ANNUAL REPORT 2002
National Centre in HIV Social Research

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# Abbreviations

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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 (STIs).

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.
- To conduct research into the personal, social, economic and cultural impact of HIV, HCV and related diseases.
2002 was the year in which the National Centre in HIV Social Research along with our collaborating centre, the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS), and the National Centres in HIV Virology Research (NCHVR), and Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR) were reviewed. The review provided the NCHSR with an excellent opportunity to think about where we have been as well as to consider how we should approach the next five years. Given the changes that are occurring in the field of HIV – on the one hand, the unwelcome increases in risk practices and associated increases in sexually transmissible infections (STIs) among homosexually active men in Australia, the growing epidemic in our region, and on the other, the success of antiviral treatments and the promise of vaccines – it is an important time to reflect and renew. Over the past few years, the NCHSR has strengthened its research capacity in regard to hepatitis C, and we need to continue to respond to hepatitis C, particularly in the light of a new national strategy addressing this disease. It has also initiated research into STIs.

While this report describes the research in which the NCHSR was engaged during 2002, the research highlights of the year centred around two ongoing very large Australian collaborative projects and the development of two international collaborations. The research into a preventive HIV vaccine funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is on track: the Health in Men study, one aspect of this larger project conducted in collaboration with the NCHECR, is progressing very well and to date over 1000 men have been enrolled into this open cohort. The detailed findings of the HIM study on expectations and hopes that gay men hold in regard to preventive vaccines, and gay men’s sexual and risk practices, are central to an assessment of the trialing of vaccines on the population most at risk of HIV in Australia. The other study, the Australian Study of Health and Relationships (ASHR), is the first national survey of sexual practice and related sexual health issues. The study, a collaboration between the ARCSHS, the NCHECR, the Australian Centre for Health Promotion at the University of Sydney and the NCHSR, which interviewed around 20,000 participants, provides much needed data on the sexual practices of Australians, and a comparator for other studies, both past and future. It will allow researchers to document the extent to which targeted samples of students, gay men, HIV-positive people, and injection drug users are representative of the Australian population.

The NCHSR was also involved in some work with international AIDS agencies including membership on the Global Prevention Working Party, and consultancies with UNFPA, UNESCO and the Department for International Development (DfID) in the UK. The consultancy work focused on HIV prevention and sexual health among young people and the development of sex education in schools.

The NCHSR research into injection drug use and hepatitis C has been strengthened by a number of new studies, including the Barriers and Incentives study addressing the barriers and incentives to treatment up-take among drug users. Other important issues related to hepatitis C that researchers at the NCHSR are investigating include discrimination related to hepatitis C, initiation into injection drug use and prevention of disease transmission.

A number of research proposals were funded: an NHMRC grant with ARCSHS to investigate Australians’ sexual health and relationships long term; an ARC grant with NCHECR and ARCSHS to test methodological alternatives for sampling gay men; and four NSW Health project grants. Two collaborations, one with the Centre for the Study of AIDS in Pretoria, South Africa and the other with a team of researchers that links Toronto, Amsterdam and San Francisco with Sydney (TASS), have
developed research proposals that are currently under review. Research initiatives are also being developed with researchers in the People’s Republic of China and Thailand.

Other highlights of the year included the HIV, Hepatitis and Related Diseases (HHARD) conference. The conference included a ‘history’ day, run in collaboration with the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations’ (AFAO) HIV Educators conference. Keynote speakers on the day included Neal Blewett, Ita Buttrose and Phil Carswell, all of whom were central players in the development of Australia’s timely and effective response to the HIV epidemic.

The NCHSR was well represented at the international AIDS Conference in Barcelona, and a number of staff presented papers and posters. Staff also attended and presented at an international linguistics conference, and the International Systemic Functional Congress in Liverpool, UK. In Australia, NCHSR staff presented a number of papers at the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Conference held in Sydney in 2002 – a conference co-hosted by the NCHSR. NCHSR staff was also involved in co-hosting Health in Difference 4: Fourth National Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual Health Conference held at the University of Sydney.

There have been a number of staff changes, and I take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the excellent work of Erica Southgate, Helen Keane, Tamo Nakamura, Sean Slavin and Joseph Jewitt who left the NCHSR to take up research and policy positions and lectureships at Newcastle University, the Australian National University, the University of Texas, the Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society, and the New South Wales Health Department. We miss them all and wish them all the best in their new pursuits. We welcome Heather Worth from New Zealand as a Senior Research Fellow and John Egan from Canada as a Post-Doctoral Fellow who will join the NCHSR in early 2003. We also welcome Suzanne Fraser and Gary Smith to Research Fellow positions at the NCHSR and Peter Hull, Andrea Fogarty, and Limin Mao to the research officer team, Dean Murphy to the very important research liaison position at the NCHSR, and Michelle Guth to finance and administration. Finally my warm congratulations to Paul Van de Ven on his promotion to Associate Professor, and to Juliet Richters on her promotion to Senior Research Fellow – both extremely well deserved.

