As I review 2015 and the Schools accomplishments, I would like to acknowledge all of the SoNM staff and students and their dedication to Nursing and Midwifery that makes each year so rewarding. I would also like to thank all of our partners, including Local Health Districts, community and professional associations who contributed to our success.

There have been many highlights this year. The Making a Difference in Healthcare forum was particularly memorable with guest speaker Professor Debora Picone AM, Chief Executive Officer for the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care giving an amusing and compelling presentation on the topic “Leadership for Safety and Quality in Healthcare”. Our one day conference “Leadership for Nursing and Midwifery Excellence: 2015 and beyond” offered insights into leadership from seven highly respected national and international leaders in Nursing and Midwifery.

2015 saw another cohort of graduates move forward to begin their careers as the next generation of registered nurses. As always I enjoyed seeing our graduates walk across the floor at graduation and I was gratified to hear that so many had secured graduate positions, a testament to the skills, knowledge and attitudes that the School strives to impart to all students.

The School continues to build its reputation for research success and in 2015 Professor Deborah Parker (from University of Queensland) was appointed Director, Centre for Applied Nursing Research and Professor Lynn Kemp (from the University of New South Wales) established the research group Translational Research and Social Innovation (TReSI) and both have quickly established themselves at the SoNM research centre located at the Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research at Liverpool Hospital. A second new research group Collaboration for Oral Health Outcomes, Research, Translation & Evaluation (COHORT(E)) directed by Dr. Ajesh George was also established in 2015 and is also located in the Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research. The Centre for Nursing Research and Practice Development continues to actively promote nursing research and practice development in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District and all research groups are actively contributing to the increase in Higher Degree Research (HDR) students and currently over forty staff are supervising HDR students.

As might be expected in a large and complex School, we had a number of staff changes during the year. Associate Professor Amanda Johnson has moved to the Australian Catholic University and Associate Professor Athena Sheehan, previously from the University of Technology Sydney joined the Midwifery team. Dr. Deborah Hatcher has stepped into the demanding role of Acting Deputy Dean, Learning and Teaching while Associate Professor Cecily Hengstberger-Sims is on leave, ensuring the continued development and success of our programs. This year also saw the retirement of Dr Jan Sayers and Dr Sandi Mackey, while Dr Lynda Holden transferred to the School of Law.

As you will be aware, the University has introduced a new brand identity and positioning that affirms our place in Western Sydney and the world. Our new identity reflects the pride we take in our place, our role in the community, and our growing international reach.
and reputation as a student-centred and research-led university. You may have seen some of the media activity around the new name including the popular video about Deng Thiak Adut which highlights the importance of the University’s mission and ethical stance in supporting the people of Greater Western Sydney.

I thank everyone in the School for their efforts this year and thank you for your ongoing commitment and interest in School. It is a pleasure working with you all and I look forward to 2016.

Professor Rhonda Griffiths AM
Dean, School of Nursing and Midwifery

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Research

Research in progress

Two new Research groups have been established, Translational Research and Social Innovation (TreSI) and Collaboration for Oral Health Outcomes, Research, Translation & Evaluation (COHORTE) both based at the Ingham Institute of Applied Medical Research, South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD).

The School also continues to host the New South Wales Centre for Evidence Based Health Care which is the NSW Collaborating Centre for the Joanna Briggs Institute. The Institute has over 60 Collaborating Centres servicing over 90 countries, and the number of Centres is increasing which provides opportunities for international research collaborations. Collectively these research concentrations contribute to innovations in models of care and health service environments. These concentrations are closely aligned with health and research national priorities.

During 2015 two new professors were appointed. Professor Deborah Parker is Professor of Nursing and Director CANR which is funded jointly with the South West Sydney Local Health District. Professor Lynn Kemp is Professor of Nursing and Director of the research group TreSI which is a University funded position. A Professor of Mental Health, also with joint SWSLHD funding, has been appointed and will commence in early 2016.

Professor Esther Chang is a named collaborator and Mentor on a successful NHMRC Post Doc Fellowship led by Dr. Sandra Garrido through the NHMRC Dementia Framework. The fellowship will commence in January 2016 and provides funding for 4 years ($601,000). Fellow collaborators and Mentors are Professor Kate Stevens, MARCS Institute and Professors Jane Ussher and Janette Perz, Centre for Health Research, School of Medicine.

Professor Esther Chang, School of Nursing and Midwifery; Professor Caroline Smith, National Institute of Complementary Medicine; and Dr. Gisselle Gallego, Adjunct Fellow, School of Medicine were successful in an IRT Foundation Research Grant for the Project: An educational intervention to improve health literacy and decision making about supporting self-advice and decision making among older Australians: A randomised controlled trial. The value of the grant is $77,800. Only two of 65 applications were funded by the HRT Foundation.

Dr. Cathy Dickson and Dr. Ajesh George have been successful with their application for funding to support their project titled Early Childhood Oral Health Online Module Development for Child & Family Health Students. The funding of $28,580 is from the Director of The Centre for Oral Health Strategy.

Seven SoNM staff (Dr. Elaine Burns, Dr. Rakime Elmir, Dr. Diana Jefferies, Dr. Rebecca O’Reilly, Dr. Holly Priddis, Dr. Lucie Ramjan and Dr. Peter Lewis) were successful in obtaining grants for Researcher Development Strategic Initiative Funding; Women’s Fellowship Scheme & ECR Research Support Scheme from the Office of the DVC (Research and Development) totalling $133,093.25.

Dr. Evan Alexandrou is a member of the ‘One Million Global (OMG) Peripheral Intravenous Catheters’ research team investigating the impact of peripheral intravenous catheters (PIVC). The study is the first of its kind, and will provide a snapshot of the prevalence of catheter use and complications, such as patient discomfort and delays in vital treatment. This unfunded study has now gone global (over 400 hospitals in 65 countries), resonating with the clinicians, particularly nurses, worldwide. Most research related to PIVCs is conducted and reported in economically developed nations, with the use and management of PIVCs in developing nations largely unknown.

The project team is a collaboration between researchers from Western Sydney and Griffith University and is expecting results later this year. Dr Steve Frost is also CI on this project.

Dr. Evan Alexandrou is CI 6 on a research project funded by NHMRC for $1,101,717.35 lead by Prof. Claire Rickard, Dr Li Zhang and Dr Samantha Keogh from the Centre for Health Practice Innovation Griffith University. Less than 18% of applications were funded so this is an outstanding achievement. The project “Peripherally InSerted CEntral catheter Securement: the PISCES Trial” is multi-site and Evan is the content expert and lead researcher at Liverpool Hospital.
MIFam: The Mother Infant & Family Health Research Network

A vibrant, collaborative research program aiming to improve health outcomes for women in pregnancy and birth, infants and children, parents and families through the early years.

Led by Professors Virginia Schmied and Hannah Dahlen, MIFam has a strong presence in Sydney’s west, working with women, families, health and community groups as well as with national and international researchers. The program which is funded by the Australian Research Council in partnership with Karitane and Tresillian Family Care Centres, embraces the diversity of cultures, groups and their experiences.

MIFam research program areas

- Improving pregnancy birth experiences and outcomes, including understanding the impact of interventions and health complication on maternal and infant outcomes.
- Ensuring optimal parental social and emotional health in the pregnancy and the early childhood years.
- Promoting healthy parenting and infant feeding practices.
- Improving service design, delivery and professional practice to meet the needs of women, children and families.

Across these key areas the MIFam Network is increasingly turning attention to the needs of women and their families who were not born in Australia, who are migrants or refugees, from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

This year we have welcomed several new researchers from the SoNM to the Network including Prof. Lynn Kemp who leads the Translational Research and Social Innovation (TReSi) group within the School and Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, Dr. Jann Foster and Dr. Kim Psaila who are leading a new stream of work within MIFam related to the care of children requiring neonatal intensive care and support for their parents. Member Dr. Karleen Gribble was appointed as Adjunct Associate Professor in 2015.

