felicity Sheaves, Sexual Health and HIV Services, Wentworth Area Health Service, *The Safe Injecting Cwiz project.*

Sept 27 Dr Sean Slavin, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales, *Evidence for the Cultural Construction of HIV Risk.*

Dr Tamo Nakamura, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales, *Initial exploration of the relationship between awareness of the availability of post-exposure prophylaxis and sexual risk behaviour among gay men.*

Ms Angela Song, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales, *Changes in response to Positive Community in the era of AIDS and its treatments.*


Nov 15 Dr David McInnes, Lecturer, School of Humanities, University of Western Sydney, *Compliance Supportive Communication: Understanding interactive sequence and knowledge/power relations in HIV treatment negotiations.*

Mr Kane Race, Scholar, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales, *Approaching the patient’s world: Governing HAART in HIV General Practice.*

Ms Alison Moore, Centre for Language in Social Life, Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University, *Joint participation in HIV treatment decisions: Modelling alignment between patients and their doctors.*

Nov 29 Mr John Merson, School of Science & Technology Studies, The University of New South Wales, *Risk Culture and the Politics of Stress Related Illness.*
Canada
Professor Gaston Godin, University of Laval, Quebec
Professor Ian Lubek, Psychology Department, The University of Guelph, Ontario
Professor Ted Myers, HIV Social, Behavioural and Epidemiological Studies Unit, University of Toronto

People's Republic of China
Public Health officials (following 6th International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific)
UNICEF Delegation

Denmark
Dr Else Smith, Epidemiology Department, Statens Serum Institute

South Africa
Professor Mary Crewe, Director of The Centre for the Study of AIDS, University of Pretoria
Dr Frans Voleon, The Centre for the Study of AIDS, University of Pretoria

Switzerland
Michael Bartos, former research colleague, now Policy Advisor at UNAIDS, Geneva

United Kingdom
Professor Peter Aggleton, Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London
Dr Jonathan Elford, Royal Free and University College London
Rachel Partridge, Centre for Sexual Health Research, University of Southampton
Dr Catherine Waldby, former research colleague, now Reader in Sociology and Communications, Brunel University, London

United States of America
Emeritus Professor Leo Bersani, Department of French, University of California Berkeley
Professor David Halperin, W H Auden Collegiate Professor of English Language and Literature, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Staff of the NCHSR delivered a large number of lectures and workshops during 2001, including:

**Professor Susan Kippax** delivered a two-hour lecture to MPH students at Sydney University; she also delivered an Invited Paper to the Australian Psychological Society meeting in Cairns. Local workshops attended were two workshops with NSW Health Department on current levels of HIV-related risk practice in Australia; the Indigenous Australian Workshop (Sydney), and a paper presented at the Hepatitis C Workshop; International workshops attended were two DFID workshops—one on Evaluation of Health Promotion and Development of Key Indicators (Johannesburg, South Africa) and the other on Safe Passages to Adulthood (Brighton, UK).

**Dr Paul Van de Ven** reported on findings from the 2000 Male Out Survey at a VAC/GMHC workshop; presented data on risk reduction strategies at an AFAO Committee meeting; and participated in a DFID workshop on Evaluation of Health Promotion and Development of Key Indicators (Johannesburg, South Africa).

**Dr Juliet Richters** gave several lectures, talks and workshops: on (1) sex research for Diploma in Sexual Health Counselling, and (2) pornography for Diploma in Sexual Health Counselling, the Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicians; training for interviewers on Australian Study of Health and Relationships, the Hunter Valley Research Foundation; population studies of sexual health, for MPH and MMed, and getting qualitative research published, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Sydney; session on sex research and developing research projects, MPH, School of Medical Education, University of New South Wales.

**Dr Erica Southgate** delivered a lecture to Education students at the University of Newcastle, and presented a seminar on ‘Queer Clubbing and drug use in Sydney’ at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Newcastle.

**Mr Patrick Rawstorne** and **Professor Susan Kippax** presented at the NSW Health HIV/AIDS Health Promotion Plan, Implementation Planning Forum Series.