At the time of writing we are still waiting the outcome of the review, but given the positive feedback the NCHSR received, we are looking forward to the next five years of thought-provoking research in HIV, hepatitis C and related diseases that will continue to inform disease prevention, health promotion and care.
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

Professor Annette Hamilton, 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

Associate Professor Pranee Lampittong*, Public Health, La Trobe University

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

Associate Professor Cindy Shannon*, Indigenous Health Program, Population Health, University of Queensland

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

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, Director, Centre for Research in Innovation, Culture and Technology, Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK (Corresponding Member)

*part year*
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 2002 were:

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR**
Paul Van de Ven, BEd, MA, PhD

**SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW**
Juliet Richters, BA, MPH, PhD

**RESEARCH FELLOWS**
Suzanne Fraser*, BA (Hons), PhD
Stephen Hodge*, BA(Hons)
Henrike Körner, BA(Hons), DipEd, MA, PhD
Tamo Nakamura*, BSc(Hons), PhD
Patrick Rawstonre, BA(Hons)
Gary Smith*, BA(Hons),
Erica Southgate*, BEd, PhD
Carla Trelloar, BSc(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
Suzanne Fraser*, BA (Hons), PhD
Max Hopwood, BA(Hons)
Tamo Nakamura*, BSc(Hons), PhD
Angela Song, BMed, MPH

**RESEARCH OFFICERS**
Jeanne Ellard, BA(Hons), MPhil
Andrea Fogarty*, BPsy(Hons)
Peter Hull*
Limin Mao*, BA
Asha Persson, BA(Hons), PhD
Hédimo Santana+

**RESEARCH CONSULTANTS**
Jeanne Abelson*, BA(Hons), PhD
June Crawford*, BA(Hons), PhD
Wendy Lipworth**, PhD

**ADJUNCT PROFESSOR†**
Peter Aggleton, PhD
Bryan Turner, PhD

**ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR†**
Catherine Waldby, BA(Hons), PhD

**ADJUNCT RESEARCH FELLOW‡**
Anne Grunseit, BA(Hons), PhD

**NON-CONTRACT STAFF**
Christy Newman**, BA(Hons)
Kathryn Owler†, BA, PhD
Ying Pan*, BMed, MPH
Kane Race*, BA(Hons), LLB
Gary Smith*, BA(Hons)

**SENIOR FINANCE MANAGER**
Sahar Behman, AssDipAcc

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**
Janice Knapman, AssDipSocSci

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**
Joseph Lopes

**ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT**
Michelle Guth**

**COMMUNICATION & EDUCATION**
**LIAISON OFFICER**
Joseph Jewitt*, BA
Dean Murphy*, BA(Hons)

**RESEARCH RESOURCE MANAGER**
Maude Frances, BA(Hons), GradDiplInf&LibMgt

**PUBLICATIONS OFFICER**
Judi Rainbow†

* Part year  † Part-time  ‡ Casual  † Honoray
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, 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 have 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.

Sydney Asian Gay Community Periodic Surveys

The first Sydney Asian Gay Community Periodic Survey was conducted in December 1999/January 2000. The first follow-up survey was conducted in November-December 2002. Data are collected on the sex practices of Asian gay men recruited from a range of sex venues and social venues as well as from a number of community events in which Asian gay men participate. These data provide useful monitoring of changes in the sex practices of Asian gay men and complement data from the Sydney Periodic surveys. The Sydney Asian Gay Community Periodic Surveys are conducted by the NCHSR in collaboration with the NCHECR, ACON Asian Project and NSW Multicultural Health Service.

Australian Study of Health and Relationships

This is a national study of men’s and women’s sexual health, behaviour and attitudes, in which over 19,000 randomly selected people aged between 16 and 60 were interviewed by telephone. Questions focused on sexual relationships, sexual practice and sexual health. Following successful pilots, interviewing commenced in May 2001 and was completed in mid-2002. The main report will be published in the form of 20 papers in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health in 2003. Further data analysis and publications will follow. This is a collaborative project with ARCSHS, Central Sydney Area Health Service and NCHECR.