Key 2015 MIFam Projects

Characteristics, trends, co-admissions and service needs of women admitted to residential parenting services in the year following birth in NSW

(Prof. Hannah Dahlen, Prof. Virginia Schmied & Prof. Cathrine Fowler)

This ARC Linkage grant is being undertaken with partners Karitane and Tresillian. The aim of this study is to examine the clinical and demographic characteristics, trends, service needs and co-admissions to residential services of Tresillian and Karitane in NSW from 2000-2010. Specifically this study will:

1) determine the clinical characteristics (pregnancy and birth complications, common obstetric interventions, postpartum physical and mental health), demographics (parity, age, residence and health insurance status) and the relationship between these variables of women and infants admitted to residential parenting services (RPS) in NSW in the period 2000 to 2010 and determine whether these have changed over the past decade;

2) describe the pathways including service utilisation (e.g. general practitioner (GP), child & family health nursing services (CFHN), family support) and parenting experiences of women prior to admission;

3) examine the relationship between use of RPS and admission to other health services in the year following birth;

4) identify the skills set, training and support needs of RPS staff.

To date the team has completed a review of the literature, undertaken focus groups with staff and undertaken reviews of 300 medical records. The Linked Data provides some significant findings that will enhance the understanding of clinicians as to why some women and babies require the assistance of residential parenting services and what services can do to prevent and modify the factors associated with these admissions.
POstnatal Processes & Pathway (POPPY): A study investigating postnatal pathways and care for women and their babies in NSW

(Prof. Virginia Schmied, Dr. Elaine Burns, Dr. Joanne Curry, Prof. Hannah Dahlen, Ms Debra Matha (NSW Health), Ms Catherine Price (SWSLHD), Ms Anne McKenzie (SWSLHD)

The aims of the POPPY study are:

1) To identify the gaps and duplication in postnatal processes, pathways and care provided to women and their babies by mapping the current ‘patient journey’ from birth to 12 weeks postpartum for women and babies at low risk for health complications.

2) To design, in collaboration with study partners, system and care innovations to improve the postnatal woman and baby journey.

This study is funded by a Western Sydney University partnership grant between Western and NSW Health Office of Kids and Families. The study will enable the team of researchers, policy makers and clinicians to redesign in-hospital and community based postnatal services for well women and babies. Following this, they plan to map woman and baby journeys across different models of care including caseload and to map pathways for women and babies with complex, physical and/or mental health problems and examining multidisciplinary team processes.

MASTER OF CHILD AND FAMILY HEALTH (KARITANE)

The Master of Child & Family Health (Karitane) aims to provide Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives with theoretical knowledge and associated skills that prepare them to work autonomously and across a variety of clinical settings with children and families.

Graduates will be able to apply advanced nursing concepts and analysis to promote optimal health outcomes for children and families. This will include among other things, design implementation and evaluation of advanced clinical nursing care systems, analysis and synthesis of nursing concepts leading to a basis for advanced nursing practice and the facilitation of change. Opportunities will be provided for students to undertake in-depth study into aspects of child and family health relevant to their specific areas of practice.

Career Opportunities

Child and family health nurses may work in integrated service models in:
- primary settings, including home visiting and centre based services
- secondary level service delivery including family care centres, sustained home visiting programmes and outreach specialist services
- tertiary level service delivery including residential family care facilities

For more information, please call our Course Information Centre on 1300 897 669 or email postgraduate@westernsydney.edu.au

Nurses who work with families with young children will find this qualification enhances their skills and knowledge, and promotes working in partnership with families to provide effective help.
Awards and Prizes

2015 SWSLHD Quality Awards

The newly formed collaborative research group between SoNM/CANR and South Western Sydney Local Health District Oral Health Services – COHORTE (Collaboration for Oral Health Outcomes, Research, Translation and Evaluation) has been recognised in the 2015 SWSLHD Quality Awards. The submission, “Partnering to improve oral health of Aboriginal children” won the Quality Award under the category - Excellence in Provision of Care and Service to Aboriginal Clients.

The project was also selected for submission to the NSW Health Awards 2015 under the category ‘Preventative Health’.

Research Impact Competition

Dr. Evan Alexandrou won the inaugural Research Impact Competition against thirteen other finalists from other schools and institutes. The competition aims to illuminate and celebrate sites of realised and / or potential impact through the university’s research. Evan’s winning presentation was his ongoing multicentre trial in IV lines, "One Million Global Catheters Worldwide Prevalence Study”.

Learning Impact Awards

The Learning Impact Awards recognise the most powerful and influential uses of technology worldwide in support of learning worldwide. The School of Nursing and Midwifery won 2nd place at the 2015 Australian Finals of the Learning Impact Awards in the Blended Learning Optimisation category. This category focuses on evolving traditional educational delivery models featuring seamless technology environment for teachers and students to support effective combinations of online, classroom and in-context learning. SoNM Blended Learning Designer Con Athanasiou prepared the video entry that was reviewed at the competition and will be an entry in the Global finals in 2016.

SoNM Researcher shines at 2015 NSW Woman of the Year Awards

Professor Lynn Kemp was a finalist in the Premier’s Award for Woman of the Year 2015 which recognises the outstanding contribution women across NSW make to industry, community and society, and celebrates their significant achievements.

SoNM Blended Learning Designer recognised as an Apple Distinguished Educator

Con Athanasiou has been selected as an Apple Distinguished Educator in recognition of the work he is undertaking in the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Con is one of only two people selected from higher education facilities in Australia. The Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) Program began in 1994, when Apple recognised K-12 and higher education pioneers who are using a variety of Apple products to transform teaching and learning in powerful ways. Today it has grown into a worldwide community of over 2,000 visionary educators and innovative leaders who are doing amazing things with Apple technology in and out of the classroom. Con travelled to Singapore in August to accept his award.
Western Sydney University 2015 Western Warrior

Rebecca Stamopoulos was awarded the 2015 Western Warrior Runner Up Award for her significant contribution to the Western web rebrand. The school maintains a significant online footprint and Rebecca successfully transitioned the School to the new branding.

University Awards 2015

Associate Professor Yenna Salamonson, Dr Jane Koch and Rebecca Stamopoulos and team members from other areas of the University received a University Learning and Teaching Awards Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning for their work on the Student Transition, Retention and Success (STaRS) program. The program has been established to provide institutional leadership and strategic oversight and direction to planning and implementation of initiatives and activities to support student transition and enhance the first year student experience.

Professor Hannah Dahlen was runner up in the Vice Chancellors Excellence Awards for Excellence in Postgraduate Research, Training and Supervision.

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MIDWIFERY

The Graduate Diploma in Midwifery is a course for registered nurses wishing to pursue a career in Midwifery - the art and science of providing holistic care to the woman and family throughout the childbearing process. The course provides you with the opportunity to gain a recognised tertiary qualification and registration to practice midwifery. It is presented in conjunction with public hospitals in Sydney and is approved and recognised by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency / Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. There is one intake a year in January.

Career Opportunities

Graduates may pursue careers in midwifery.

For more information, please call our Course Information Centre on 1300 897 669 or email postgraduate@westernsydney.edu.au
New Director for CANR

Professor Deborah Parker commenced as the new Director, Centre for Applied Nursing Research, in July this year. Deborah has three main areas of research: palliative care for older people, dementia and health service evaluation for which she has received over $24 million in research funding. This research incorporates her clinical background as a registered nurse with extensive research training and experience in aged care and palliative care. Deborah was also appointed to the position of Director of the New South Wales Centre for Evidence Based Care, a Joanna Briggs Collaborating Centre.

