



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Health

# Human Research Ethics Committee

Project Summaries for Approved  
Proposals

October to December 2012 Quarter

## Project Summaries for Proposals Approved by the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee - October to December 2012 Quarter

The material contained in this document is made available to assist researchers, institutions and the general public in searching for projects that have ethics approval from the Department of Health Human Research Ethics Committee (DOH HREC). It contains Lay Description/Summaries available for the October to December 2012 quarter.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Public Health Approach to Child Abuse and Neglect: Antecedents and Outcomes</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Melissa O'Donnell		
<b>Institution</b>	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 April 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	30 June 2016

Children who experience maltreatment are at higher risk of poor mental health, education and juvenile justice outcomes. However, new research is emerging which indicates that children's family circumstances prior to maltreatment may be a stronger predictor of outcomes. The study will investigate the role of familial risk factors and type of maltreatment in the increasing risk of poor outcomes for children. The study will also determine whether remaining in the family home or being placed in out of home care has an effect on children's outcomes.

This study will also identify and monitor the risk and resilience factors that may increase or reduce vulnerability to child maltreatment, as well as examine changes in these factors over time. By understanding the risk and protective factors at the child, family and community level it is possible to identify areas of need for early intervention/prevention in the community. The study will use geographical mapping to determine areas where maltreatment is more or less prevalent and how they relate to the prevalence of risk factors.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Exposure to Perinatal Inflammation and Risk of Hospitalisation with Infection in Childhood in Extremely Premature Infants</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Tobias Strunk		
<b>Institution</b>	King Edward Memorial Hospital, Neonatal Clinical Care Unit		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 October 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 March 2014

Preterm infants are extremely susceptible to serious infections and this persists well into childhood. It was previously shown that preterm infants exposed to inflammation of the placenta before birth have a lower risk of late bloodstream infection during the neonatal period, but it is unclear whether this protective effect is long-lasting.

This project therefore aims to characterise the risk of infection during the first 24 months in a large cohort of very preterm infants in whom detailed data is available on placental inflammation, neonatal complications and link these to data relating to hospital presentations and hospital admissions with infection.

