

2022 DGP Honours project list for prospective students - 25 August 2021

Project Title	Project Description	DGP Research Area	Primary Supervisor Title	Primary Supervisor First Name	Primary Supervisor Surname
Health providers' views of the need for emotional support for women following early medical abortion.	The purpose of this study is to gain a better understanding of psychosocial support needs of women utilising early medical abortion (EMA) and pathways of care. We intend to use this information to inform the development of further tools and resources that can be used to enhance EMA support care.	Sexual and Reproductive Health	Prof	Meredith	Temple-Smith
Process evaluation of Future Health Today trial	The student will take a lead role in the process evaluation of the Future Health Today trial, a trial which is exploring the impact of a digital intervention to optimise chronic disease management in primary care. Depending on the student interest, this may include (1) interviewing health professionals about their experience in participating in the Future Health Today trial (2) exploring the perceptions of trial participants of the value and experience participating in ECHO education sessions. The student will gain skills in qualitative research and primary care trials and become a member of a broad multidisciplinary team.	Data driven quality improvement	A/Prof	Jo-Anne	Manski-Nankervis
The Bowel Cancer Prevention Study: How does receiving a brochure in general practice about bowel cancer prevention strategies influence people's behaviour? A process evaluation	In 2020, bowel cancer was the 4th most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia but it is preventable through screening and lifestyle changes. In Australia screening through the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program is free but only 42% of people complete the test each year. Maintaining a healthy weight, being physically active, taking low dose aspirin, eating a healthy diet, quitting smoking and taking calcium supplements are all other ways people can reduce their chances of getting bowel cancer.	Cancer in Primary Care	Miss	Shakira	Milton
The UPBEAT-50 interview study: What factors influence the pathway to diagnosis and treatment of people with young-onset colorectal cancer (aged under 50), and what do younger patients and GPs think can be done to achieve earlier diagnosis?	The incidence of colorectal cancer in people aged younger than 50, young-onset colorectal cancer (yCRC), is increasing globally. Of concern, younger people tend to have more advanced stage disease at diagnosis, leading to poorer survival, greater treatment burden and worse quality of life. Delays in colorectal cancer diagnosis and treatment may contribute to why yCRC patients have poorer outcomes. However, there are no qualitative studies in Australia that seek to understand how and why delays may occur from the perspective of young patients or their GPs. This research will address this gap in the literature by determining factors influencing yCRC diagnostic pathways and explore perspectives on how to achieve earlier diagnosis.	Cancer in Primary Care	Ms	Rebecca	Bergin
Development of a multi-cancer polygenic risk report for use in primary care	Genomics can now predict future risk of many different cancers. This risk information can be used to target cancer screening to those in the population who need it most. Primary care can be used to make such a genomic test available to all in the population but we do not know how general practice patients will respond to genomic risk information for several cancers at once and if that will help them make better decisions regarding their cancer screening.	Cancer in Primary Care	Ms	Sibel	Saya

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PRESIDE	New pharmacogenomic tests are available that can help GPs prescribe the right drugs for their patients, resulting in better responses and fewer side-effects. The PRESIDE trial looks at using pharmacogenomics to direct antidepressant prescribing in general practice.	Cancer in Primary Care	Ms	Sibel	Saya
Co-design of strategies to improve CALD community engagement in the development of cancer research	Engaging people with a lived experience of cancer is important in developing high quality cancer research. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to engage with some culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Using co-creation with key stakeholders, this study will aim to develop key strategies for engaging with cancer survivors and carers from Vietnamese, Chinese and Italian communities in Victoria.	Cancer in Primary Care	Dr	Kristi	Milley
Future Health Today: Patients resources evaluation	Future Health Today (FHT) is a quality improvement tool that aims to enhance clinicians' performance in diagnosis and treatment of various chronic diseases; It was co-designed with consumers and practitioners. One of its components is an evidence-based clinical decision support system (CDSS) that flags patients at risk of cancer and other chronic diseases. Once the patient is flagged, the health professional has the opportunity to recall them for further examination using a patient resource sheet designed for the study. The larger study will evaluate increased rate of follow up using FHT. The aim of this study will be to identify perceptions of patients at being recalled using the patient resource sheet.	Cancer in Primary Care	Dr	Javiera	Martinez
Addressing the physical health crisis in people living with severe mental illness, the Assertive Cardiac Care Trial	It is well established that people living with severe mental illnesses have higher risk factors for cardiovascular and cardiometabolic disease. The evidence shows life expectancy is reduced by up to 20-25 years for some people compared to the general population. The student may use data from within the PATRON repository (a set of routine data collected from Victorian general practices) to identify the numbers of individuals in primary care with severe mental illnesses who have markers of increased cardiovascular risk and the cardio related treatments, plans and referrals that may have been delivered. Or, the student will conduct interviews with participants engaged in a cardiovascular risk reduction intervention a part of the NHMRC funded Assertive Cardiac Care Trial (ACCT).	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Matt	Lewis
Development and implementation of consumer and carer guidance to identify and select high quality mobile phone health apps in stepped care models for mental health.	This project will take existing guidance developed by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare for the selection of mental health apps and undertake co-design with people with lived-experience for the operationalisation if these guides.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Matt	Lewis

