2023 DGP Honours project list for prospective students - 16 September 2022

Project No.	Project Title	Project Description	DGP Research Area	Primary Supervisor Title	Primary Supervisor First Name	Primary Supervisor Surname
1	Financial stressors affecting university students and their impact on student outcomes	This project will conduct secondary data analyses of the recent 'Towards a health 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
2	Secondary data analysis of a university-wide student health and wellbeing survey	This project will conduct secondary data analyses of the 'Towards a health promoting University' Study, which assessed student mental health and wellbeing and academic outcomes in a university-wide student survey. A range of analyses can be undertaken: students' considering dropping out of studies; improving International students' awareness of and access to services for health and wellbeing; depressive/anxiety symptoms; eating disorder; resilience; or loneliness.	Children & Young People's Health	Prof	Lena	Sanci
3	Exploring changes in child immunisation practices during the COVID-19 pandemic	This study will use Patron data to explore changes in immunisation administration to children (0-12 years) attending general practice from 2019 to 2020.	Children & Young People's Health	Prof	Lena	Sanci
4	Exploring changes in young people's health during the COVID-19 pandemic	This study will use Patron data to explore changes in frequency of mental health presentations amongst adolescents (10-24 years) from 2019 to 2020.	Children & Young People's Health	Dr	Ian	Williams
5	Optimal prescription of diabetes medications in general practice	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.	Data driven quality improvement	A/Prof	Jo-Anne	Manski-Nankervis
6	Community acquired pneumonia diagnosis and management in Victorian general practice	Community acquired pneumonia (CAP) is common, however, little is known around rate of infection, diagnosis and management in general practice. This project will analyse data collected from over 100 general practices to investigate the rate of diagnosis, treatment (including antibiotics) and management of CAP in Victoria.	Data driven quality improvement	Dr	Ruby	Biezen
7	How are GPs currently managing patients with suspected community-acquired pneumonia in general practice?	Community acquired pneumonia (CAP) is a highly prevalent infection in the community, one of the most common cause of mortality due to infection. However, little is known about GPs' management of patients with suspected CAP. This project will provide an opportunity for student to explore GPs' diagnosis and management of CAP, including presenting symptoms, guideline adherence, risk assessments and referral pathways through GP interviews.	Data driven quality improvement	Dr	Ruby	Biezen
8	Exploring the outcomes of the Kidney Failure Risk Equation in general practice: a quantative study using the Patron dataset	Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a common condition with a proportion of people with this condition progressing to end stage kidney disease, dialysis and transplant. The Kidney Failure Risk Equation (KFRE) has been validated in a number of countries as a way to calculate the risk of progression to kidney failure. Early detection, management and referral may be able to 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 kidney disease outcomes and to understand the impact of integration of KFRE into routine practice on nephrology referral.	Data driven quality improvement	A/Prof	Jo-Anne	Manski-Nankervis
9	Could we incorporate the Kidney Failure Risk Equation (KFRE) into Australian general practice? A qualitative study exploring the views of GPs and general practice nurses.	Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a common condition with a proportion of people with this condition progressing to end stage kidney disease, dialysis and transplant. The Kidney Failure Risk Equation (KFRE) has been validated in a number of countries as a way to calculate the risk of progression to kidney failure but has not been incorporated into routine practice in Australia. The student will undertake a qualitative study of GPs and nephrologists on their views about the introduction of the KFRE into practice and the barriers and facilitators to use.	Data driven quality improvement	A/Prof	Jo-Anne	Manski-Nankervis
10	Increasing research capacity in general practice - what do general practices need to increase their involvement in clinical trials? A qualitative study.	Clinical trials are key to the development of new models of care and evaluation of new medicines and technologies, however the involvement of general practice in the conduct of clinical trials is low. The student will undertake a qualitative study of GPs, practice nurses and practice managers to understand the factors that would facilitate their increased involvement in clinical trials.	Data driven quality improvement	A/Prof	Jo-Anne	Manski-Nankervis
11	How much is too much: understanding user acceptability of multiple clinical decision support recommendations	Future Health Today provides guideline concordant recommendations for patient management across a number of related chronic disease areas. Some of these recommendations are very similar, but have a primary focus on a different chronic condition. Recent design changes (undertaken with general practice input) have attempted to present these recommendations in a consolidated format. The student would undertake a review of the General Practice (GP/PN) acceptance/perceptions of the presentation of multiple similar recommendations in FHT. Interviews with GP/PNs from a select number of practices (identified using a purposive sampling strategy, selected from practices using FHT) will gather perspectives on the new display and methods of prioritisation, if practices would like control over what they see, and, if possible, some feedback on how they are responding to the recommendations with patients. Outcomes will inform if this is the best solution or if further adaptation is required.	Data driven quality improvement	Dr	Barbara	Hunter