Successful grants

CANR has been involved in three successful grants through the NSW Health Nursing and Midwifery Office Strategic Funds. These projects are:

- Ioannou S, Holter G, Thomas V, Seremetkoska M, Oakley N, Morris J, Everett B. Bridging language barriers for CALD patients. $21,927
- Everett B, Schofield K, Giavan M, Berry D, Perey A, Womsley K, Smith L, Parker D. PEEP – End of life care presentations to the emergency department for community palliative care patients. $13,626

Projects

Safely Administering Medications and Managing Interruptions Pilot (SAMMI-P): A cluster randomised controlled trial

Adverse medication events extend the duration of stay for inpatients and increase recovery time. In Phase 1a of the SAMMI project which examined the nature of interruptions during medication administration, it was identified that most nurses (99%) were interrupted, predominantly by other nurses (40%) and patients (21%). Errors resulting from interruptions included clinical errors (e.g., medication given at the wrong time) and procedural failures (e.g., failure to adequately check patient ID). A subsequent review of the 1259 medication errors in the IIMS database found 11% were caused by an interruption, either self-initiated or due to system failure. Therefore, interruptions represent an urgent area for practice change. Phase 1b of the project commenced this year within three hospitals in the South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD). This includes a baseline review of medication interruptions and an educational video developed by the project team for all nursing staff in the intervention wards. Following the education a re-audit of medication interruptions will be conducted.

PONCHO (Point of Community Nursing Care Documentation Healthy Outcomes)

Mobile computing technology is increasingly being adopted by health care organisations to promote information accessibility and support the communication needs of clinicians. The aim of this study is to systematically evaluate the use of tablet devices (‘point of care devices’) used by Community Health Nurses to enhance health care delivery to community dwelling clients. Information regarding tablet use is being collected from community clients via a survey and from staff on tablet use via surveys and focus groups.

Safety Huddles

Highly Commended - Australian Council on Healthcare Standards 2015 Annual Quality Improvement Awards
A CANR-supported project to reduce falls risk has been awarded Highly Commended in the ‘Clinical Excellence and Patient Safety’ category in the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards 2015 Annual Quality Improvement Awards. Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett, Deputy Director of CANR has been working with Mr Brian Lane, Nurse Unit Manager from the Camden Rehabilitation Unit in South Western Sydney Local Health District to evaluate the project and develop an educational resource for patients and staff.

The project titled ‘Implementation of a Safety Huddle for Falls and Near Miss Falls in a Rehabilitation Unit’ beat over 50 submissions in its category to be awarded Highly Commended. The aim of the project was to reduce repeat inpatient falls, and near miss falls, by focusing on and involving the patient when implementing a ‘Safety Huddle’ consisting of a NUM led multidisciplinary review of the fall or near miss fall.

The project has been listed on the Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) Innovation Exchange which provides a collaborative online space to share and promote local innovation and improvement projects and resources. See http://www.aci.health.nsw.gov.au/ie/projects/safety-huddle

The Centre for Applied Nursing Research, Western Sydney University and SWSLHD Oral Health Services collaborated to create a new video, providing practical advice on maintaining good dental health during pregnancy. Keep Smiling While You are Pregnant was funded by a grant of almost $33,000 from NSW Kids and Families and is an initiative of the District’s Midwifery Initiated Oral Health Dental Service. Dr Ajesh George said hormonal changes, morning sickness and food cravings in pregnant women made them particularly susceptible to poor oral health. “Poor oral health in pregnant women can increase the risk of early dental decay in infants and may contribute to lower birth weight and even premature births. “Women who have untreated dental decay can nearly double the chance that their children will have early dental decay after birth,” Dr George said. The ten minute video is available at http://youtu.be/H5R24RjZiPE

The Western Sydney News Centre reported on the project in Importance of dental health in pregnancy highlighted

The MIOH program has received positive feedback from midwives who have completed the program;

“13 midwives working at Peninsula Health completed MIOH between early 2014 and early 2015. This was the first successful clustering of MIOH recruitment of a number of midwives in one service. An e-referral process was also established through the local working group and midwives were one of the first groups to pilot and use the system. While this e-referral system is being promoted with a wide range of professionals in the local area, our contact reported that the best results have been seen with midwives and believes that the training has been a critical success factor. Thanks to Dr Ajesh George and partners for a great online training package!”

Allison Ridge, Health Promotion Program Manager - Healthy Families, Healthy Smiles, Dental Health Services Victoria
PhD Students affiliated with CANR

**Maria Mares**  
Maria is undertaking research on cardiovascular health/cardiac rehabilitation. Her PhD project ‘Raising health literacy awareness of patients with heart disease to improve self-management – The RHYTHM Study’ aims to explore health literacy in people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds in the SWSLHD. Data collection will commence in February 2016.  
Supervisors: Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett, Associate Professor Yenna Salamonson & Dr Rakime Elmir

**Ibrahim Alananzeh**  
Ibrahim is a Registered Nurse with a clinical background in emergency nursing as well as three years of experience as a clinical instructor at the University of Jordan. His research interests lie in issues related to the psychological impact of cancer disease. His PhD project will compare the unmet supportive care needs of Arab patients with cancer living in Australia and Jordan. Data collection will commence in January 2016. He has recently submitted his first review paper to the Asian Pacific Journal of Oncology Nursing.  
Supervisors: Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett, Dr Cannas Kwok and Dr Janelle Levesque

**Della Maneze**  
Della is a Health Promotion Officer in the SWSLHD. Her project is focused on acculturation and health-seeking behaviours of Filipino migrants living in Australia. She has published three papers from this study, and received an Ingham Institute Research Scholarship Support Grant to complete the qualitative component of her PhD.  
Supervisors: Associate Professor Yenna Salamonson, Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett, Dr Michelle DiGiacomo and Professor Patricia Davidson

**Rafic Hussein**  
Rafic is a Nurse Unit Manager in the Intensive Care Unit at Liverpool Hospital. His study is examining the key elements of the current transitional program of Clinical Supervision of new graduates at Liverpool Hospital, and how these impact on new graduates’ work performance, professional development, and satisfaction. Rafic is currently writing up the findings from his study and has recently had a paper accepted by the Journal of Nursing Management.  
Supervisors: Associate Professor Yenna Salamonson, Associate Professor Bronwyn Everett, Professor Wendy Hu

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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)**  
As a Doctorate graduate, you will be able to conduct research independently at the highest international level of originality and quality.  

**Career Opportunities**  
- **Government** - Senior advisor, policy development and analysis, social research  
- **Business and Industry** - Senior leadership, consumer and social research, public relations, publishing, personnel work, training, marketing, human resources  
- **Community and Non-Government Organisations** - Senior administration, policy development, overseas aid and development agencies, social research, lobbying.  
- **Academia** - Pursue a career in academia as a university researcher, lecturer or professor.  

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CNRPD

Centre for Nursing Research and Practice Development

Nepean Hospital based, CNRPD has promoted nursing research and practice development in the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD), through collaboration and education since 1996.

A joint venture between Western Sydney University, NBMLHD, CNRPD encourages collaborative research through the secondment of Clinical Nurse Consultants and conducts education sessions with nurses in the district. The major focus of research is the essentials of patient/client care, migrant health, nursing roles, workforce issues and clinical practice standards.

The Centre aims to:

1) promote research and practice development in NBMLHD.
2) encourage collaborative research through the secondment of Clinical Nurse Consultants.
3) conduct education sessions with nurses in the district.
4) mentor staff from Western Sydney University to work with clinicians in NBMLHD.

Practice development aims of the Centre serve to:

- develop a culture of appreciative inquiry and critical reflection.
- enhance programs and initiatives that are based on the principles of Practice Development (PD) such as the Essentials of Care (EoC) program.
- translate quality improvement projects into research.
- facilitate approaches to improving practice.
- enhance clinicians leadership attributes and skills.
- facilitate team effectiveness and new ways of working.