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Experiences of violence for people living with severe mental illnesses	This student will undertake secondary data analysis of data collected from a sub-sample of people who were part of a now completed cluster randomised controlled trial in the community mental health setting (The CORE Study 2013-2017) which focused on service improvement and psycho-social recovery using a co-design approach. Qualitative data was collected with a sub-sample of individuals' who provided self-reported information about experiences of violence in their lives using a novel qualitative timeline method. The student will work with an established coding framework to code the experiences recounted within timelines and explore these in conjunction with the published literature on violence in the lives of people with mental illnesses. The student will consider current interventions and the findings to consider what interventions might be needed in this group to respond to experiences of violence.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Jennifer	Bibb
Self-monitoring for physical-mental health: evaluating patient use of the CovidCare mobile health app and the identification of mental health needs of people in self-isolation.	The student will analyse telephone interview data collected with participants who used the CovidCare mobile health app to self-monitor their physical and mental health symptoms. This will be considered in relation to development and implementation of virtual models of care.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Matt	Lewis
Social prescribing as a low intensity intervention to improve mental health in the primary care setting	The student will complete a pilot study of a social prescribing intervention to improve mental health in primary care.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Jennifer	Bibb
The multifaceted nature of depression in the primary care setting: patient experiences, health service use, treatments and factors related to depressive symptoms from the ten year Australian diamond longitudinal cohort study	There are a range of mixed method, qualitative or quantitative projects available for completion from data collected within a ten longitudinal cohort study of primary care patients with depressive symptoms - the diamond study. The student will use literature review, analyse survey data and relevant telephone interview responses to answer a research question related to one of the following topics: associations between depressive symptoms and gambling, what helps with recovery (pets, cinema or theatre attendance, creative arts--music, singing and dancing), volunteering and depressive symptoms, psychological treatments used for depression and, substance use and depressive symptoms. Research questions will include consideration of the primary care mental health context and general practitioner roles in relation to the topic of interest.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes

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The social worlds of people living with severe mental illness and their carers.	Students will undertake secondary analysis of data collected from a sub-sample of people who took part in a now completed cluster randomised controlled trial in the community mental health setting (The CORE Study) to improve service experiences and psycho-social recovery using a co-design approach. A sub-sample of individuals have provided information about their social networks and short weekly diaries. Students will analyse either the network maps and/or the weekly journals for patterns around social connection, loneliness and engagement in community life and consider this in conjunction with the published literature for people with severe mental illness. The same dataset is also available for carers who were involved in the trial.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Jennifer	Bibb
Where from and where to? Symptom onset and care pathways in younger-onset dementia	Students will explore acquired Patron data in conjunction with the MiND study, of people who have signs of neurocognitive change in adulthood. They will use data analytic skills to explore the data to track the first symptom onset and subsequent treatment pathways from those who may have have younger onset dementia	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes
Mapping and audit of primary care referrals to a statewide tertiary neuropsychiatry cognitive disorders service	Using patron data acquired through the MiND study and patient data through RMH neuropsychiatry, students will explore the first contact from primary care to tertiary services for neurocognitive disorders	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes
Improving the crystal ball: probability of developing dementia following first psychiatric illness in mid-life	Using patron data acquired through the MiND study to identify patients who attended with a new psychiatric diagnosis or prescription for a neuropsychiatry disorder in their 40s - the student will determine what proportion of these went on to receive a diagnosis of dementia . This is a retrospective longitudinal data exploration	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes
GP perceptions of the guidelines for antidepressant medication in children and young people.	This will be a qualitative exploration of GP perceptions of prescribing medications for CYP with depression. The qualitative interviews will focus on the GP use of recommended guidelines and experience and determine how GPs monitor this process and what they consider to be the challenges of prescribing in this cohort.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes
Financial stressors affecting university students and their impact on student outcomes	This project will conduct secondary data analyses of the recent 'Towards a healthy promoting University' Study, which assessed student mental health and wellbeing and academic outcomes in a university-wide student survey. The student will: examine the range of financial stressors that students described as well as their awareness of and access to relevant support services; examine relationships between different financial stressors & i) any mental health condition or ii) academic performance (WAM, failures, drop-out); and identify group/s of high-risk students (homeless, self-harming, eating disorder) for closer examination of the relationship with mental health and academic outcomes.	Children & Young People's Health	Prof	Lena	Sanci