University Student Surveys

This study ran from 1988 to 1999 at Macquarie University. It 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. In 2002 we collected data from UNSW students from a stall at Orientation Week.
**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, NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA), Australian IV League (AIVL), and Kirketon Road Clinic. The study was expanded with the addition of a Northern Rivers arm in 2001. A number of conference presentations from this project were given in 2002, prior to the release of the project report anticipated in 2003.

**SWASH: Sydney Women and Sexual Health**

SWASH is a questionnaire survey of sexual practices and identities and risks for other blood-borne viruses (e.g. injecting drug use) among women in contact with the gay and lesbian community. It was conducted first in Sydney in February 1996 and has been repeated with additions every two years since then. Women are recruited from Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day and a range of other social and community venues and groups. Sample size has ranged between 585 and 1125. It is a joint study of the AIDS Council of New South Wales and NCHSR and is run with assistance from the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research (NCHECR).

**Non-gay Sexual Subcultures**

This pilot study was a preliminary mapping of the range of non-heterosexual sexual subcultures within Sydney (for example, BDSM scene, swingers, singles clubs). In addition, the study investigated cross-over between these subcultures and the sex industry. The study aimed 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 was undertaken via survey of local internet sites, collection and content analysis of subcultural documents (magazines, advertisements, pornography etc.), and some key informant interviews.
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

The Positive Health study, or pH as it has come to be known, is a cohort study of HIV positive men and women living in NSW and Victoria. It is the only cohort study of its kind in Australia and, as such, complements HIV Futures, which is the major cross-sectional study of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), conducted by ARCSHS. A major focus of pH is to provide a basis for assessing the impact over time of HIV and associated treatments on the lived experience of PLWHA. The more specific 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. 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 study began in late 1998, with a baseline cohort of 425 PLWHA. Since then, a second round of data collection was completed in 2001 and a third round is currently in progress. Despite some participants being lost to follow up, in some cases due to death, each year we seek to recruit a further 100 young positive men and positive women to the study to maintain an optimal size. To date, 507 PLWHA have participated in the study, with 307 of these people from the original baseline cohort. Interviews are scheduled annually. This study is conducted in collaboration with NCHECR, ARCSHS, AFAO and NAPWA.

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=504) 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 (N=19) 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. Data collection for this study is complete and analyses are currently underway. A report will be released within the first half of 2003.
**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 three capital cities and two rural sites based on a scoping/consultation process. A purposive sampling frame is utilised in order to recruit 680 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 and non-adherence, current points of access to treatment and referral pathways is being utilised. The sample was extended in 2002 with funds from NSW Health.

The focus of these studies is on the cultural and social contexts in which health and risk are 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 continued during 2001.
THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL MEANINGS OF INJECTING 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, begun in 1993, is a case series of men who have recently seroconverted to HIV. 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. The data have also been used to examine narratives of ‘safe’ and ‘unsafe’ sexual practice. To date 99 seroconverters have been interviewed. The study is an NCHSR and NCHECR collaboration.

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. Data collection is complete. Eighty-eight people have been interviewed and a report is in preparation. 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: illicit drug use; anabolic steroid use by recreational body builders and gym goers; and 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 the spread of blood-borne viruses (BBVs). However, the development of a heightened awareness of blood as a source of infection requires consideration of many sensitive social and health implications, such as increased phobias about blood, which can be linked to discrimination around 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. Seventy interviews were completed in 2002 (with 15 remaining to be undertaken), and preliminary analysis of some of the data has taken place. Conference presentations and journal articles have been developed from results, and a forum for disseminating the findings to health promotion workers and others is being planned for 2003.

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 bookshops 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. Data have been collected and analysed and a report (through NDARC) is due to be released in 2003.
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 BBVs within 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. Dr Southgate, principal investigator, left NCHSR in April 2002 and her work on this project continues in collaboration with researchers from NDARC.

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.

International Collaboration on HIV Optimism

This consortium 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. A number of publications and conference presentations have been organised.

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. Accordingly, the scales have been incorporated in a number of other studies and ongoing analyses are under way.
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. Data collection was completed in 2002 and analyses will be undertaken in 2003–2004.