- evaluate changes in workplace culture and the context of practice delivery.
- promote a coaching and mentoring model by working directly with teams.

2015 Research Projects

Nurse Roles and Workforce
Enjoyment of Nursing

While much is known about job satisfaction in nursing, there is a paucity of research worldwide relating to enjoyment of nursing. This is a follow on study from the qualitative study with nurses at NBMLHD. It aims to explore in more detail the concepts and actions related to enjoyment and non-enjoyment of nursing.

Key investigators: Professor Lesley Wilkes, Mrs Michelle Doull, Mr Harrison Ng Chok

A buddy mentoring model: professional nursing career development for registered nurses

This study seeks to explore the use of a horizontal buddy mentoring model to advance career opportunities among registered nurses at a tertiary teaching hospital. The goal of the project is to explore the use of a buddy mentoring model in the career progression of Registered Nurses (RNs) seeking Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) positions.

Key investigators: Professor Lesley Wilkes, Dr Lauretta Luck, Mr Harrison Ng Chok, Ms Gladys Mashingaidze

The role of the Clinical Nurse Consultant

The role of the Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) has been delineated into five domains by NSW Health. The way CNCs enact these domains is however, still unclear. The project aims to investigate how the role of the CNC in a New South Wales local health district has developed since 2003.

Key investigators: Professor Lesley Wilkes, Ms Jenny O’Baugh, Ms Louise Maher, Dr Joanne Cummings
Essentials of Care

Educating patients entering chemotherapy (EPEC) for the first time

This project will provide evidence of best practice for patient education prior to commencing chemotherapy for the first time. The primary aims of the project are to compare the efficacy of group and individual education provided by registered nurses to patients who are commencing chemotherapy for the first time, and to develop a best practice framework for an education program for patients needing chemotherapy.

Key investigators: Ms Louise Maher, Ms Heather Mackay, Professor Lesley Wilkes, Ms Lily Donald, Ms Kerrie Lang, Mr Harrison Ng Chok

Hand hygiene among patients: a pilot study

This study will be conducted to explore nurses’ and patients’ attitude and behaviours towards the hand hygiene for patients at Nepean Hospital. The project will contribute to increased infection control measures in the hospital for Registered Nurses and patients.

Key investigators: Professor Lesley Wilkes, Professor Sheree Smith, Mr Harrison Ng Chok, Miss Sharryn Byers, Ms Gladys Mashingaidze, Ms Ashita Prasad

Migrant Health

Experiences of nursing workforce in refugee health

Nurses are in the forefront of health care provision for refugees resettled in developed countries. The increasing number of people of refugee-like backgrounds settling in Australia presents challenges for Australian nurses providing care for this vulnerable group. The aim of this project is to explore the experiences of the nursing workforce in refugee health in NSW, to determine workforce issues that can affect nurses working in this specialised field, both for their work and their own health and wellbeing.

Key investigators: Dr Olayide Ogunsiji, Dr Mitchell Smith, Ms Sandy Eager, Professor Lesley Wilkes, Mr Harrison Ng Chok

Female genital mutilation: prevalence, attitudes and associated health issues amongst African migrants

The primary aims of the study are: to determine the prevalence of FGM in a selected group of African women who migrated to Australia; to report attitudes of African migrant women in Australia towards female genital mutilation; to identify health issues and health care experiences of African migrant women living with FGM in Australia.

Key Investigators: Dr Olayide Ogunsiji, Professor Lesley Wilkes, Mr Harrison Ng Chok

Clinical Practice Standards

External Ventricular Drain: Infection rates measured at three access ports

An external ventricular drain (EVD) is used to drain cerebrospinal fluid of patients who have an injury. The EVD is connected to a drain system that has three access ports where CSF can be collected to check for infection. This study will compare results of specimens taken from each of the three access ports to compare results.

Key investigators: Miss Sharryn Byers, Professor Lesley Wilkes, Mr Harrison Ng Chok, Dr Andrew Davidson

Retrospective analysis of External Ventricular Drain (EVD) infection at Nepean Hospital: 2013 and 2014

EVD use is associated with many benefits however it is also associated with increased risk of infection. This study will review all patients who had an EVD inserted in 2013 and 2014 to examine the infection rate and type of organism causing the infection.

Key investigators: Miss Sharryn Byers, Professor Lesley Wilkes, Dr Matthew Tait

Helmet use post craniectomy: Evidence or Consensus

The brain is held within a rigid box, the skull. When the brain is injured this can lead to the need to remove part of the skull so that the brain is not compressed. Following craniectomy it can be several months before the piece of the skull can be replaced. Often this results in the wearing of a helmet but it is not clear what type of helmet is needed or even if a helmet is needed at all. This study will review the evidence and the practice at neurosurgical units within Australia.

Key Investigators: Miss Sharryn Byers, Professor Lesley Wilkes
2015 Writing Retreats

Building on the success of previous years, two writing retreats facilitated and led by Professor Lesley Wilkes were run at the Edmund Rice Retreat & Conference Centre in Mulgoa in February and September 2015. Fifty five passionate staff and students and a visiting academic from Foshan University in Guangdong Province in China attended the retreats.

PhD Students affiliated with CNRDPD

Anne Marks
Anne is a Diabetes Nurse Practitioner and a Lecturer at Western Sydney University. She is undertaking qualitative research on diabetes care in primary school. The aim of her PhD project is to explore parents’, teachers’ and diabetes educators’ experience of intensive insulin therapy for children in early primary school.

Supervision team: Professor Lesley Wilkes, Professor Rhonda Griffiths, Dr Stacy Blythe

Beenaselin Michael
Beenaselin is a Registered Nurse with clinical background in Aged care, Rehabilitation and Specialist Mental Health services of older people. Her research interest lies in issues related to loneliness of older people living in community, and its impact on the quality of their life.

Supervisory team: Professor Lesley Wilkes; Judy Mannix; Dr Cathy Dickson

Diana Messum
Diana is a research psychologist teaching health management in the School of Science and Health, WSU. Her research interest is in employability skills for recent graduates to help inform curriculum development and improve employment rates. Diana is completing her PhD by publication and to date has published two papers from this research, one on analysing job vacancy advertisements and the other on perceptions of senior NSW health managers. Two other papers have been recently submitted on graduates views and the advantages / challenges of analysing advertisements.

Supervisory team: Professor Lesley Wilkes; Associate Professor Kath Peters; Professor Debra Jackson

Erica Tsai
Erica is a registered nurse and also a lecturer in a university in Taiwan. Her research interest lies in issues related to cultural competence of nursing students. Her PhD project aims to explore the level of cultural competence among nursing students in Taiwan.

Supervisory team: Dr Lauretta Luck; Professor Lesley Wilkes; Dr Diana Jefferies

Gillian Murphy
Gill has been a mental health nurse since 1996. She has worked in forensic, inpatient, community and emergency mental health services in the UK. More recently, she has worked in emergency assessment services in Australia. Gill is interested in the family context of mental health and mental illness, prevention and recovery. Gill's PhD research has generated parenting narratives of adult children who experienced childhood parental mental illness.

Supervisory team: Associate Professor Kath Peters; Professor Lesley Wilkes; Professor Debra Jackson

Judy Mannix
Judy is currently a Senior Lecturer and Director of Postgraduate Academic Programs in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Western Sydney University. Her professional interests are in the areas of nurse education and practice, clinical leadership, workforce issues and family health. Judy has been actively involved in research and scholarship in these areas through funded research projects, research student supervision, book chapters and publications in the international literature.