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Factors facilitating student wellbeing and their impact on student outcomes	This project will conduct secondary data analyses of the recent 'Towards a health promoting University' and 'Exploring the impact of COVID-19 on university students' mental health and wellbeing surveys. The student will initially conduct an evaluation of a qualitative question examining what students were doing to protect their health and wellbeing during the pandemic of 2020. Secondly the student will report on the prevalence of protective factors identified and examine their relationship with mental health and academic outcomes.	Children & Young People's Health	Dr	Ian	Williams
Bush medicine use in the Indigenous community – exploring the experience of the community in the use of bush medicine	This is a qualitative study using a phenomenological approach. The student will be involved in conducting interviews/focus groups to explore the experience of the community in the use of bush medicine.	Indigenous Health	Dr	Phyllis	Lau
Piloting an intervention to normalise oral health in an alcohol and other drug (AOD) recovery service	This is a mixed methods study using implementation science approaches. The student will be involved in implementing the intervention at an AOD service over 2-4 months as well as collecting process and impact evaluation data including surveys and conducting interviews/focus groups.	Inter-professional collaboration	Dr	Phyllis	Lau
Genital herpes -the GP's view.	Genital herpes is a common incurable sexually transmitted infection, caused by the herpes simplex virus (HSV), which can be treated by anti-viral medications. In this study GPs will be interviewed about their experience with patients with herpes, and any concerns they have around the management of this infection.	Sexual and Reproductive Health	Prof	Meredith	Temple-Smith
Online support for those affected by miscarriage	While over 300,000 births are celebrated by parents in Australia each year; at least another 100,000 couples suffered a miscarriage, which can lead to anxiety and depression. Web services can provide confidential, anonymous, convenient support, equally accessible to all. This study will explore the online support needs of those with limited representation in our miscarriage research to date, including same-sex couples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds and those with disabilities.	Sexual and Reproductive Health	Prof	Meredith	Temple-Smith
Trauma-informed yoga for survivors of sexual violence	This project involves using surveys or interviews (to be determined) with sexual violence survivors to evaluate a trauma-informed yoga program.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Elizabeth	McLindon
Sexual violence crisis care in Melbourne: Who is attending and why?	The Centre for Sexual Assault (CASA House) is a dedicated service for victim/survivors of sexual violence. A Crisis Care Unit is located at the Royal Women's Hospital where victim/survivors of recent sexual assault receive information about their legal and medical rights. This project involves auditing intake data from the Crisis Care Unit to determine characteristics of women who access this service, reasons for attending, and referral pathways.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Elizabeth	McLindon