NCHSR organised workshops on Deconstructing and Understanding Depression, and on Communalities—Connectedness to gay and positive communities.
There are currently eight PhD students attached to the NCHSR, all co-supervised in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. There is one MPH student, co-supervised in the School of Medical Education. Their projects are described below.

**PhD Students**

**The Meanings and Practice of Anal Intercourse between Men**

Gary Smith

This study has two broad and related aims: to highlight the cultural notions of anal intercourse that circulate within and outside of gay community, especially in relation to HIV and AIDS; and to explore the meanings of anal intercourse in relation to the transmission of HIV.

*Time frame:* 1997–2002

*Supervisors:* Prof Susan Kippax (NCHSR), Assoc Prof Grant McCall (Sociology)

**Randomised Clinical Trials in a Community Based Setting with HIV Positive People**

Gillian Hales

This research sought to describe the experiences of those involved in HIV clinical trials in Australia. Patients, doctors, nurses and pharmaceutical company staff involved in HIV clinical trials participated in this thesis. The researcher is a clinical trial nurse and her experiences as a participant/observer are reported. Experiences in HIV clinical trials can be challenging for those involved but may also be worthwhile and fulfilling. This is largely determined by the perceived benefits of participation but is not dependent upon the efficacy of the drug being tested.

*Time Frame:* Completed 2001

*Supervisors:* Professor Susan Kippax (NCHSR) (co-enrolled with Psychology)

One student completed her thesis and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 2001.
AUDIENCE AND GOVERNANCE IN PRINT MEDIATED HEALTH DEBATES

The project will review textual negotiations of ‘audience’ and ‘governance’ in Sydney’s popular health magazines in the late 1990s. It will consider letters to the editor as a pivotal site for the public debate of pharmaceutical, sexual and community demographics and, thus, as a shifting review of cultural discourse around media/health knowledges.

Time frame: 1999–2002
Supervisors: Dr Catherine Waldby (now at Brunel University, UK), Prof Philip Bell (Media & Communications)

ELECTRONIC/DANCE MUSIC EVENTS WITH MIXED CROWDS AND THEIR HEALTH ISSUES

This project aims to examine the nature of electronic/dance music events with ‘mixed crowds’ associated with Sydney’s inner west, in relation to health issues, including risk practices for the transmission of blood-borne viruses and other drug-related harm.

Supervisors: Prof Susan Kippax (NCHSR), Prof Ann Daniel (Sociology)

‘THOUGHT FOR FOOD: COOKING AND EATING IN GAY RELATIONSHIPS’

This study explores the dynamics of food, cooking and eating in relationships between and among gay men in Sydney. It considers how gay men are negotiating cooking and eating, and the possible consequences for conceptualisations of gay bodies, sex, identities and relationships.

Time frame: 1999–2003
Supervisors: Dr Juliet Richters (NCHSR), Mira Crouch (Sociology)

ETHNIC AND GAY IDENTITY: HIV AND RISK PRACTICE AMONG YOUNG ASIAN MEN

The study aims to develop a theoretical model of AIDS-related behaviours targeting Asian gay men in Sydney. It will investigate several major influences on safe sex behaviours from a motivational perspective. The model will be further applied to the least-known subgroup—Asian gay men, who may experience the conflicts between their host individualistic/gay culture and their original collectivist/ethnic cultures.

Time frame: 1999–2002
Supervisors: Dr Paul Van de Ven (NCHSR), Dr John McCormick (Education)
Psychosocial Examination of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

This project aims to examine the practice of euthanasia and assisted suicide, and the impact of this practice on people who assist a person to die. It focuses primarily on AIDS-related assisted deaths, though it also includes an investigation of non-AIDS related deaths and the four legal cases of euthanasia which took place under the Northern Territory Right to Die Act, 1995.

Supervisors: Prof Susan Kippax (NCHSR), Prof Ann Daniel (Sociology)

Queer Substances

This study provides a genealogy of recent notions of ‘drug use’, with particular attention to the emergence of the consumer-patient and the concomitant focus on ‘self-administration’. It charts the changing construction of the ‘patient’ through discourses of default, compliance, and ‘medicine-taking’; and the changing rationales for the regulation of illicit drugs. This reveals the present creation of species of social deviancy by medico-legal apparatus, allowing critical insight into the ways in which drug discourses participate in the construction of identity, and the organisation of bodies. It also examines the operation of drug discourses within texts on the gay dance party ‘circuit’, treatment compliance, and drug policy and education, in order to develop an analysis of how drug discourses prescribe relations between subjects and bodies in late capital.