Supervisory team: Professor Lesley Wilkes; Professor John Daly
Sharon Jacobs

Sharon is interested in how students make decisions and what data they collect and the judgements they make following the collection of the data. Her project is investigating the role High fidelity simulation can play in the establishment of clinical judgement in junior undergraduate student nurses.

Supervisory team: Professor Lesley Wilkes, Dr Christine Taylor and Dr Kathleen Dixon
TReSi
Translational Research and Social Innovation

TReSi is a new research group formed in 2015, led by Professor Lynn Kemp. Its mission is to conduct translational research that develops and supports implementation of social and system innovations that ensure that evidence-based interventions reach the people who need them, and are implemented with quality.

TReSi is located at the Ingham Institute, and conducts research on understanding the processes for community-based delivery to whole populations at scale. Currently TReSi’s work is focussed on early childhood services, and developing research methods and frameworks for translational research. These methods have wide application and are being explored for issues ranging from cancer treatments to health policy implementation.

Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting (MECSH) program

The Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting (MECSH) program is a complex intervention, which is embedded in the universal health visiting service, for the broad range of families (20-25% of the population) who are at risk of poorer maternal and child health and development outcomes. Demonstrated to be effective in a trial in South Western Sydney, MECSH is now being implemented in Australia, United Kingdom, South Korea and the United States of America. Current research includes:

- Quasi-experimental trial of effectiveness of MECSH for Aboriginal families in the Macarthur region of South-Western Sydney
- Randomised controlled trial of the right@home MECSH-based intervention in Victoria and Tasmania
- Quasi-experimental trial of effectiveness of MECSH in the United Kingdom (Somerset)
- Implementation research on whole of population intervention fidelity and effectiveness in the United Kingdom (Essex, Plymouth, Jersey).

Volunteer Family Connect (VFC) program

Volunteer Family Connect (VFC) is a program of volunteer home visiting for vulnerable and isolated families with young children. The TReSi group is working collaboratively with service providers (The Benevolent Society, Good Beginnings Australia and Karitane) to develop and trial the VFC program. Current research includes:

- Randomised controlled trial of VFC in NSW, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania. This is the largest trial of volunteer home visiting ever conducted internationally.

Seoul, August 2014.
Dr Ajesh George started working for CANR in 2008 and during this time he has been leading a multi-disciplinary team to successfully translate oral health guidelines into antenatal practice. His work has highlighted the benefits of educating non-dental professionals, including nurses and midwives, in the importance of oral health care. This has resulted in an improvement in the knowledge and confidence of midwives to promote oral health which in turn has led to a significant increase in the uptake of dental services by pregnant women as well as improving their oral hygiene, knowledge and quality of life.

Due to the success of his program, oral health is now included in the Bachelor of Midwifery curriculum at Western Sydney University and plans are underway to integrate oral health into the Master of Child and Family Health program as well. Further, Dr George and his team have been the recipients of a number of prestigious awards, most recently, the 2015 South Western Sydney Local Health District Quality Awards in Excellence in the provision of care and service to Aboriginal clients.

During 2015, Dr George formed a dedicated translational oral health research group known as COHORTE (Collaboration for Oral Health Outcomes, Research, Translation & Evaluation) which is a joint collaboration between SoNM, Western and SWSLHD Oral Health Services based at the Ingham Institute Applied Medical Research. COHORTE is affiliated with CANR and its primary role is to build capacity of nurses and midwives in oral health education, assessment and referrals in various clinical services in the SWSLHD. These include Antenatal, Paediatric, Cardiovascular, Diabetes, Aged Care, Drug Health and Aboriginal Health. COHORTE currently has two Higher Degree Research students who are researching the link between oral health and cardio-vascular diseases/diabetes and the potential role of cardiac rehabilitation nurses and Diabetes nurse educators in this area.

The newly formed collaborative research group between SoNM/CANR and SWSLHD Oral Health Services - COHORTE (Collaboration for Oral health Outcomes, Research, Translation and Evaluation) has been recognised in the 2015 SWSLHD Quality Awards. The submission, “Partnering to improve oral health of Aboriginal children” won the Quality Award under the category- Excellence in Provision of Care and Service to Aboriginal Clients.
Learning and Teaching

Educational Research

During 2015 the School continued to focus on improvements to learning and teaching undertaking projects to support academics and professional staff and to enhance the student experience.

Learning and Teaching Enhancement Grant (LTEG)

In 2015 the SoNM undertook the following LTEG projects:

- School Central Database Repository for Academic Literacy Support Initiative
- Promoting Positive Transitional Experience of Commencing Nursing Students
- Enhancing Student Clinical Practice Skill Development Using Audio Visual Media
- Development of Assessment Task Rubric Templates

Simulation Training

The Clinical Practice Unit (CPU) technical team attended Simulation and moulage training in Melbourne at the Laerdal head office. The training in adult patient simulations and moulage application allows the CPU team to better support academics in the set up and design of simulated learning, facilitating a more realistic and engaging student experience which will result in our students confidently undertaking their clinical placements.

Elsevier Collaboration

The Professional Communication and Literacy team has begun collaborating with Elsevier to “Custom Publish” a text book for International Nursing students. The text will support International students as they complete their degree.

SoNM Blended Learning Showcase & Cengage workshop

In November the SoNM, in collaboration with Cengage Learning, a leading provider of learning solutions for the school and higher education markets for Australia and New Zealand, ran a workshop to promote the integration of blended learning technology and collaboration in the delivery of engaged learning. Six staff presented, sharing their experiences, ideas and strategies they implemented in their units to engage students and support their learning with their peers and inspiring them to apply new ideas and techniques their teaching resources.
Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor of Nursing Courses

It’s been another successful year for the Bachelor of Nursing courses. It is a very exciting time for our 900 new graduands as they embark on their careers in nursing. A successful strategy developed early this year by the School to prepare final year students for their employment interviews and development of their CVs saw an increased number of graduands securing new graduate program positions with NSW Health.

The content and assessment for the Bachelor of Nursing courses was extensively reviewed, as part of the process of continual improvement for academic rigor, relevance and equity for students. It is anticipated that the student feedback on the Course Completion Survey will once again reflect high levels of satisfaction. 2016 will see the commencement of the processes to a review the three Bachelor of Nursing curriculums; 4691 Bachelor of Nursing, 4692 Bachelor of Nursing Graduate Entry and the 4693 Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced) and the 4684 Bachelor of Midwifery.

Two new elective units have been developed by academics in the SoNM (Child & Youth Health and Risk Mitigation & Ethics for Australian Health Professionals) and will be available for enrolment in 2016. These are exciting elective units that will appeal to students across the university being of equal interest to nursing students and those from the other health related disciplines. The elective unit A Field Study: Comparative Studies of Health Care Delivery will see 20 students travel to Wuhan in China where they will experience local health care delivery and then reflect on those experiences when analysed in the Australian context. This is an invaluable opportunity for students to include an international dimension to their learning experience and is partly funded by the Australian Government’s New Colombo Plan Mobility Grants.

In 2015 the SoNM was the pilot school for the new student placement system InPlace, which has provided significant improvement in standardising placement opportunities. InPlace allows staff to view a student’s placement history and identifies issues preventing allocation of placements. The system has a robust reporting module which facilitates an instant snapshot of the overall placement situation within the school. The system is more equitable for students, directly promoting student progression by allowing online access to information, preference selection and earlier notification of placement which directly contributes to increased rates of uptake on available placements and the student experience.

Lithgow Campus

The school introduced a new campus at Lithgow in 2015, embedded within The College Campus, offering local students the opportunity to undertake the first year of the Bachelor of Nursing in their community. The students also undertake their clinical placements in local facilities which has fostered strong new relationships. The Lithgow campus and students were strongly supported and well received by the Lithgow community, with the Lithgow Mercury running several stories throughout the year about the new campus and the nursing students. The students transfer to one of the other three campuses to complete the final two years of the degree. The facilities at Lithgow include a new purpose built Clinical Practice Unit and the introduction of new technology for distance teaching using real time streaming of academics based on other campuses.
Bachelor of Midwifery

In 2015 Associate Professor Athena Sheehan was appointed Director Academic Programs Midwifery and two new staff have been appointed to the successful new Midwifery program.

