

Department of General Practice and Primary Care (DGPPC) – 2025 Honours Projects – Round 2

Please email any project enquiries to - gp-Honours@unimelb.edu.au - and not directly to the supervisors.

DGPPC research area/team	Project Title	Project Description	Project Supervisors
Data Driven Quality Improvement	Using technology to prioritise care: co-designing solutions using clinical decision support software	How do GPs decide what clinical concerns need to be addressed first? Clinical decision support software can review patient files and identify the concerns that may need additional attention, however they are not yet able to determine which comes first. Various methods of prioritisation have been explored in the literature and in other jurisdictions, however Australian-context specific solutions are still to be identified and implemented. This project would explore the different options from the literature and undertake a co-design process with GPs and consumers to identify a possible model for prioritisation of clinical care recommendations to support the delivery of clinical decision support through Future Health Today.	Dr Barbara Hunter & Dr Andrew Donald
Sexual and Family Violence (SAFE)	Early intervention for men who use intimate partner violence	Qualitative study (involving interviews of up to 20 GPs) examining the experiences of GPs in delivering the BETTER MAN tool (a digital tool) as an early intervention for identifying and responding to men who use intimate partner violence.	Dr Minerva Kyei-Onanjiri & Prof Kelsey Hegarty
Sexual and Family Violence (SAFE)	Evaluation of Pathways to Safety Primary Care training program - analysis of open-ended survey responses	Data were collected from participants prior to and after completing the Pathways to Safety training. Several open-ended questions were included (e.g., what do you hope to gain, what did you gain, challenges, planned changes to practice) that require thematic analysis to evaluate the program.	Dr Fiona Giles & Dr Elizabeth McLindon
Sexual and Family Violence (SAFE)	Qualitative metasynthesis of women's experiences of psychological violence	This review aims to understand women's lived experience of psychological violence by reviewing and synthesising the qualitative literature on this topic. A systematic search was completed in 2022 and needs to be updated.	Dr Fiona Giles & Dr Mandy McKenzie

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Sexual and Family Violence (SAFE)	How are pre-service health science students prepared to identify and respond to patients experiencing abuse violence and other trauma?	This review aims to explore how lived experience has been embedded in the development and delivery of material about domestic, family and sexual violence for health science students.	Dr Katie Lamb & Prof Kelsey Hegarty
Health Data Science for Medical Research	Medicinal Cannabis for Substance Use Disorders: Insights from TGA Prescription Approval Data on Patient Profiles, Adverse Events, and Prescribing Trends.	This project examines the prescribing of medicinal cannabis for substance use disorders (SUDs), using quantitative analytic methods to analyse data from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) repository. The study will evaluate trends and associations in the prescribing of medicinal cannabis, focusing on patient characteristics, types of substance use disorders, adverse events, and utilisation patterns. While medicinal cannabis is being prescribed for substance use disorders, evidence supporting its effectiveness remains limited. Some proposed benefits include reducing cravings, alleviating withdrawal symptoms, and improving mood and sleep; however, concerns persist about its ability to provide long-term therapeutic effects, as well as risks such as dependency, side effects, and interactions with other substances or medications. This project aims to evaluate prescribing practices, given the need for careful dosing and ongoing medical supervision to ensure safe and effective use of medicinal cannabis for the treatment of SUDs.	Dr Christine Hallinan & Dr Barbara Hunter

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Health Data Science for Medical Research	Medicinal Cannabis for Chronic Pain: Insights from TGA Prescription Approval Data on Patient Profiles, Adverse Events, and Prescribing Trends.	This project examines the prescribing of medicinal cannabis for chronic pain conditions, using quantitative analytic methods to analyse data from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) repository. The study will evaluate trends and associations in the prescribing of medicinal cannabis, focusing on patient characteristics, types of pain conditions, adverse events, and utilisation patterns. Although some evidence suggests medicinal cannabis may benefit chronic pain conditions such as neuropathic pain, fibromyalgia, arthritis, and migraines, findings are mixed. Potential benefits include anxiety reduction, mood elevation, and improved sleep, but concerns persist about temporary relief rather than long-term efficacy, side effects (e.g., gastrointestinal issues, dizziness, dependency), and psychosis risk. This project will provide a systematic assessment of prescribing practices and outcomes, contributing to a clearer understanding of its utility and safety in chronic pain management.	Dr Christine Hallinan & Dr Barbara Hunter
Health Data Science for Medical Research	Skin in the Game: Exploring the Demographics and Clinical Focus of Australian General Practitioners with Dermatology Interests.	Dermatological conditions represent a significant burden in Australian general practice, with skin issues accounting for a substantial proportion of patient consultations. Additionally, Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer globally, and general practitioners play a critical role in early detection, management, and referral. The RACGP Dermatology Special Interest Group, comprising nearly 4,000 members, reflects a considerable segment of GPs with an interest in dermatology. Despite this, there is a lack of formal data on the group's demographics, clinical interests (such as skin cancer, general dermatology, or cosmetic dermatology), and practice settings (mainstream general practice versus specialised clinics). This project aims to conduct a survey of the group's members to explore their demographics, interests, and practice environments. By identifying the distribution of expertise and focus areas among these GPs, the study will help tailor educational resources and professional support.	Dr Christine Hallinan & Dr Anneliese Willems

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Health Data Science for Medical Research	Traditional and complementary therapies in the Australian health care and education system	In 1978 the World Health Organization voiced support for the integration of traditional medicine providers into health teams as part of the Declaration of Alma Ata, and it still advocates this as a means for communities to access the care they want and need. A 2024 survey led by Dr Canaway canvassed the views of Australians on their use of traditional and complementary medicine (T&CM) and perspectives around integration of T&CM practitioners with the healthcare system. Many themes arose including cultural appropriateness of care, optimisation and diversification of the healthcare workforce, holistic approaches to treatment and disease prevention, legal and regulatory issues, cost-benefit considerations, and the dangers of access to certain types of care providers. 270 of the 690 respondents (including medical, complementary, integrative healthcare providers, and consumers) expressed interest in being involved in future initiatives building on that study. Your study will leverage the insights and enthusiasm of the survey respondents and enable you to gather new data for a follow-up study tailored to your interests. Guidance will be provided on appropriate framing and scope for your research.	Dr Rachel Canaway & Dr Daniela Ramirez Duran
Children & Young People's Health	The impact of discrimination (gender and/or ethnic) on mental ill health and academic outcomes in university students.	This project area will involve secondary analyses of data from the 'Towards a Health Promoting University' study, which assessed mental health, wellbeing and academic outcomes in a university-wide student survey. This large dataset offers opportunity to examine data across a range of diverse topics, but we are particularly interested in exploring the relationship between discrimination and depression and anxiety. The project will suit someone with an interest in quantitative methods; relevant training and support will be available.	Prof Lena Sancu & Dr Ann-Maree Duncan

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Children & Young People's Health	The impact of social support/ resilience on mental health and academic outcomes in university students.	This project area will involve secondary analyses of data from the 'Towards a Health Promoting University' study, which assessed mental health, wellbeing and academic outcomes in a university-wide student survey. This large dataset offers opportunity to examine data across a range of diverse topics, but we are particularly interested in exploring the relationship positive adjustment factors such as social support and resilience have with mental health and academic outcomes. Our research team will work with you to identify one of these areas to focus on as the basis of your research project. The project will suit someone with an interest in quantitative methods; relevant training and support will be available.	Prof Lena Sanci & Dr Ian Williams