



International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS) News January 2025

Message from the ICFHS Director

Welcome to the first newsletter of the International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS), based at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). We are planning to share this newsletter four times a year, providing you with updates on our policy work, our projects, our publications, and our advocacy, as well as the individual achievements of ICFHS members.

The ICFHS is a research, policy and advocacy initiative, formally established by UNSW on 2 August 2024. Initial financial support, for a period of five years, has been provided by the Ian Potter Foundation and UNSW.

The ICFHS is a pan-university centre, with jointly funded post-doctoral research appointments with each of the Faculties of UNSW: Arts, Design and Architecture; Business; Engineering; Law and Justice; Medicine & Health; and Science. I am pleased to advise that all these positions have been filled and the full research team will be working with us from mid-February.

A major boost for the centre was the incorporation in September of the staff and projects of the internationally-renowned UNSW Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity. Primary care and health equity are fundamental pillars of health systems and I welcome this initiative by the university which will allow our new centre to grow and become highly productive much earlier than originally anticipated.

Our partnership with the University of Oxford has also been strengthened by the recent appointment there of Senior Researcher, Adjunct Associate Professor Luke Allen, recruited from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Among the highlights of the past year were our policy and research forums with Australia's Ambassador for Global Health, Adjunct Professor Lucas de Toca PSM, and with colleagues from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, as well as our co-hosting of the UNSW MedConnect Future Health Workforce event, featuring NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant AO PSM (see more details below).

As the new year begins, I hope you have had a happy and enjoyable holiday season, and that you were able to spend time with your loved ones, as well as re-energising in preparation for the year ahead.

I look forward to working with you in 2025 as we lead research, policy and advocacy work on health systems reform at local, national and global levels.

Best wishes

Professor Michael Kidd AO FAHMS
Director
International Centre for Future Health Systems

Our Research Highlights

ICFHS publication on 'Review of General Practice Incentives – International Evidence and Literature Review' informs Australian Government health policy

Review of General Practice Incentives – International Evidence and Literature Review

A literature review by University of New South Wales, analysing research on international blended funding models in primary care.

'[Review of General Practice Incentives – International Evidence and Literature Review](#)' was carried out by ICFHS researchers for the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. It analyses global research on blended funding models of primary care, and has informed the Australian Government's Review of General Practice Incentives.

Our People

ICFHS researcher, Associate Professor Michael Wright, elected [as President of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners](#).

Associate Professor Michael Wright commenced his two year term as president of Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) on 21st November, 2024.

ICFHS Emeritus Professor Mark Harris AO receives the Academic Titleholders Engagement Award – Research by UNSW Medicine & Health

This award recognises Mark's many contributions across the three academic pillars of Education, Research, and Collegiality, Engagement and Leadership.

ICFHS Chief Operations Officer, Associate Professor Freddy Sitas, conferred with Life Membership Award of the Australasian Epidemiology Association (AEA)

"In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Australasian Epidemiology Association (AEA) and the field and discipline of epidemiology" The award was given in recognition of Freddy's outstanding contribution to the AEA and the field of epidemiology, particularly for his work on tobacco and more recently, vaping. "These awards do not come in a vacuum, I want to acknowledge the thousands of co-authors and collaborators that I have worked with over the past three decades," says Freddy.

ICFHS Research Officer, Dr Kath Thorburn, awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by UNSW

Kath's thesis is titled: [Processes and outcomes of co-design to improve physical health care with mental health consumers in primary care.](#)

ICFHS researchers Dr Esther Tordjmann and Associate Professor Fiona Haigh win competitive UNSW Cities Institute research funding

Associate Professor Fiona Haigh, Dr Esther Tordjmann, Nina Serova and Dr Aryati Yashashana won a competitive UNSW Cities Institute seed grant. Their project 'Eating in the city: Digesting diversity through migrant food environments' looks at the role of food in place-making for forced migrants in Sydney and its potential for improved wellbeing and belonging. [Read more.](#)

News & Media

ICFHS Director joins UNSW Centre for Big Ideas event on 'How do we equip ourselves to face the future?'



Professor Michael Kidd took part in UNSOMNIA 2024, run by the UNSW Centre for Big ideas. Michael spoke on the future of Australian health care with a public audience at the live event. [A link to the video recording](#) of his presentation is available [here](#).

HealthX 2024: Partnerships in Action



HealthX 2024 at UNSW Sydney opened with ICFHS Director, Professor Michael Kidd, welcoming keynote speaker Professor Brendan Murphy AC, the former Chief Medical Officer of Australia. Centred on enhancing health partnerships, the event brought together leaders from industry, government, and academia to discuss impactful collaborations that translate health research into real-world outcomes. Professor Kidd also delivered a talk on "Government-Academic Partnerships in Health." To learn more about this event series, [click here](#).

ICFHS Director participates in a webinar on 'How to cut through policy?'



This webinar was hosted by the Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care, Academic Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee and discussed how to effectively engage with policy makers to advocate for change. You can watch the replay of the webinar via [this link](#).

ICFHS Director speaks on the future of healthcare at annual meeting of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences



Professor Michael Kidd discussed the impacts of our ageing population, climate change, and health systems reforms following the Covid-10 pandemic, during a panel session exploring 'what does the future hold for health and medical research?'

ICFHS Director interviewed on a podcast on 'UNSW and the Future of Australian Health Care'

What would a future with better and more equitable healthcare look like? Professor Michael Kidd explores the pivotal role of UNSW in shaping the future of Australian health care in this podcast by UNSW Centre for Ideas. You can listen to this podcast and view the video [via this link](#).