12	Mixed methods evaluation the effect of disease focused communication strategies on use of Future Health Today	Future Health Today provides guideline concordant recommendations for patient management in a number of areas and has expanded from one disease area to five in the last 2 years (comprising a possible 40 recommendations). In 2023 the Future Health Today program will provide practices with a calendar of planned disease specific campaigns (e.g. Heart Health week) and some tips for using Future Health Today to support these campaigns. The student would undertake a snapshot evaluation of the use of FHT in practices with large numbers of recommendations across all available modules, examining engagement with the platform given the increase in recommendations and how the calendar of planned disease specific campaigns was used. Interviews with GP/PNs from a select number of practices (identified using a purposive sampling strategy, selected from practices using FHT) would be undertaken. Outcomes will inform strategies to manage large numbers of Future Health Today modules and recommendations, and inform future program activities and marketing.	Data driven quality improvement	Dr	Barbara	Hunter

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13	Comparing outcomes: statistical analysis of structured versus flexible implementation in Future Health Today	In 2021-2022 the Future Health Today platform was used both in a randomised control trial with a strict schedule of activities and expectations, and more generally in a 'business as usual' model. Analysis of patient outcomes for each arm of the trial (one with the active CKD intervention, the other with the active cancer intervention) will be completed by the end of 2022. The student would be asked to undertake a statistical analysis of patron data for program practices (N=10-12) focusing on the same outcome measures used with trial practices, and then compare findings with the outcomes from the trial. Outcomes will inform whether 'set and forget' approach to FHT has an impact on patient outcomes or if trial-like engagement is required to maximise FHT benefits.	Data driven quality improvement	Dr	Barbara	Hunter
14	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
15	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
16	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 pscyho-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
17	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
18	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
19	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
20	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 fr those who may have have younger onset dementia	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes
21	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
22	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 wen on to receive a diagnosis of dementia . This is a retrospective longitudinal data exploration	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes
23	What's happening? Do parents and young people know what to do and how to access mental health support early	This will be a web-based qualitative exploration of children and parents perceptions of early mental health support. The survey and qualitative interviews will focus on help seeking and early information and education for children, parents and carers.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes
24	Assessing the usability and acceptability of a clinical decision tool and care navigation for GPs to triage children and young people presenting with mental ill health.	A qualitative study to explore barriers and drivers of a clinical predication tool for mental health in children and adolescents and subsequent care navigation. This study will use surveys and/or interviews to elicit GP perception on a mental health prediction tool to help triage patients and refine treatment pathways through care navigation in a local and national context.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes
25	Understanding the nature of multi-disciplinary working across care for the treatment of mental ill-health.	Qualitative study exploring current practice for multi-disciplinary working in the treatment of mental ill health. This study will use surveys and/or interviews to elicit GPs experiences and preferences for multi-disciplinary working in the treatment of mental ill health.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Caroline	Johnson
26	Using Patron Data to track treatment and care of adults with depression and anxiety, in general practice	This project will use Patron Electronic Medical Records data to track the progress of patients attending their GP for help with their mental ill health.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes
27	General practitioner perceptions of depression and anxiety treatment for children in primary care.	Primary and secondary school aged children are increasingly presenting with symptoms of anxiety and depression yet their treatment is often referred out of the GP surgery. This study seeks to determine the perception of GPs of their role in child mental health care and and if there is opportunity to treat children and adolescents sooner and more effectively under within primary and community care.	Integrated Mental Health	Dr	Cath	Kaylor-Hughes