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 combined 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 drew 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 that began in 2001 and concluded in 2002. The evaluation gathered 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 assessed the process of Enhanced Care, the impact of the Project on GPs and clients, as well as documentation of any changes over the time of the project. The project was conducted in collaboration with staff from The University of Sydney, AFAO and ACON.
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 of UNAIDS Inter Agency Task team on Education: *Experts’ Review Meeting*, Paris, France (Kippax)
- Member of Global HIV Prevention Working Group, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Kippax)
- Member, Board of Advisers, Centre for Sexual Health and HIV Studies in the Wolfson School of Health Sciences: Thames Valley University, London (Kippax)
- Member of the Program Executive Committee and the Clinical Program Committee of the NIH/NIAID/DAIDS: HVDTT (Australian Vaccine Research) (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)
- 4-Centre HIV AIDS Research Initiative (4-CHARI): 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, UK; and Centre for the Study of AIDs, University of Pretoria, South Africa (Kippax, Van de Ven)
- Board Member, Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research (Frances)
- Organising Committee, Health in Difference: Fourth National Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual Health Conference (Frances, Jewitt, Richters)
- Board of Trustees, Reproductive Health Matters, London (Richters)
- Organising Committee, Performing Technologies Conference, Sydney (Keane)

**STATE/COMMUNITY**

- AFAO Vaccines Policy Reference Group (Murphy)
• HIV/AIDS Library Network (Frances)
• Hepatitis C Council of NSW Medical Advisory Panel (Kippax)
• NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS Strategy (Kippax)
• NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hepatitis (Treloar)
• The Social Research Advisory Committee of the 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)
• 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, Murphy, Rawstorne)
• NSW HIV Health Promotion Implementation Sub-committee (Jewitt)
• NSW HIV Health Promotion Implementation Forum Sub-committee (Jewitt)
• NSW STIs in Gay Men Action Group (Jewitt, Murphy)
• 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, 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 Editors**

- *Culture, Health and Sexuality* – an International Journal for Research, Intervention and Care (Kippax, Foundation editor)
- BioFutures, BioCultures book series, Routledge (Waldby, 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)
- *Word is Out: Online journal for gay lesbian and queer liberation* (Frances)

**Referees/Reviews**

In 2002, NCHSR staff continued to review articles for a number of prominent journals, including:

- AIDS
- AIDS Care
- AIDS Education and Prevention
- American Journal of Public Health
- Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health
- Australian and New Zealand Journal of Social Issues
- Australian and New Zealand Journal of Sociology
- Australian Journal of Psychology
- Australian Journal of Social Issues
- Australian Journal of Social Research
- Australian Psychologist
- Body & Society
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 Australian Commonwealth and State Health Departments, the Canadian Health Department, the Commonwealth AIDS Research Grants Committee, the Global Program on AIDS of the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Hepatitis C Council of NSW, the Terrence Higgins Trust of England, the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis & Related Diseases (HHARD) Social Research Conference, National Health and Medical Research Council, The Wellcome Trust and the 2002 ASHM Conference.

Members of the National Centre in HIV Social Research served on the following conference organising committees:

- Social Science Workshop, 22–23 February, Sydney (Kippax)
- History of Responding to HIV, 27 May, Sydney (Kippax)
- Health in Difference 4: Fourth National Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Bisexual Health Conference, 31 October–2 November 2002 (Frances & Jewitt, Convener, Organising Committee; Richters, Convener, Program Committee)
Members of the National Centre in HIV Social Research attended the following conferences in 2002.


Research Link is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing to undertake activities to enhance relationships between HIV social researchers and those working in the fields of HIV education, health promotion, policy development and care and support. This is achieved through improving communication 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 distribution 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. Research findings are also disseminated through the NCHSR website. The site provides direct access to the latest reports, which can be downloaded as PDF files. The site also provides access to the NCHSR library catalogue.
An important and ongoing strategy of the research link project is organising feedback sessions for social research projects to communities in which the research was conducted. 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 2002, sessions were organised for the Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide Gay Community Periodic Surveys, the HIM Study, the Annual Report of Behaviour, and others. Regular social research updates for the AFAO’s Education Strategies Group were also organised.

In 2002 a workshop was conducted with educators in Queensland on the Reflecting on Practice report. This report was commissioned by Queensland Health to explore current challenges in education for gay and other homosexually active men. The workshop explored the way educators are currently working – including the forms and content of education – and offered a model for a more self-reflexive approach.

**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.

A major project in 2002 was development of the *Retrospectives: History of Responding to HIV* seminar which was designed to provide a reflection on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Australia. Over twenty speakers from the government, policy, research and community sectors, including Dr Neil Blewett and Ms Ita Buttrose, covered a range of perspectives on the HIV epidemic as well as the political, governmental, and community responses.

Research Link facilitated contact between social researchers and organisations responsible for the community education component of the forthcoming HIV vaccine trial in Sydney in 2003.