2015 saw the largest intake of students into the Bachelor of Midwifery since its commencement in 2013.

The first cohort of Bachelor of Midwifery students will be completing their studies and will graduate in 2016. A focus group was held with these students to receive feedback on the course and overall feedback relating to the course was positive and constructive and will be utilised in the continuous improvement process for the course.

Course Development

An interview process involving a series of mini interviews was introduced for the 2016 intake of prospective Midwifery students. Using questions developed specifically for the student interview process. Interviewers included University staff and industry. The first interviews took place at Parramatta campus in December 2015 and January 2016.

The Midwifery team met over two days to map the course as part of the quality assurance cycle and to ensure ongoing continuous improvement of the program.

During the year Assoc. Prof. Athena Sheehan, Dr Elaine Burns and Prof. Virginia Schmied and Bachelor of Midwifery student Meg Hitchick attended the NSW Health Midwifery – Planning for Tomorrow symposium at Luna Park.

The Midwifery team celebrated International Day of the Midwife and contributed money to support the Rhodanthe Lipsett Indigenous Midwifery Trust.

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

The Graduate Diploma in Primary Health Care aims to provide the opportunity for health, and other professionals with primary health care responsibilities to gain knowledge and understanding of primary health care that will enable leadership in this field. The course provides a focus on the knowledge and behaviour required to be a primary health care provider in a changing community environment. Students who successfully complete this course may transfer into the Master of Primary Health Care.

The Graduate Diploma in Primary Health Care is a fully online unit

For more information, please call our Course Information Centre on 1300 897 669 or email postgraduate@westernsydney.edu.au
Postgraduate Programs

The SoNM has offered postgraduate courses offshore for over twenty five years in collaboration with the Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), with a new cohort graduating in December, including two Health Award recipients for highest achieving students in each course.

In 2015 the SoNM signed an agreement with Parkway College, Singapore to offer the Master of Nursing (Clinical Leadership) programme and further expansion of the Master of Nursing course is being investigated with other international sites.

A new course specifically targeting onshore international students, the Master of Nursing (Professional Studies) commenced in 2015. This two year program will assist newly graduated international Registered Nurses to be work ready for the Australian Health system. The Graduate Diploma in Midwifery was reaccredited for 5 years during 2015.

This year we introduced the Master of Mental Health Nursing. The School has also introduced two new specialisations in Aged Care and Primary Health Care in addition to the current specialisations of Clinical Leadership, Clinical Teaching and Research Studies within the Master of Nursing.

Quality and engagement has been a focus for Postgraduate courses in 2015 and the school has undertaken the following initiatives to improve quality, student engagement and learning outcomes.

- Introduction of Learning Activity Management System (LAMS) is a tool for designing, managing and delivering online collaborative learning activities
- Increased use of Collaborate
  - Improved on-line presentation of interactive teaching and learning activities - moving away from static pdf format
- Increased use of online media and discussion boards to support students to feel engaged with other students and the lecturers
- Increased suite of Master of Nursing specialties designed to meet Greater Western Sydney nurses’ education needs
- Increased incorporation of literacy material to support students skills to successfully complete the Master of Nursing program

The Child and Family Health (Karitane) suite of courses has some exciting new projects occurring in 2015 that reflect the SoNM’s commitment to collaborating with industry partners and the wider multidisciplinary community in child and family health. Dr Cathy Dickson has been working with the three other higher education providers of Child and Family Health education and the CNC network to develop a self-reflective learning tool that will be piloted and evaluated in the Autumn 2016 session.

In addition, the course will include an oral health assessment module developed and funded in conjunction with the Centre for Oral Health Strategy-NSW Health to increase confidence and knowledge in oral assessments for infants and children at three crucial life stages- 6 months, 18 months and 4 years.

Postgraduate Midwifery

Major Modifications were made to both the Graduate Diploma Midwifery and the B Mid to include the new ANMAC standard 8 of the Midwifery standards - this means a reduction from 20 to 10 in the number of Continuity of Care Experience women a student needs to follow.

The New Curriculum commenced for the Graduate Diploma in January and feedback from the clinical areas has been extremely positive.
Events in 2015

Consul General from the Philippines visit
For the second year, the Consul General from the Philippines, Her Excellency Anne Jalando-on Louis, joined the Dean and students on Hawkesbury campus for lunch and addressed more than 50 Filipino nursing students as part of the Reach Out program. The talk addressed consular issues and a student was elected from amongst the cohort to be a liaison with the Consulate and to be the President of the Filipino Students Association at the University.

Making the Difference in Health Care
The annual Making the Difference in Health Care forum was held in the Female Orphan School at Parramatta attracting 60 senior clinicians and administrators from public and private health facilities. Professor Debora Picone AM, Chief Executive Officer for the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care was the guest speaker for the evening, addressing the topic Leadership for Safety and Quality in Healthcare. The event also showcased the strength of our current school research and facilitated networking across health facilities.

Leadership for Nursing and Midwifery Excellence: 2015 and Beyond
In October, 150 nursing professionals attended the School of Nursing and Midwifery one day conference “Leadership for Nursing and Midwifery Excellence: 2015 and beyond”. Seven highly respected national and international leaders, including:

- Prof. Jo Walton, Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, Victoria University, Wellington
- Ann Kinnear, Chief Executive Officer Australian College of Midwives
- Prof. Catherine Hungerford, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery and Indigenous Health, Charles Sturt University
- Prof. Margaret Fry, Director of Research and Practice Development, Nursing and Midwifery Directorate Northern Sydney Local Health District, Faculty of Health, University of Technology;
- and our own staff Prof. Lynn Kemp, Prof. Deborah Parker, Judy Mannix and Prof. Hannah Dahlen addressed the following topics:
  - Characteristics of leaders: recognising, developing and using your leadership qualities and skills;
  - Curiosity in practice and education: asking ‘What if?’ to inspire change in practice and education;
  - Building and leading effective clinical and academic partnerships in practice, education and research.
  - Increasing the uptake of evidence in practice and Preparing nursing and...
midwifery leaders for practice in 2015 and beyond.
Feedback from delegates was extremely positive – “a conference that really hit the mark”.

School Engagement

Visiting Scholars
In 2015 the School hosted a number of visiting academics, including two Slovenian academics Dr. Klavdija Čuček Trifković, and Dr. Mateja Lorber from the University of Maribor, Faculty of Health Sciences for three months. Whilst here they commenced a collaborative research project which will continue for the next 5 years.

The school is also hosting Associate Professor Yingyi Bao from Foshan University in Guangdong Province in China for six months.

Rail Safety Week
In collaboration with School of Medicine and Sydney Metro Transport, the SoNM participated in the Rail Safety Week initiative. 216 Rail workers were given basic health checks over 4 geographical sites, which was an excellent primary healthcare learning experience and contributed to student clinical placement hours.

Hawkesbury Alumni Chapter (Inc) (HAC) Luncheon at NSW Parliament House on 24th July 2015
Ten representatives of SoNM (past and present staff and students) attended the annual luncheon to raise funds for the Hawkesbury Scholarship Appeal which includes a Nursing Scholarship for a third year Hawkesbury student. The event was hosted by Niall Blair MLC Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Lands and Water and Rick Colless MLC Parliamentary Secretary for Natural Resources and Regional Planning. Hawkesbury alumni including Acting Deputy Dean, Dr. Deborah Hatcher shared their recollections of their student experiences at Hawkesbury.