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Identifying reproductive coercion in the context of abortion counselling	This project will be based at the Royal Women's Hospital Choices clinic and will explore ways to ask about reproductive coercion in the context of abortion counselling.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	A/Prof	Laura	Tarzia
Evaluating respectful relationships and sexual assault education in schools	This project will examine the benefits of a sexual assault and respectful relationships education and training program in secondary schools.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	A/Prof	Laura	Tarzia
Exploring issues for men survivors of family violence who are nurses, midwives or carers.	This project will involve secondary analysis of data from men in nursing who have experienced family violence (FV). Using data from the Health, Wellbeing & Relationships Project, this Honours Project will explore survivor men's experiences of FV, access to health and specialist services and what it means to be a nurse.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Elizabeth	McLindon
Family violence and vicarious trauma: A whole-of-hospital workplace response to survivor health professional staff	This project will be based at the Royal Women's Hospital and will use a trauma and violence-informed framework to audit the workplace response to family violence at the Women's. It will explore ways to respond to staff as both primary FV and vicarious trauma survivors.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Elizabeth	McLindon
Experiences of domestic and family violence and service use among African Australian Migrants	The project will involve a literature review to explore help-seeking intentions and actual help sought by victim/survivors of domestic and family violence or a systematic review of literature related to the topic.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Minerva	Kyei-Onanjiri
Measuring the success of lived experience initiatives in the family violence sector	This project will involve interviewing or surveying (TBD) a range of community sector workers about the kind of outcomes that should be measured to determine whether embedding lived experience expertise in family violence policies and practice makes a difference.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Katie	Lamb
Exploring the characteristics of male victims of domestic violence	Men's use of violence within intimate relationships is a serious health issue for the entire family, as it impacts the man using violence, his partner, and any children. Research indicate that in most cases, the individuals who use violence are male intimate partners, causing IPV to be the most common form of violence against women. However, most studies regarding domestic violence focus mainly on female victims. To gain more insight into the problems male victims encounter, this project aims to explore the characteristics of this group by conducting a literature review and using secondary data. The student will undertake a literature review and analyze secondary dataset related to male victims of domestic violence.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Carolina	Navarro
Exploring how women want their families & friends to respond to their experiences of family violence	This project will focus on how women wished their families and friends had responded to their experiences of intimate partner violence and/or sexual violence. It will draw on data from our previous surveys (Voices, Sustain and I-Decide) where women have provided brief written responses to the questions 'I wish my family had..' and 'I wish my friends had..'. The analysis would explore similarities and differences in women's wishes relating to the responses of their friends and their family. The findings can be used to inform the development of tailored resources to guide family members and friends on how to support women experiencing IPV or SV.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Mandy	McKenzie

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Optimal prescription of diabetes medications in general practice	<p>There is increasing evidence that GLP-1 analogues and SGLT2 inhibitors can reduce cardiovascular mortality in people with type 2 diabetes at increased cardiovascular disease risk. But is this evidence being translated into practice? Students will explore the prescription of diabetes medications in people with type 2 diabetes with a history of cardiovascular disease and who are at increased cardiovascular disease risk using the Patron database. The Patron database is a repository of electronic medical record data extracted from approximately 120 general practices in Victoria. Students will be supported by clinical and statistics supervisors to develop quantitative research skills.</p>	Data driven quality improvement	A/Prof	Jo-Anne	Manski-Nankervis
Exploring chronic kidney disease detection and management in general practice	<p>Chronic kidney disease is a common condition that is associated with increased cardiovascular disease and progression to kidney failure. Early detection and management in general practice can reduce these risks. The student will undertake an analysis of the Patron dataset, a repository of electronic medical record data extracted from approximately 120 general practices in Victoria, to explore CKD detection and management. This will contribute to a international study, comparing the results to those in Canada, Singapore and Sweden. Students will be supported by clinical and statistics supervisors to develop quantitative research skills. Ethics has already been obtained for this study.</p>	Data driven quality improvement	A/Prof	Jo-Anne	Manski-Nankervis

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Trends in cannabis use among women in pregnancy, 2012-2022	<p>There are a limited number of studies on the prevalence of and reasons for cannabis use in pregnancy among Australian women. The effects of in utero exposure to cannabis are unknown and results are conflicting. In this project, the PATRON general practice medical record (EMR) data repository will be used to investigate general practitioner reports of cannabis use in women who are pregnant. The project aims to explore the data to find reports of cannabis use amongst pregnant women and look for associations between cannabis use and common conditions associated with pregnancy such as nausea and vomiting, sleeplessness, and restless leg syndrome. The assessment of cannabis use in women in antenatal care at The Royal Women's Alcohol and Drug Service (WADS) will also be explored. This work will contribute to the sparse, but growing, international knowledge about this issue which may have important implications for future generations. This project is one of many that is part of the research undertaken by Australian Centre for Cannabinoid Clinical and Research Excellence (ACRE), which was established through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Centre of Research Excellence scheme. ACRE draws together over twenty Australian research leaders and clinicians from major national universities and research institutions to establish a research evidence base to inform safe clinical use of medicinal cannabinoids and to guide policy as cannabinoids are introduced into therapeutic practice in Australia.</p>	Medicinal Cannabis	Dr	Christine	Hallinan