



THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

FACULTY OF MEDICAL AND
HEALTH SCIENCES

School of Population Health

Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours)

POPLHLTH 790: Honours Dissertation Topics

2012

Supervisor/s	Section	Project/ Research Area
Dr. Pat Neuwelt p.neuwelt@auckland.ac.nz	Te Kupenga Hauora Maori	<p>Access to primary care for disadvantaged populations; The role of general practice receptionists</p> <p>Project Aims: To explore the views of Auckland general practice receptionists about their role in enabling or limiting access to healthcare for members of disadvantaged populations (This project is part of a wider study)</p>
Dr. Marewa Glover Dr. Vili Nosa m.glover@auckland.ac.nz v.nosa@auckland.ac.nz	Social and Community Health	<p>Innovative interventions to halve smoking prevalence by 2020 as part of the Tobacco Control Research Tūranga</p> <p>Project Aims: We have 2-3 projects running next year that aim to design and test innovative approaches to reducing smoking prevalence among Māori and Pacific Island people. One is a Whānau End Smoking Regional Whānau Ora challenge (WERO), i.e. a group stop smoking contest. The other is a Pacific radio-based stop smoking programme.</p>
Dr. Janet Fanslow j.fanslow@auckland.ac.nz	Social and Community Health	<p>Are there “types” of intimate partner violence?</p> <p>Project Aims: Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a significant public health issue, with 1 in 3 New Zealand women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime. Although we have gained understanding of the scale of the long-term health consequences of IPV, other questions remain. One of these is if intimate partner violence is a homogeneous phenomenon, or if broad scale measures of prevalence mask identification of different types of violence occurring in relationships (such as violence motivated by the stress, or violence motivated by the desire to control). The aim of this project is to conduct a structured literature review to explore the theoretical and empirical basis for different “types’ of IPV.</p>

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Prof. Shanthi Ameratunga Dr. Bridget Kool Dr. Iris Wainiqolo s.ameratunga@auckland.ac.nz b.kool@auckland.ac.nz	Epidemiology and Biostatistics	<p>Predictors of car crashes in Fiji: a population-based case-control study</p> <p>Project Aims: To conduct a critical review of the literature on vehicle related factors associated with car crashes in low- and middle-income countries To characterise the prevalence of vehicle related risks in a population-based road survey in Fiji To conduct a case-control analysis to identify potentially modifiable vehicle-related factors associated with fatal and/or hospitalised car crashes in Fiji</p>
Dr. Kim Dirks Dr. Jennifer Salmond k.dirks@auckland.ac.nz	Epidemiology and Biostatistics/ School of Environment	<p>The impact of adverse weather on school attendance among primary school children</p> <p>Project Aims: To investigate the relationship between unexplained school absenteeism and adverse weather conditions To determine whether the relationship changes with decile rating of the school (This project will be carried out with the help of the Child Poverty Action Group)</p>
Dr. Sherly Parackal Dr. Elsie Ho s.parackal@auckland.ac.nz	Social and Community Health	<p>Migration experiences for first generation Asian immigrants and its health impacts</p> <p>Project Aims: Gain an understanding of experiences related to migration and settlement and its impact on self-reported health status</p>

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<p>Dr. Cameron Grant</p> <p>cc.grant@auckland.ac.nz</p>	<p>Paediatrics</p>	<p>Can a vitamin D drop a day keep the doctor away?</p> <p>This project will create a database of the electronic primary care and hospital records of women and children enrolled in a vitamin D supplementation trial. We will identify the visits that the children have made to their GP and to hospitals because of a respiratory infection. We will determine if the children who have received vitamin D make fewer respiratory illness visits to their GP. We will determine if children without vitamin D deficiency have fewer or less severe respiratory infections. This information will help determine whether vitamin D supplementation should be given to all pregnant women and young children in New Zealand.</p> <p>Project Aims: To determine whether respiratory infections can be prevented by preventing vitamin D deficiency</p>
<p>Dr. Kim Dirks Dr. Jennifer Salmond Dr. Seosamh Costello</p> <p>k.dirks@auckland.ac.nz</p>	<p>Epidemiology and Biostatistics/ Environment/ Engineering</p>	<p>Air pollution exposure minimisation in walking school bus routes</p> <p>Project Aims: To determine typical air pollution exposures and uptake for children commuting to school by walking school buses compared with those travelling by car To determine the extent to which exposure can be minimised by taking into account surface meteorology and traffic flow patterns when planning walking school bus routes</p>

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Assoc. Prof. Nicola North n.north@auckland.ac.nz	Health Systems	<p>Investigating Health Management Competencies</p> <p>There is increasing evidence that competent management and effective leadership in health services is related to performance, evidenced in a preliminary review of literature we have undertaken. The New Zealand Institute of Health management has approached us regarding conducting a study among health service managers to better understand the health management workforce and management competencies.</p> <p>Project Aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify from literature possible research approaches that could be used or adopted To interview purposively selected stakeholders and health managers regarding the preferred focus of a New Zealand study To prepare a research proposal
Prof. Alistair Woodward a.woodward@auckland.ac.nz	SOPH	<p>A History of New Zealand Birth-Weights</p> <p>There is growing interest in the relationship between events that affect fetal growth and the health of the neonate and diseases in later life. What is not clear is how much improvements in maternal care have contributed to the dramatic reductions in all cause mortality and the incidence of cardiovascular disease. Birth-weight serves as a marker of fetal well-being and is widely recorded and well documented. The purpose of this project would be to review the New Zealand literature, routinely recorded statistics on birth outcomes, and if necessary, explore local archives. The primary output will be a description of time trends in birth weights, for different ethnic groups, over as long a time period as possible, and discussion of the likely reasons for what is observed. Subsequent analyses might explore the implications for disease risk in adulthood.</p>

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<p>Dr. Rob McNeill Assoc. Prof. Toni Ashton Dr. Tim Tenbense Dr. P. Carswell</p> <p>r.mcneill@auckland.ac.nz toni.ashton@auckland.ac.nz t.tenbense@auckland.ac.nz p.carswell@auckland.ac.nz</p>	<p>Health Systems</p>	<p>Quality of Primary Health Care in New Zealand: Analysis of the QUALICOPC New Zealand GP and Patient Data</p> <p>The QUALICOPC study (short for: Quality and Costs of Primary Care in Europe) aims to evaluate primary care systems in 31 European countries against the criteria of quality, equity and costs. Primary care is defined as the first level of professional care where people present their health problems and where the majority of the population's curative and preventive health needs are satisfied. 4-5 selected non-European countries were also invited to take part in this study and New Zealand was one of those selected.</p> <p>As part of the study a random sample of GPs and their patients have been surveyed to explore various aspects of quality within the GP setting. This project will involve the analysis of some aspect of this existing data set. The exact focus of the project can be negotiated with the investigators (Ashton, McNeill, Tenbense & Carswell).</p>