School presents to Enrolled Nurses from Concord Hospital
Dr Rebecca O’Reilly presented information about the Bachelor of Nursing Course to 25 Student Enrolled Nurses from Concord Hospital with details about their direct entry pathway into the 2nd year of the course. The presentation was lively and interactive with the Student Enrolled Nurses engagement level extending the talk an hour over schedule.

2015 Combined School Awards
The Vice Chancellor Prof. Barney Glover joined MC Professor Chris Lennard and the Deans of the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, Science and Health and Medicine at the joint awards presentation evening on the 6th July. The Awards are an opportunity to celebrate the academic achievements and successes of our students from the previous year.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education and Engagement

The School participated in a number of activities across all campuses, with visiting school students attending information and Clinical Practice sessions where they undertook interactive activities such as hand washing, temperature taking and pulse oximetry.

In 2015 the School participated in the following programs:

- Koori Education Carnival
- STEPS Program
- Walking Tall
- Heartbeat: Get the Rhythm
- UWS Day Parramatta
- Academy Access Engagement Program
- UWS Rural Indigenous Student Visits
- UWS Day (Campbelltown)
- Heartbeat Keeping Pace

NRL Indigenous Player Visit

Future Indigenous NRL players from Parramatta, Manly and the Panthers visited Parramatta Campus and participated in a series of workshops across the campus. Dr Stephen McNally hosted the group and spoke about nursing as a career and they participated in a series of interactive activities in the Clinical Practice Units.

School Staff visit recent Edmund Rice Camp and provide enriching nursing experience to children

Dr Judy Reid and Fiona Creed visited a holiday camp at Mulgoa for disadvantaged children, where the children participated in a discussion about "what nurses do". They participated in interactive activities including taking temperatures, listening to heartbeats and using a pulse oximeter. Staff, children and camp leaders (several of whom were undergraduate nursing students) had fun using glitter bug to assess their hand washing techniques. Most were shocked to see how many "germs" were still on their hands after hand washing.

School Careers Advisers’ Day 2015, Hawkesbury Campus.

The School hosted high school careers advisers, many of whom commented it was the best Career Advisors Day they’ve EVER attended across all institutions! This event was held in February at the Hawkesbury Campus, with over 100 high school career advisors visiting the CPU. Stephen McNally spoke to the group about our nursing courses and then conducted a tour of the CPU labs showcasing the facilities and equipment along with a sim-man demonstration.
Open Day 2015

Open Day was held on August 30th in conjunction with the formal launch of the University’s new livery, name and brand. The event was an enormous success and as usual the Nursing and Midwifery events and the Clinical Practice Labs were extremely busy as were the course advisors. 600 prospective students and guests attended information sessions at the Western Sydney University Parramatta Campus. The highly visible new brand was well received and the day was extremely successful thanks to the well planned event and dedicated efforts of the SoNM staff Highlights of the day - You Tube.

Professional Staff Planning Day

The SoNM ran a successful full day planning workshop on Hawkesbury campus for the Professional staff. The topics covered included succession planning, cross skilling and options for career advancement. The day included a number of interactive activities and guest speaker Melissa Maucort, School Manager, School of Social Sciences and Psychology gave an insightful talk on her career journey.
Students

Around the world

Nineteen students enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing unit, ‘A Field Study: Comparative Studies of Health Care Delivery,’ and travelled to Thailand, to the Om Goi district, south east of Chiang Mai, a remote and mountainous region of Northern Thailand populated by the tribal Karen people. The students worked as volunteers at health centres, which are the main health care facility available to the locals providing general health care and health assessments, antenatal checks and immunisation. The students were accompanied by Dr Diana Jefferies and Dr Cathy Dickson. Other students also undertook individual trips, with three going to the Maldives and one student completing a remote area placement based at Broken Hill.

The student's trip was partly subsidised by the New Colombo Plan as part of their Mobility Program. The Thailand trip will be expanded to other destinations as a project underpinned by the Primary Health Care focus of the curriculum.

Interdisciplinary Health Challenge 2015

Three SoNM students participated in the Challenge, Jenyfer Joy, Khadiha Sayyadi and Guarav Sharma, with Dr Christine Taylor as Academic Mentor.

This year saw a move from one face-to-face workshop and a challenge day to the completion of four interactive on-line modules (through a specially developed vUWS site) and a challenge day completed over a three week period. Students worked through the on-line case study of a client with a complex medical and social history, and completed activities that would assist them to devise their treatment plan from a discipline specific perspective. Students were then allocated to interdisciplinary teams where they were required to outline the client's goals from their discipline's perspective, and their treatment plan from a team perspective to create a case presentation. Throughout the completion of the activities, each student had access to academic mentor/s who were able to provide guidance and assistance as required.

On the challenge day, the students competed in teams to win the Case Presentation, a Poster Challenge (encouraging rural practice), and finally, a spot in the Western Sydney University team to compete in Queensland against other universities at the Australian HealthFusion Team Challenge. Jenyfer Joy was selected for the team to compete at the HealthFusion Team Challenge in September.
The University Team competed with six other teams from around Australia: Deakin, Griffith, QUT, Monash, UQ and a combined team, Indigenous Allied Health Australia, (IAHA) whose members were from several states and territories. The team presented well and responded admirably to the extension question, but unfortunately did not make the final. The judges said it was the closest competition they have had. Congratulations to the winning team QUT (Queensland University of Technology) and the runners up, IAHA.

Our students had a great experience, made friends in other disciplines and an understanding of other disciplines. They also networked with students from other universities giving them a broader view of education.

**Pearson Student of the Year Nomination**

Mohammad Arasteh, a 2nd Year Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced) student has been nominated for the Pearson Student of the Year Award in the category of Nursing and Allied Health. The awards recognise those students who have demonstrated outstanding effort, dedication and academic achievement in their chosen field of study, with winners being announced in January 2016. Mohammad's submission for the award can be viewed [here](#).

**International PhD Students visit Bowral Tulip Festival**

In September, the School of Nursing & Midwifery welcomes two international PhD students from Taiwan, Fay Shu-Fei Yang and Erica Tuan-I Tsai. Fay's proposed PhD topic is related to breastfeeding knowledge, attitudes and confidence among Taiwanese nursing students while Erica's is related to cultural competence among Taiwanese nursing students.

During the first week of their arrival, Fay and Erica were invited for an outing to the Bowral Tulip Festival, one of Australia’s oldest and leading floral festivals in the Southern Highlands.

**Australian College of Midwives 2015 State Conference Scholarships**

Bachelor of Midwifery Students, Nigina Hashimi and Anna Richardson were successful applicants for the NSW Department of Health Nursing and Midwifery Office Scholarship to attend the NSW Branch State Conference, entitled "Midwifery: Walk on the wild side" at Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo.

**Research Futures Forum**

The SoNM Research Futures Forum was held in July on Parramatta.

The breadth of research by our PhD students demonstrates strength of the PhD Program in the School. This forum is designed to foster and encourage the next generation of researchers who, with the help of dedicated academic staff, will be pushing back the boundaries of current knowledge and making a significant impact within the health industry.

The keynote address this year was Dr. Mary-Helen Ward from Sydney University who opened the Forum. Mary-Helen completed her PhD in 2013 based on the experience of doing a PhD at a research-intensive university in Australia. It was one of the first Australian PhDs to focus on the experience of students undertaking the degree. Her study was ethnographically based, and her thesis is entitled Living in Liminal Space: The PhD as Accidental Pedagogy. It has been viewed on the University of Sydney website nearly 2000 times, and downloaded more than 900 times. You can follow Mary on Twitter @drwitty_knitter.