The project officer participated in a number of policy working groups and committees and coordinated the NCHSR submission to the NSW Age of Consent parliamentary inquiry. The submission drew on data from various studies conducted by NCHSR.

Liaison was also conducted with researchers and community educators from South Africa and the USA who were interested in developing models similar to Research Link. These meetings were to advise on the establishment of projects to enhance the use of research by educators and the involvement of affected communities in the design of research.
**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 was a pilot project initiated by the Research Link Project and developed in collaboration with The University of Western Sydney, Nepean. The pilot, consisting of two separate projects, was conducted in New South Wales and funded by NSW Health. It involved the Research Link project officer and a social researcher from UWS working with teams of HIV health professionals at ACON and the Northern Sydney Area Health Service to facilitate incorporation of social research findings into the development and implementation of education and health promotion programs. The independent evaluation found that this model was highly successful and should be expanded. The pilot was found to have made a particularly significant impact on the development of organisational capacity.

A major project for Research Link in 2002 was planning of the joint social research and HIV education conference called *Changing Risks, Changing Communities*, conducted from 28—31 May. In 2002 the conference also included a hepatitis C stream for the first time. Over 160 people registered for the conference. They included a number of international speakers and delegates. The conference evaluation indicated that the program was well designed and that the interface between educators and researchers was highly successful. The conference was also voted as the best yet in the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases (HHARD) series.

Throughout 2002 Research Link continued to provide formal and informal input into the *National Training Agenda for HIV/AIDS Educators of Gay & Other Men Who Have Sex With Men* and also worked with AIDS Councils on the development of HIV education initiatives.
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:

ACON Northern Rivers
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
AIDS Treatment Project Australia (ATPA)
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Inc (ASHM)
Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
Australian Intravenous and Illicit Drug Users League (AIVL)
Hepatitis C Council of New South Wales
Kirketon Road Centre, Sydney, NSW
Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service
National Association of People Living With HIV/AIDS (NAPWA)
National Centre in Education and Training on Addictions (NCETA), Flinders University
National Drug Research Institute, (NDRI), Curtin University
NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA)
People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) NSW Inc
People Living With HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) Vic Inc
Queensland Positive People
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:

Adrian Mindel, Academic Unit of Sexual Health Medicine, University of Sydney
Alexander Ku, NSW Multicultural HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C Service
Anne Maree Weatherall, NSW Users’ and AIDS Association
Annie Madden, Australian IV League
Anthony Smith, Richard de Visser, Chris Rissel, Andrew Grulich (Australian Study on Health and Relationships), ARCSHS, Central Sydney Area Health Service, NCHECR
Barry Horwood, AIDS Council of South Australia
Basil Donovan, Sydney Sexual Health Centre and Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Sydney
Brent Allan, David McGuigan, Matthew Hua, AIDS Council of New South Wales
Brent Beadle, AIDS Treatment Project (ATPA)
Clive Aspin, Resource and Education Programme for Injecting Drug Users (REPIDU), Central Sydney Area Health Service
Dermot Ryan, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO)
Gabrielle Bammer, National Centre in Epidemiology and Population Health
Gary Keogh and Violeta Stojkova, Southwest Sydney Area Health Service
Geoff Woolcock, University of Queensland
Geoffrey Harrison, Fiona Tunley, Gary Ferguson, Queensland AIDS Council
Graham Brown, Curtin University
Ingrid van Beek, Kirketon Road Clinic
Jan Copeland, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW
Jenny Heslop, AIDS and Infectious Diseases Unit, NSW Health
Jeremy Davey, Sandy Smith, Graham Fraine, Queensland University of Technology
John Howard, Ted Noffs Foundation
Kathy Triffitt, People Living With HIV/AIDS NSW (PLWHA NSW)
Kevin Orrell and Barrie Harrison, ACON Northern Rivers
Kirsty Machon and John Rule, National Association of People Living With HIV/AIDS (NAPWA)
Marilyn McMurchie, HIV/AIDS GP
Michael Kidd, Medicine, University of Sydney
Mike Kennedy, Colin Batrouney and Guy Hussey, Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men’s Health Centre
Niamh Stephenson and David McInnes, University of Western Sydney
Tony Butler, NSW Corrections Health Service
During 2002, 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

Feb 7  Ms Angela Kelly, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, Macquarie University, and Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University, *My brain was pickled and fried*: Listening to personal narratives of the lived experience of AIDS Dementia.

Feb 21 Ms Robyn Gorna, former Executive Director, Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), *Microbicides and other HIV prevention technologies*

Mar 14 Mr Max Hopwood, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales, *An epidemic of difference – A social analysis of hepatitis C-related discrimination*.