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Epidemiology of Oesophageal Atresia in Western Australia</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Winthrop Research Professor Carol Bower		
<b>Institution</b>	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 August 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2014
<p>The oesophagus is the tube that carries food to the stomach. If the tube is closed it is called oesophageal atresia. Babies with oesophageal atresia are usually treated with surgery in the first few days of life and may need more surgery later on, especially as they grow. This study will look at when and how babies with oesophageal atresia are reported, the hospital treatment received and their outcomes.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Evaluation of COAG Aboriginal health liaison officer program in South Metropolitan Area Health Services (SMAHS)</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Judith Katzenellenbogen		
<b>Institution</b>	Curtin University of Technology		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 September 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	30 April 2013
<p>This study aims to investigate whether there has been a change in hospital use among Aboriginal people using four South Metropolitan Health Service hospitals since the introduction of the Aboriginal Health Liaison Officers program, with special reference to emergency department attendance, re-admissions and discharges against medical advice. It will use anonymous, person-linked hospital information of all Aboriginal people admitted to those hospitals, irrespective of whether they had contact with the program.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Epidemiology of Anaphylaxis in Western Australia (EPAWA)</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Associated Professor Rhonda Clifford		
<b>Institution</b>	The University of Western Australia, School of Medicine and Pharmacology		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 August 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 May 2015
<p>Anaphylaxis is a severe form of allergy that may rapidly cause death. Although this was once a rare condition, between 2002 and 2010 there was a fourteen-fold increase in anaphylaxis presentations to WA emergency departments. However, there is no published research describing the epidemiology of anaphylaxis in WA. There is a need for accurate data on persons at risk of anaphylaxis, number of cases of anaphylaxis each year and whether treatment with self-administered adrenaline autoinjectors is used in the community.</p> <p>This study will examine anaphylaxis rates and trends in WA from 1980-2012, and investigate management of acute anaphylaxis from 2007-2012 using linked hospital and St John Ambulance records (provided through the WA Data Linkage System, hospital and St John Ambulance notes).</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Evaluation of the Trends and Outcomes for Women Screened for, and Diagnosed with Precursor Lesions or Cervical Carcinoma: A Western Australian Perspective Utilising Data Linkage</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Professor James Semmens		
<b>Institution</b>	Curtin University		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 September 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2014
<p>The purpose of this study is to investigate the health outcomes of women diagnosed with a confirmed high-grade squamous abnormality or invasive cervical carcinoma and how this was affected by screening pathways. This retrospective study will incorporate data from the WA Cervical Cytology Register (CCR) and administrative data sets such as death registrations, hospital morbidity data and Cancer Registry in the population-based evaluation of the cervical screening process.</p> <p>This research will provide for the first time, high quality information from the CCR and the above linked administrative data sets will be analysed to investigate health outcomes subsequent to abnormal cervical test results and how these outcomes compare to outcomes for cervical lesions not diagnosed through screening pathways.</p> <p>This study will contribute to the evidence-base for improving health service utilisation, prevention and the epidemiology of cervical carcinoma. This study is timely as findings will assist the renewal of the National Cervical Screening Program (NCSP) and its comprehensive review to develop a current and best-practice screening policy and guidelines.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Identifying Opportunities for Preventing Respiratory Infections in Children Through Integrating Population-Based Health and Laboratory Data</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Hannah Moore		
<b>Institution</b>	Telethon Institute for Child Health Research		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 June 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2015
<p>Chest infections, like influenza and pneumonia, are a major cause of illness in children. By bringing together information that is stored on public records, the project will describe the contributions of viruses and bacteria that are associated with chest infections in Western Australian children over a 16 year period.</p> <p>The study will look at how multiple infections (when two or more viruses or bacteria are found at the same time) affect the severity of illness. The study will also see if vaccines designed for chest infections have reduced hospital and emergency department visits. This information will identify opportunities where a reduction in the number of children affected by chest infections can be made.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Survival, Hospitalisations and School Achievement for Children Born with Cleft Lip and Palate in Western Australia, from 1980 to 2010</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Natasha Nassar		
<b>Institution</b>	University of Sydney, Kolling Institute for Medical Research		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 September 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	30 June 2015
<p>The project is to study if survival, hospital admissions and school achievement for children with cleft lip and palate are any different to children without a cleft. Some overseas studies have suggested that some children with a cleft may not do as well at school. The few large studies that have looked at hospital admissions for children with cleft lip or palate report more admissions and longer hospital stays, but the reasons children spend these times in hospital have not been reported.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>The Incidence of Cardiovascular Disease and the Distribution of Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease Among People with Psychosis in Western Australia 1970-2011</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Adjunct Associated Professor Milan Dragovic		
<b>Institution</b>	The University of Western Australia, School of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 September 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2018
<p>This project aims to find out how many people with psychosis in Western Australia also had cardiovascular disease since 1970. Three groups of people will be looked at: people with psychosis, other people with mental illness and people with no mental illness.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Mortality and Morbidity in Opiate Dependent Patients and their Offspring Following Treatment with Methadone, Buprenorphine or Implant Naltrexone</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Professor Gary Hulse		
<b>Institution</b>	The University of Western Australia		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 September 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 August 2015