ICFHS Director speaks on mental health podcast 'A Conversation About... Health in all its Complexity: Systems of Care'

This three-part series features academic General Practitioners, Dr Wei-May Su and Professor Louise Stone, in conversation with colleagues about the complexities of providing meaningful primary health care.

In episode one, May and Louise interviewed Professor Michael Kidd and explored the complexities of providing mental health care in a range of settings, from top-down health systems to working directly with patients. [Listen in here](#)

ICFHS researcher, Dr Shona Bates, presented at University of Sydney Policy Lab event



Dr Shona Bates was invited, along with Dr Frances Foster-Thorpe from The Cabinet Office NSW, to present at the Sydney Policy Lab "Policy Bites Series" at The University of Sydney on 12th November 2024. The session, 'Co-governance: Communities and Government: Working together better' stems from work Shona and Associate Professor Fiona Haigh have been doing on co-governance with colleagues at the UNSW Social Policy Research Centre. Some of the early outputs from the study are available here:

- [Would adopting more co-governance arrangements with communities build public trust?](#)
- [Co-governance Case Studies: Waterloo Collaborative](#)

ICFHS researcher, Associate Professor Fiona Haigh, spoke at the [10th Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities](#) in Seoul, Korea



Associate Professor Fiona Haigh, along Professor Peter Poulet (Cities Institute, UNSW) and Dr Negin Nazarian (Built Environment, UNSW) hosted a Global Health Leaders Forum at the 10th Annual Global Conference of the Alliance for Healthy Cities in Seoul in October. The UNSW team led key aspects of the conference, which brought together civic and government leaders, academics and experts from across the Asia Pacific Region to explore the theme, 'Smarter and Healthier Cities for a Better Future'. [Read more](#).

Our Events

'MedConnect' - the future health workforce: who, where, how?



ICFHS co-hosted the 'MedConnect' event on 'the future health workforce: who, where, how?' in partnership with NSW Health and the UNSW Faculty of Medicine and Health. NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant AO, delivered the keynote presentation on the impact of rapid transformation of our healthcare system on our workforce. The event was led by Dr. Louise Messara, NSW Health Director of Strategic Medical Operations Unit & Specialist Consultant, Workforce Planning and Talent Development Branch. Health workforce experts from across Australia shared insights into challenges facing our Australia's future health workforce. Please [click here](#) to access the recordings of the event.

ICFHS health policy roundtable with Australia's Ambassador for Global Health, Adjunct Professor Lucas de Toca PSM



The International Centre for Future Health Systems hosted a roundtable with Australia's Ambassador for Global Health, Professor Lucas de Toca PSM who discussed his role, the impact of research on his work, and ways UNSW researchers can support his global health work. Invitees included senior research leaders and emerging global health researchers from the Kirby Institute, The George Institute for Global Health, UNSW Faculty of Medicine & Health and School of Population Health, and Therapeutic Guidelines, creating a dynamic exchange of ideas.

Our publications

- [Post-discharge pharmacotherapy in people with atrial fibrillation hospitalized for acute myocardial infarction: an Australian cohort study 2018–22](#)
By Michael Kidd et al
- [Process evaluation of two large randomized controlled trials to understand factors influencing family physicians' use of antibiotic audit and feedback reports](#)
By Michael Kidd et al
- [Responding to health literacy of refugees in Australian primary health care settings: a qualitative study of barriers and potential solutions](#)
By Prince Peprah, Mark Harris et al
- [A qualitative study of negative sociocultural experiences of accessing primary health care services among Africans from refugee backgrounds in Australia: implications for organisational health literacy](#)
By Prince Peprah, Mark Harris et al
- [Considering Residents' Health and Well-Being in the Process of Social Housing Redevelopment](#)
By Jinhee Kim, Chris Standen et al
- [Codesigning a Community Health Navigator program to assist patients to transition from hospital to community](#)
By Mark Harris, An Tran et al
- [Forecasting the effects of smoking prevalence scenarios on years of life lost and life expectancy from 2022 to 2050: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021](#)
By Freddy Sitas et al
- [Making the most of a captive audience: Do specialist teams in custodial settings offer a way to assist people to access the NDIS?](#)
By Shona Bates et al
- [What can we learn from disability policy to advance our understanding of how to operationalise intersectionality in Australian policy frameworks?](#)
By Shona Bates et al
- [Analysing the value, benefits and barriers to stakeholder and community participation in health impact assessments \(HIAs\) in Wales from 2005 to 2020](#)
By Chris Standen, Fiona Haigh et al
- [Are there differences in low-acuity emergency department visits between culturally and linguistically diverse migrants and people with English-speaking background: a population-based linkage study of adults over 45](#)
By Mark Harris, Margo Barr et al
- [Transport industry workforce risk and exposure to COVID-19 and other related respiratory pandemic diseases: A scoping review](#)
By Patrick Harris et al

- [International experiences on active travel planning: Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
By Patrick Harris et al
- [Making the most of a captive audience: Do specialist teams in custodial settings offer a way to assist people to access the NDIS?](#)
By Shona Bates et al
- [New South Wales data linkage study reveals a shift in HCC mortality risk: Time for broader strategies](#)
By Margo Barr et al
- [Physical activity and life expectancy: a life-table analysis](#)
By Fiona Haigh et al
- [Guiding research into integrated health and social care in Australia: suitability of three global frameworks for local adoption](#)
By Fiona Haigh et al
- [Is the term bulk-billing still relevant in today's landscape of health policy reform?](#)
By Michael Wright et al
- [Evaluation of a Virtual Health Hub for People Experiencing Homelessness in Sydney, Australia: Ensuring Physical and Psychological Primary Health Care in Crisis Accommodation](#)
By Cathy O'Callaghan, Fiona Haigh & Margo Barr
- [Reflections on leadership for diverse practice](#)
By Deborah Saltman

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