Apr 11 Professor Ian Lubek, Psychology Department, The University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada, *Sometimes I prefer Fosters, sometimes Victoria Bitter. It depends on the girl, Cambodian “beer girls”, married women, and HIV/AIDS prevention strategies*. 
Apr 19  Dr Peter West, Research Group on Men and Families, Men’s Health Information and Research Centre, University of Western Sydney, *From Tarzan to the Terminator: Bondi Males and Body Obsession*

Jun 20  Dr Lisa Roney, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA, USA, *Disease Awareness and Risk: An Argument for the Power of Narrative.*


Sept 5  Dr Catherine Waldby, Reader in Sociology and Communications and the Director of the Centre for Research in Innovation, Culture and Technology at Brunel University, London, *Biomedicine, Tissue Transfer and Intercorporeality.*

Sept 26  Dr Jennifer Wilkinson, Cumberland College of Health Sciences, University of Sydney, and Mr Michael Bittman, Social Policy Research Centre, University of New South Wales, *Beyond the radius of love – the significance of sociability and public association for informal care.*

Oct 17  Dr Carla Treloar, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales, *Awareness of Blood in Injecting Automaticity and Association*

Dr Jeanne Abelson, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales, *Predicting Hepatitis C Status: Results from the Initiation and Transition to Injecting Study.*

Mr Gary Smith, National Centre in HIV Social Research, The University of New South Wales, *Evaluation of the NSW GP Enhanced Care Project.*

Nov 21  Dr Gordon Waitt, Department of Geosciences, University of Wollongong, *Gay Games: performing community out from the closet of the locker room.*

Dec 5  Ms Elizabeth Reid, Visiting Fellow at the Gender Relations Centre, The Australian National University, *Paradigms, prejudices and practices of the HIV epidemic globally.*

Dec 19  Dr Vincent J. Del Casino Jr., Visiting Research Fellow, Research School of Pacific and Asian studies, The Australian National University, *All the men are dead: the gendered geographies of health and health care for people living with HIV/AIDS in Thailand.*
AUSTRALIA
Ms Maria Bonar, Communicable Disease Control Branch, Western Australian Department of Health

Dr Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli, Deakin University, Victoria

CANADA
Professor Ian Lubek, Psychology Department, University of Guelph, Ontario

Professor Liviana Calzavara, HIV Social, Behavioural and Epidemiological Studies Unit, University of Toronto

NEW ZEALAND
Dr Heather Worth, Gender Studies Centre, University of Auckland

SOUTH AFRICA
Mr Pierre Brouard, Centre for the Study of AIDS, University of Pretoria

Professor Leah Gilbert, Department of Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand

UNITED KINGDOM
Professor Peter Aggleton, Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London

Mr Peter Keogh, SIGMA Research, University of Portsmouth

Professor Bryan Turner, Faculty of Social & Political Sciences, Cambridge University

Dr Catherine Waldby, former Deputy Director (Planning & Development), NCHSR, now Director of the Centre for Research in Innovation, Culture and Technology, Brunel University, Uxbridge, UK

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Mr Hugh McGowan, GMHC, New York
Staff of the NCHSR delivered a number of lectures and workshops during 2002, including:

**Professor Susan Kippax** delivered a keynote address at the Annual General Meeting of the National Research Group of Socio-Epidemiological Studies on Monitoring and Prevention of HIV/AIDS in Kyoto, Japan and was a co-discussant at a Workshop on Interventions sponsored by the same body. In the United Kingdom, she gave an invited paper at the British Psychological Society Annual Conference, and was a discussant at a Department for International Development (DfID) workshop on Communicating Sexual Health Messages to Young People. She was also an invited discussant on sex education at a UNESCO educational planning meeting in Paris and an invited plenary speaker at the Medicine and Health Conference of the Norwegian Research Council in Bergen. Professor Kippax was also an invited speaker at the XIVth International AIDS Conference in Barcelona. In Australia she spoke at a number of conferences and workshops including the Australian Health Promotion Association Conference and the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Conference in Sydney.

**Dr Paul Van de Ven** reported on findings from the HIM Study at a VAC/GMHC workshop; presented data on risk reduction strategies at an AFAO Committee meeting; and participated in a the amfAR TreatAsia symposium in Bangkok.