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28	Online support for those affected by miscarriage: What are the needs of same sex individuals and/or couples?	While over 300,000 births are celebrated by parents in Australia each year; at least another 100,000 couples suffered a miscarriage, a distressing event which can cause significant depression and anxiety. Since support is neither routinely offered medically nor easily found, we need an alternative approach to provide those affected by miscarriage with the information to access the support that they need. Web-based services offer confidential, anonymous, convenient support which is equally accessible by the geographically isolated. Miscarriage Australia is developing a website to provide information, support and advice to those affected by miscarriage. However, a gap in our pilot research remains around the online support needs of same-sex individuals and couples affected by miscarriage.	Health Services Research	Dr	Jade	Bilardi
29	Can stem cells be used for Autism? Capturing community perspectives	The student will undertake a literature review to determine what is known about the use of stem cells in autism research. This would include mapping uses in laboratory research to understand the condition, as well as the marketing of unproven cellular interventions to parents who are committed to exploring all options for their children. Interviews will be conducted with people who work in support and advocacy groups within the autism community to capture their views and experience on this issue and the resources that they rely upon to form their knowledge.	Health Services Research	Prof	Meredith	Temple-Smith
30	An evaluation of the Mercy-Utopia Child Health clinic	Since 2020 The Mercy Hospital in Werribee has been running a monthly clinic at Utopia Refugee and Asylum Seeker Health, to manage developmental delays in refugee children. The clinic is a novel partnership with primary and secondary care and based in a community clinic that caters to the needs of the local refugee population. The clinic was set up with a view that this model will improve attendance rates and cost-effectiveness of interventions. This project will evaluate this clinic. It will involve completing a literature review and interviewing staff and patients about the benefits and shortcomings of this initiative.	Health Services Research	Prof	Meredith	Temple-Smith
31	Consumers' views and acceptance of e-prescriptions	This is a qualitative study using a phenomenological approach. Healthcare professionals' views on the use of e-prescriptions have previously been explored. The student will be involved in conducting interviews to explore the views and experience of consumers in the use of e-prescriptions.	Consumer research	Dr	Phyllis	Lau
32	Health risk assessments with consumers	This student project will use a co-design process with consumers and GPs to develop a health risk assessment for use in general practice.	Consumer research	Dr	Phyllis	Lau
33	Consumer views on wearing masks	This is a qualitative study to explore the factors impacting consumer views on wearing mask. The student will be involved in conducting interviews or focus groups to explore the views and experience of consumers in wearing masks.	Consumer research	Dr	Phyllis	Lau
34	The progression of abuse	This project involves secondary analysis of a dataset of women victim/survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) who provided a timeline of abusive behaviour they have experienced. What is the pattern and timeline between different forms of IPV (psychological, physical and sexual)? What types of abusive behaviours come before or after others?	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Elizabeth	McLindon
35	Trauma-informed yoga for survivors of sexual violence	This project involves using surveys with sexual violence survivors to evaluate a trauma-informed yoga program.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Elizabeth	McLindon
36	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
37	Associations between reproductive coercion and health outcomes	This project involves secondary analysis of data from a national online survey of women who have experienced intimate partner violence. The project will examine the associations between experiences of reproductive coercion (pressure or coercion to get or remain pregnant or to terminate a pregnancy) and health outcomes.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	A/Prof	Laura	Tarzia
38	Frequency and type of sexual violence in intimate relationships	This project involves secondary analysis of data from a national online survey of women who have experienced intimate partner violence. The project will examine different types of intimate partner sexual violence and how frequently women experienced them.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	A/Prof	Laura	Tarzia
39	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)	Dr	Elizabeth	McLindon
40	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
41	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 explore ways to respond to staff as both primary family violence and vicarious trauma survivors.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Elizabeth	McLindon
42	Experiences of domestic and family violence and service use among African Australian Migrants	The project will involve a literature review to expore 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
43	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 of male victims of domestic violence.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Dr	Carolina	Navarro
44	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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45	Family violence diagnosis and management in Victorian general practice	Family violence can cause serious and permanent health problems. However, it is often not documented very well in health settings. General practice is usually the first point of care for family violence, however, there is currently limited data around family violence identification and management in this setting. This project will analyse data collected from over 100 general practices to investigate the rate of identification and management of family violence in Victoria.	Sexual Abuse and Family Violence (SAFE)	Prof	Kelsey	Hegarty