The feedback received was wonderful, students and staff enjoyed the workshops, particularly the workshop on Day 1 presented by Dr. Daniel Nicholls and Dr.
Antoinette Cotton on Philosophical Underpinnings. On Day 2 Associate Professor Pat Bazeley presented an excellent Mixed Methods workshop which was extremely well received.

**SoNM Three Minute Thesis Competition**

The school had three contestants from amongst the Higher Degree Research cohort for this competition.

The standard of the presentations was very high and the judges had a very difficult job to select a winner. The four judges: Dr. Lucie Ramjan, Dr. Nathan Wilson, Megan Atkins and Suzanne D’Souza made careful consideration and collaborative deliberations. This year’s winner was Hazel Keedle, and the runner up was Jeni Stevens. The people’s choice award also went to Hazel Keedle.

**Student Scholarships**

Twenty one Undergraduate students and three postgraduate students from the School were successful in obtaining scholarships from a range of supporters this year, including Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships, Harvey Norman Scholarship, South Western Sydney Area Health Service Nursing Scholarship and Vice-Chancellor’s Leadership Scholarship.

**Facilitation Feedback**

The School welcomes feedback on our students and our program.

“I just wanted to quickly mention how impressed we are with the way in which UWS manages the facilitation process.

We work with several universities and UWS is by far the most organised, professional and supportive of the facilitators.

UWS facilitation workshops are very open and inclusive. Our facilitation staff are working with several universities and I have to say the UWS is by far the easiest university to work with. In particular we have all been very impressed with the facilitation days that UWS offers to all facilitators that will be working with them. These days are always very well run, informative and really make it easier for the facilitators to represent UWS more effectively. While some other universities have made it difficult for agency facilitators to attend training sessions, UWS encourages and even mandates that Agency facilitators attend training sessions. I can emphasise how much these workshops really help our facilitators to a better job and also understand all of UWS's needs and priorities and as a result better support UWS students.

We have also found that facilitation placements with UWS run very smoothly because of all Tanya and the teams hard work.

*Thank you very much for all the hard work and effort that UWS staff go to make the facilitator and student experience the best it could possibly be.*

**InPlace**

In 2015 the SoNM was the pilot school for the new student placement system InPlace, which has improved the allocation and management of clinical placement opportunities. InPlace allows staff and students to view a student’s clinical placement history and quickly identify opportunities and issues relating to student’s placements. The system has a reporting module which facilitates a snapshot of the overall placement progress within the school. The system has increased the equity in the allocation of clinical placements promoting student progression by allowing online access to information, and earlier notification of clinical placement allocation which directly contributes to increased rates of uptake on available placements and the student experience.
Alumni

Alede Takpiny – Bachelor of Nursing (2009), Graduate Diploma of Midwifery (2011)


Westmead Hospital midwife Alede Takpiny was a finalist in the NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

The 11 award winners and 24 finalists were selected from a record field of 239 nominees. Ms Takpiny has earned respect from Westmead’s health community as a dedicated member of the midwifery team.

She has practised as a nurse and as a midwife at the hospital for just five years and was nominated for her hard work by colleague Dr Ting Huang.

Jessica McInnes – Graduate Diploma of Midwifery (2013)

Jessica McInnes is a winner of the Royal Flying Doctor Service Midwifery Scholarship and top of her class at WSU. She joined the RFDS in February 2015. “I had always admired RFDS Flight Nurses and secretly dreamed of being one.”

“The sheer variety of clinical needs our patients have is challenging, but also rewarding, albeit a steep learning curve in new skills and knowledge”


Claudine Pizarro – Bachelor of Nursing (Current)

Claudine knew in her grandmothers final moments that she wanted to become a nurse, read her story here;


WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY ALUMNI

Western Sydney University holds our Alumni in high esteem, taking pride in each graduate as they progress beyond their studies and into their chosen career. Assisting more than 140,000 graduates, the Alumni Team aims to keep all Alumni ‘in touch’ with the University.

For all Alumni related enquiries, contact the Office of Advancement and Alumni: Phone: +61 2 9685 9500 or Email: alumni@westernsydney.edu.au
Singapore Alumni Event hosted by the Vice-Chancellor

An event for Singapore alumni was held in June 2015. The event was hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and well attended by about 40 local alumni as well as senior Western Sydney executives and a number of other dignitaries and guests.

The event has also sparked local alumni to move forward with their own plans for engagement with each other and with future University and alumni-led events. Some of the highlights of the event can be viewed on a short video at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xWhQ89kVAU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xWhQ89kVAU)

Associate Professor Kath Peters – Bachelor of Nursing (1998), Bachelor of Nursing (Hons) 2000

Our very own Assoc. Prof. Kath Peters and a group of friends entered the 2015 Variety Club Bass Hill to Bunbury Fundraiser raising $26,000, including $1000 from SoNM staff and $350 from the dedicated baking efforts of Yukwon Lum for a morning tea. Variety supports individual children by providing financial support for things and experiences and organisations that work with children who are sick, disadvantaged or have special needs by providing financial support for equipment and education.

The original Bourke to Burketown Bash was completed back in 1985, the Bash has travelled thousands of kilometres criss-crossing Australia. This unique FUN fundraising event is tagged “a drive in the Outback with a few mates.”


In the Media

**Professor Hannah Dahlen**

Professor Hannah Dahlen has recently appeared in the media, please click the links below to view the articles.

- **Daily Mail Australia**
- **ABC News**
- **Sunday Telegraph (Sydney): Pregnancy blues link to diabetes**
- Facebook SBS: [Australia's climbing c-section rate - The Feed](https://www.facebook.com/sbs电视/posts/1387504643196443)
- Royal College of Midwives: [Call the real midwives - A trip down memory lane](https://www.rcm.uk.com/news/call-real-midwives-a-trip-down-memory-lane)
- Bestdaily.co.uk: [High-risk home birth: A 'selfish' choice?](https://www.bestdaily.co.uk/high-risk-home-birth-a-selfish-choice/)
- **Essential Baby:** [Gauze seeding: the bacteria-breeding birth trend](https://www.essentialbaby.com/gauze-seeding-the-bacteria-breeding-birth-trend)
- Stuff.co.nz: [Delay clamping babies' umbilical cords for better health and development](https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/105657391/delay-clamping-babies-umbilical-cords-for-better-health-and-development)
- **Kidspot:** [Cutting the umbilical cord too quickly is bad for baby's health](https://www.kidspot.com.au/parenting/health/cutting-the-umbilical-cord-too-quickly-is-bad-for-baby-s-health)

The Conversation:

- [https://theconversation.com/why-labour-is-such-a-pain-and-how-to-reduce-it-48092](https://theconversation.com/why-labour-is-such-a-pain-and-how-to-reduce-it-48092)

**Dr Jan Sayers** has recently had an article appear in Nursing Review. Please click the links below to view the article about Definition of progress.  [http://apnedmedia.uberflip.com/i/522612-issue-3-may-june-2015/22](http://apnedmedia.uberflip.com/i/522612-issue-3-may-june-2015/22)

**Dr Diana Jefferies** - The Conversation - Historical hospital records can show us what not to do in helping psychosis patients. Read the full article in The Conversation

**Dr Evan Alexandrou**

A 6-minute audio-recording in the Nursing Review took place on 21 July 2015 about the ‘One Million Global (OMG) Peripheral Intravenous Catheters’ study. Although our Dr Evan Alexandrou was not interviewed (Professor Marianne Wallis was being interviewed), it was clearly stated that this unfunded study that has now gone global (over 400 hospitals in 65 countries) was led by none other than our own Dr Evan Alexandrou! Well done, Evan, for your vision, that has truly resonated with the clinicians, particularly nurses, worldwide, including nursing staff at Nambour! Nursing Review: Drips, dribsbles of data add up for worldwide catheter study

Lithgow Campus


**Adjunct Assoc. Prof. Karleen Gribble**