**Dr Juliet Richters** gave several lectures, talks and workshops: on (i) sex research and (ii) pornography for Diploma in Sexual Health Counselling, the Australasian College of Sexual Health Physicians; (iii) population studies of sexual health, for MPH and MMEd, and (iv) getting qualitative research published, Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of Sydney; (v) researching social aspects of HIV/AIDS for Social Work SOCW2001, Human Behaviour 2, Physical and Psychological Health, The University of New South Wales.

Within the Centre, **Dr Carla Treloar** instigated a program of qualitative discussion groups. These informal meetings are designed to support staff of all levels in their qualitative research endeavours. To date, discussions have centred on approaches to analysis, rigour and “good” research; coding of interview data; and development of interview schedules. The group hopes to use these discussions to also develop a statement paper on multi-disciplinary qualitative research.

**Mr Patrick Rawstone** gave a lecture to MPH students at the University of Sydney and another to students enrolled in Social Work at The University of New South Wales. He also delivered workshops or presentations at: (i) The NSW Department of Health and the Workforce Development Program in Hepatitis, HIV and Sexual Health: HIV/AIDS Treatments and Health Issues Forum; (ii) The NSW Department of Health Rural HIV/AIDS Coordinators Meeting, (iii) Queensland AIDS Council Educators Meetings; (iv) ACON Roundtable on Living Well; and (v) HIV service providers meeting in western Sydney: dissemination of Positive Health results.
In 2002 there were eight PhD students attached to the NCHSR, most of them co-supervised elsewhere in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. There was one MPH student, co-supervised in the School of Medical Education. Their projects are described below.

**PhD Students**

**Psychosocial Examination of Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide**

Suzanne Birmingham

This project examines the practice of euthanasia and assisted suicide, primarily through the experiences of health care professionals, family members and other caregivers who have assisted someone to die. The study focuses on AIDS-related assisted deaths, and includes interviews conducted in Australia and The Netherlands.

Time frame: 1995-2003
Supervisors: Prof Susan Kippax (NCHSR), Prof Ann Daniel (Sociology, UNSW)

**Sexual Attitudes and Behaviour of International Backpackers Visiting Australia**

Cari Egan

Using theories derived from anthropology, sociology and psychology, this project examines the sexual attitudes and behaviour of young international travellers to Australia, specifically comparing their casual sex and condom use behaviour prior to and during travel. In addition to exploring traveller sexual behaviour both quantitatively and qualitatively, this study will also explore the perceptions held by hostel and sexual health/travel clinic employees of travellers’ sexual safety while abroad. The importance of self, adventure, liminoid space and place for the traveller will also be explored.

Time frame: 2002-2005
Supervisors: Dr Juliet Richters (NCHSR)
‘DISHING IT UP: FOOD, GAY MEN AND IDENTITY’
Michelle Imison

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, UNSW)

DANCE EVENTS IN RELATION TO HEALTH PROMOTION
Kate Ireland

This project considers the social aspects of dance events in order to inform health promotion in relation to practices of drug use and blood borne virus transmission.

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

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

The study aims to develop a theoretical model of AIDS-related behaviours among Asian gay men in Sydney. It will investigate several major influences on safe sex practice from a motivational perspective. The model will be further applied to the least-known subgroup – Asian gay men, who may experience conflict 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, UNSW)

“DON’T TAKE YOUR MEDICINE”: THE CULTURAL POLITICS OF HEALTH MAGAZINE READER LETTERS
Christy Newman

This project investigates the contemporary function of health magazines, examining reader letters in three ‘commercial’ (Good Medicine, Men’s Health and Nature & Health) and three ‘community’ (Talkabout, Users’ News and The Professional) publications, and interviewing magazine editors. Although each of these six magazines constitutes its audience through differences in cultural identity (e.g. ‘men’ or ‘sex workers’), their reader letters validate a medicalised sociality and a shared political ethics of consumer advocacy. This research endorses interdisciplinarity in social research, particularly between the fields of media/cultural studies and health/medical sociology.

Supervisors: Dr Catherine Waldby (Brunel University, UK), Prof Philip Bell (School of Media & Communications, UNSW)
**PLEASURE CONSUMING MEDICINE**

This study provides a genealogy of ‘compliance’, with particular attention to ‘self-administration’, and its determination of drug use. 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. 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.