<p>This study aims to examine and compare the safety of three drug therapies for opiate dependence: methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone, in subjects treated between 2001 and 2010 using routinely collected health data sets. The rates of health events in the three treatment groups will also be compared to a group of controls selected from the electoral roll. Additionally the study will examine the safety associated with each of the treatments in women during pregnancy and the health of their offspring. The health of offspring exposed to methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone will be compared to the health of offspring born to women in the control group.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Developing and Validating a Job Exposure Matrix to Assess Occupational Exposures to Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDCs) in Relation to Birth Outcomes</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Assistant Professor Adeleh Shirangi		
<b>Institution</b>	School of Population Health, The University of Western Australia		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 September 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2016
<p>In Australia, each year about 300,000 children are born and of those approximately 10% (30,000) are low birthweight, born before than 37 weeks of gestation, stillborn, have inadequate fetal growth or die within 28 days after they were born. It has been suggested that fetal growth, mortality and duration of gestation are influenced by parental occupation and environmental exposures in the working environment. A population based birth cohort data linkage study will be undertaken to identify which of the occupations that are likely to provide exposure to environmental teratogens and are associated with poor perinatal outcomes.</p> <p>The study will provide evidence for public health policy recommendations related to occupational risk reduction which in turn will reduce the rate of inadequate fetal growth associated with occupational exposures, promoting a healthy start to life.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Outcomes of <i>Staphylococcus Aureus</i> Bacteraemia: Methicillin-Resistant vs Methicillin-Susceptible Organisms</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Dr Lai Kin Yaw		
<b>Institution</b>	Royal Perth Hospital, Critical Care Division		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 December 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 December 2013
<p><i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (<i>S. aureus</i>) sepsis, either community or health-care associated, poses an important threat to patients. <i>S. aureus</i> infection can be due to Methicillin-sensitive <i>S. aureus</i> (MSSA) or Methicillin-resistant <i>S. aureus</i> (MRSA). Either MSSA or MRSA bacteraemia is an extreme form of <i>Staphylococcus</i> infections and is well recognised as a major cause of mortality. The long-term morbidity and mortality outcomes of <i>S. aureus</i> bacteraemia due to MSSA and MRSA infection beyond a few years are not available in an Australian setting.</p> <p>The aim of this study is to investigate the determinants of long-term outcomes of patients who had <i>S. aureus</i> bacteraemia (SAB) at Royal Perth Hospital between 1997 and 2007. In particular, the study would like to assess whether MRSA bacteraemia will have a higher incidence of long-term morbidity and mortality after controlling for pre-existing comorbidity of the patients.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>The Effect of Prophylactic, Risk Reducing Prophylactic Surgery on Survival Among Patients with a History of Breast Cancer</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Professor Andreas Obermair		
<b>Institution</b>	Queensland Centre for Gynaecological Cancer Research		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 September 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	8 December 2013
<p>The aim of the study is to evaluate the ovarian cancer incidence in patients with a history of breast cancer. It is documented that breast cancer poses a risk for the development of ovarian cancer, and genetic links have been established. However the risk of the development of ovarian cancer after breast cancer in Australia has not yet been studied. This research aims to evaluate the incidence of ovarian cancer in patients with a history of breast cancer. It also aims to evaluate the time between the two events, and interventions which may have contributed to this interval.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Partnership Intervention Trial to Redress Treatment Delay and Improve Outcomes in Rural Cancer Patients (the 'IRCO Trial'): Evaluation Phase - Tranche I</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Professor D'Arcy Holman		
<b>Institution</b>	University of Western Australia		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 January 2013	<b>Finish Date</b>	30 June 2014
<p>Improving the poor outcomes in Australian cancer patients living in rural and remote areas is a national priority, but there is as yet insufficient evidence on how the problem is best tackled. In this project, partner organisations that deliver cancer services in non-metropolitan WA will team with experienced researchers to develop a 'best prospects' package of interventions targeting the community, medical and other health practitioners and patients with cancer; and to evaluate the effectiveness of the package using a scientifically valid randomised controlled trial.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Colonoscopy Services and Outcomes in Western Australia (WA). Population-based Studies Using Linked WA Data</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Professor Jane Heyworth		
<b>Institution</b>	Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, The University of Western Australia		
<b>Start Date</b>	1 August 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	31 May 2014
<p>Bowel cancer is the second most common cause of death from cancer in Western Australia. The Australian government has funded a screening program called the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) that uses a stool test (FOBT) to detect pre-cancerous lesions and cancers at an earlier stage where treatment has better outcomes. Undergoing an FOBT every 2 years over the age of 50 reduces the risk of dying from bowel cancer. People with a positive stool test then need to have a colonoscopy. Colonoscopies examine the inside of the bowel. However no test is 100%. It is important to make sure that there is adequate provision of colonoscopy services, and that there are good outcomes after colonoscopy in WA.</p>			

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Linkage of Monitoring of Drugs of Dependence Data Collection</b>		
<b>Principal Investigator</b>	Mr Neil Keen		
<b>Institution</b>	Department of Health		
<b>Start Date</b>	12 December 2012	<b>Finish Date</b>	Ongoing
<p>The Data Linkage Unit will conduct regular linkages of the patient records in the Monitoring of Drugs of Dependence System (MODDS) to improve the quality of the information held within the system and facilitate provision of linkable extracts to researchers who have gained appropriate ethics and custodian approvals.</p> <p>Information from the linkage process will be used to join records or update death status of patient records in the MODDS. This information will assist the Pharmaceutical Services Branch of the Department of Health in monitoring the use of Schedule 8 medicines in WA. The MODDS linkage infrastructure will also be available for researchers wishing to study factors associated with the use of drugs of dependence.</p>			

Note: minor amendments have been made to summaries to comply with the Department of Health *WA Health Writing Style Guide*.





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