Supervisors: Dr Marsha Rosengarten (NCHSR), Prof David Halperin (Sociology)

Adolescents’ Health Beliefs and HIV Risk Avoidance Behaviour in Multi-ethnic Malaysia

This project will examine HIV/AIDS policy in Malaysia, especially as it relates to adolescents. The analysis will take into account the multi-ethnic nature of Malay society, the positioning of adolescents within society, differentiated cultural beliefs and the experience of policy makers in similar contexts.

Supervisors: Dr Paul Van de Ven (NCHSR), Dr Hal Colebatch and Dr Rogelia Pe-Pua (Social Science & Policy)
MPH STUDENT

Survey of Attitudes and Lifestyles towards Sexual Health in Chinese Migrant Women

This project aims to provide information for sexual health promotion programs in Chinese migrant women. A questionnaire is used to collect data concerning Chinese female patients visiting a clinic in Sydney for the first time during November and December 2001. The questionnaire includes four sections: social demographics; attitudes and beliefs; sexual practice; self-perceived sexual health status; and utilisation of sexual health services. The intention is to describe Chinese migrant women who are seeking sexual health services by attitudes and lifestyles towards sexual health and explore the effect of culture in a migrant population in relation to sexual health promotion.

Time frame: 2000–2002
Supervisors: Dr Juliet Richters (NCHSR), Prof Arie Rotem (Medical Education)
**Book Chapters**


**Refereed Journal Articles**


Paper presented at 13th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Melbourne.


Funding was received from the following sources in 2001:

**COMMONWEALTH FUNDING**

- Core Funding: 840,012
- Scientific Advisory Committee: 9,980
- Relocation Expenses: 48,000
- HIV Vaccine Cohorts: 72,437
- Hep C Social Research: 9,292
- Research Link: 84,173

**NSW DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

- Sydney Men & Sexual Health (SMASH) Surveillance Report (01/02): 22,500
- Sydney Gay Community Periodic Survey (01/02): 40,292
- Social Research Cohorts in Gay Men in the Context of HIV Vaccine Developments: 88,735
- Research into Education Training: 15,925
- Risks for Hep C: Initiation & Transition to Injecting Drug Use Among Young People: 25,856

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & AGED CARE SUBCONTRACT**

- LMS Consulting, Barriers & Incentives to Treatment for Substance Misuse: 132,945

**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS**

- Evaluation of AFAO/NAPWA Education Project: 50,000

**QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

- Queensland Gay Community Periodic Survey: 37,828
- Challenges posed to Education by a Changing Gay Sexual Culture: 18,375

**VICTORIAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

- Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey: 35,404

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

- Adelaide Gay Community Periodic Survey (1999): 37,424
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BOARD OF NSW

Enquiry into Hepatitis C-related discrimination 4,000

NHMRC ANCARD FELLOWSHIP

The Social & Cultural Meanings of Injecting Drug Use 53,834

NHMRC (SIDNEY SAX) POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Preventing Transmission of HIV across the dual social system of China: Development of a community intervention 54,693

NHMRC

An Analysis of ‘blood awareness’ for the purposes of Hepatitis C Prevention Education and Health Promotion 95,285
Risks for Hepatitis C: Injecting Drug Use Study ($165,000 for 99-01) 66,467

VICE-CHANCELLOR’S POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Technologies and Cultures of Injections: Heroin, Steroids & Insulin 43,941
Research Materials and Conference Expenses – VC Post-doctoral Fellowship 1,500

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM

Honours & Graduate Research 907
Casual Teaching 12,500
Quantum Research Funding (2000 – paid in 2001) 60,000
RIBG (2000 – paid in 2001) 80,000
Steroid Use: Exploring Contradictions of Health & Body Management 7,035