**Time frame:** 2000–2003  
**Supervisors:** Dr Helen Keane (NCHSR), Dr Rosalyn Diprose (Philosophy, UNSW)

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**THE MEANINGS AND PRACTICE OF ANAL INTERCOURSE BETWEEN MEN**

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:** 1997–2003  
**Supervisors:** Prof Susan Kippax (NCHSR), Assoc Prof Grant McCall (Sociology, UNSW)

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**MPH STUDENT**

**SURVEY OF ATTITUDES AND LIFESTYLES TOWARDS SEXUAL HEALTH IN CHINESE MIGRANT WOMEN**

This project aimed to provide information for sexual health promotion programs among Chinese migrant women. A questionnaire was used to collect data from Chinese female patients visiting a clinic in Sydney for the first time during November and December 2001. The questionnaire included five sections: social demographics; attitudes and beliefs; sexual practice; self-perceived sexual health status; and utilisation of sexual health services. The treatise described Chinese migrant women who were seeking sexual health services by attitudes and lifestyles towards sexual health and explored 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, UNSW)

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**Theses Examined**

PhD, School of Social Work, The University of New South Wales, 2002  
PhD, School of Social Work, Social Policy and Sociology, University of Sydney, 2002  
Honours, Centre for Women’s Studies, Australian National University, 2002


in Men (HIM) cohort. Poster presented at 14th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine, Sydney.


Slavin, S., Allan, B. & Ryan, D. (2002, July). A community of research and practice: Building partnerships between academic social science research and community...
based health promotion practice. Poster exhibited at XIV International AIDS Conference, Barcelona.


Uddin, M., Treloar, C., Begum, S., Sheridan, K., Renton, A. & Eley, C. (2002). *Bangladeshi Community Involvement and Action Project: Report of a cross-sectoral Rapid Assessment and Response project to characterise the condition, well-being and community development needs of the Bangladeshi community living in the North Paddington area and to develop interventions that promote well being and to support development*. London: Social Interventions Unit, Department of Social Science and Medicine, Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine.
Funding was received from the following sources in 2002:

**COMMONWEALTH FUNDING**

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & AGED CARE SUBCONTRACT**

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<td>Sydney Men &amp; Sexual Health (SMASH) Periodic Survey (2001/02)</td>
<td>Van de Ven &amp; Rawstorne</td>
<td>41,400</td>
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<td>Social Research Cohorts in Gay Men in the Context of HIV Vaccine Developments</td>
<td>Kippax &amp; Van de Ven</td>
<td>88,735</td>
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<td>Research into Education Training</td>
<td>Jewitt</td>
<td>15,925</td>
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<td>Risks for Hep C: Initiation &amp; Transition to Injecting Drug Use Among Young People</td>
<td>Kippax &amp; Southgate</td>
<td>25,856</td>
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<td>Barriers &amp; Incentives to Treatment for Substance Misuse</td>
<td>Kippax &amp; Treloar</td>
<td>31,680</td>
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<td>Monitoring Risk Practices Among Asian Gay Men</td>
<td>Van de Ven</td>
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<td>Investigation into living with HIV and Cultural Diversity</td>
<td>Kippax &amp; Körner</td>
<td>42,600</td>
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<td>Investigation into HIV Risk Practice and Sexual Adventurism among Gay Men in Sydney</td>
<td>Kippax &amp; Smith</td>
<td>89,100</td>
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<td>Investigation into Changing Community, Changing Practice</td>
<td>Kippax</td>
<td>83,400</td>
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**VICTORIAN DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Executor(s)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Melbourne Gay Community Periodic Survey</td>
<td>Van de Ven &amp; Rawstorne</td>
<td>35,404</td>
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**QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Queensland Gay Community Periodic Survey  
Van de Ven & Rawstorne  
37,828

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Perth Gay Community Periodic Survey  
Van de Ven  
11,500

**NHMRC PROJECT GRANT**

An Analysis of ‘blood awareness’ for the purposes of Hepatitis C Prevention Education and Health Promotion  
Kippax, Rosengarten & Treloar  
100,828

**US NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)**

HIV Vaccine Design & Development Teams  
Kippax & Van de Ven  
481,529

**NHMRC ANCAHRD FELLOWSHIP**

Preventing Transmission of HIV across Dual Social System of China: Development of a Community Intervention  
Wang  
54,693

The Social & Cultural Meanings of Injecting Drug Use  
Slavin  
57,661

**AIDS COUNCIL OF NSW (ACON)**

Enhanced Care Project: Evaluation Arm (2001/02)  
Kippax & Smith  
19,644

**AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF AIDS ORGANISATIONS**

Kippax & Slavin  
10,000

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES RESEARCH SUPPORT**

Honours and Graduate Research  
578

Casual Teaching  
6,730

Quantum Research Funding (2001– paid in 2002)  
90,000

RIBG (2001– paid in 2002)  
70,000

Women Research 21  
Nakamura  
500