DIRECTOR’S REPORT

I am very pleased to submit the 2004 Annual report for the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre (IRMRC).

Last year was a very positive one for the IRMRC both in terms of its research productivity and growth. To reflect this, we have prepared a Research Summary of our achievements this is currently being printed as a glossy document. Our plan is to circulate it widely to promote the Centre amongst our current and possible funding agencies and collaborators. As this Research Summary provides a detailed summary of our activities and outputs in 2004, and in order to minimise duplication of effort, a copy of it is attached to this Director’s Report to form this year’s Annual report for the University.

Also included is a Statement of Financial Performance and report from the Chair of the IRMRC Board of Management.

Caroline Finch

Prof Caroline Finch
Director
NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre
University of New South Wales
CHAIR OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT’S REPORT

This was my final year as Chair of the Board of Management. The year has gone particularly well with further expansion of the research efforts due to the success of the Director, Professor Caroline Finch, and the Deputy Director, Associate Professor, Ann Williamson, in being awarded Fellowships by the National Health & Medical Research Council. The Board was delighted to hear of these highly competitive awards that demonstrate the high level of research achievement shown by these skilled and dedicated individuals. As a result of these new grants, the Centre’s core funding became available to employ 4 new postdoctoral research staff who were recruited during the year. The Centre now has 8 research students. This has lifted the output of the Centre to the level anticipated by the funding agencies, NSW Health, the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW and the Roads and Traffic Authority, when they set the Centre up 6 years ago. The financial position of the Centre is strong.

The working relationship with the funding agencies has developed very well over the last year due to the meetings of the Quarterly Review Committee that discusses the “core” work done for the funding agencies. It seems to be a long time since the Contract with the agencies was worked through but it clearly outlines a very successful modus operandi. With their support, the Centre will continue to provide skilled research data with important implications for policy development in road safety and injury in general. A major publication during the year was The NSW Injury Profile: A review of injury deaths 1998-2002 report which was released on 26th November 2004 by the Health Minister, Mr Morris Lemma.

With the Centre’s expansion, the accommodation in the Applied Science Building is clearly insufficient and moves are being made to push the University to identifying a more permanent home for the Centre. Given all the changes currently underway on the UNSW campus, this may take a little time and will require the patience of the Centre staff. In the meantime, the new website has lifted the Centre’s public profile.

As I am now able to hand over the reins as Chair to Graeme Couch, I want to thank the staff of the Centre, and particularly Professor Finch, for building so rapidly a Research Centre that UNSW can really be proud of. Graeme comes to the position from a completely different viewpoint and with origins in Electrical Engineering at UNSW. One of his roles will be to firm up the links with the Faculty of Engineering through the Centre’s good relationship with the Dean. Research partnerships with academic engineers interested in safety and ergonomics will extend the already multi-disciplinary interests of the Centre into a more practical arena.

I wish the Board, the Director, and all the staff every success in the years to come.

Elspeth McLachlan
Co-Director, Spinal Injuries Research Centre,
Chair of the Board of Management,
NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre
NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre

Statement of Financial Performance
for the year ended 31st December 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Dec-04</th>
<th>Dec-03</th>
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<td>$</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<tr>
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<td>External Fund (i)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Partners’ Contribution</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UNSW Contribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
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<td>1,720,748</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
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<td>849,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td>35,607</td>
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<tr>
<td>Materials &amp; Maintenance</td>
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<td>198,923</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Travel</td>
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<td>46,460</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,130,989</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Results</td>
<td></td>
<td>589,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus brought forward</td>
<td></td>
<td>78,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Fund Surplus</td>
<td></td>
<td>668,312</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) Excludes Debtors

5 177,341 235,138

Notes to the Statement of Financial Performance

1 This represents external revenue generated and received from research projects and consultancy activities during the year.
2 This represents Partners’ contributions during the year:
   2003: Quarters 3 and 4 $220,000
   2004: Quarters 1 to 3 $330,000
3 Breakdown:
   2004 Research Quantum from Science Faculty $56,858
   2005 Postdoc research fellowship funding from Vice Chancellery Office $70,000
4 Breakdown of expenses shared by Centre Fund (Partners contribution) and Non-centre funds:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subtotal</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>Centre Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>Centre Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials &amp; Mainten.</td>
<td>Centre Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 Outstanding debts at the end of 2004 which are not included in income.

Approved by:

[Signature]
Director, NSW IRMRC

[Signature]
Dean, Faculty of Science
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DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

2004 has been a very successful and exciting year for the NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre (IRMRC). We have expanded and consolidated our research program and forged new successful partnerships both within the University of New South Wales and across the state.

On the staffing front, we significantly enhanced our research capacity by attracting three postdoctoral research fellows to our Centre, each of whom will lead the development of new research areas for the Centre: Dr Julie Hattfield (road safety), Dr Shauna Sherker (sports/recreational safety) and Dr Andrew Hayen (biostatistics). In addition, we invested in programs to contribute to the training of Biostatistical Trainees and Public Health Officers through the programs run by NSW Health as a means of providing on-the-job research experiences in an area of critical public health concern in NSW, namely injury risk management. Two of our long-standing research officers also enrolled for PhDs and joined our team of four other PhD scholars.

Our research staff also received significant personal support for their research activities, through National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Fellowships. I commenced a NHMRC Principal Research Fellowship in 2004 and A/Prof Ann Williamson was awarded an NHMRC Senior Research fellowship to commence in 2005.

As you read this report, you will see that the growth of our research program is reflected in the range of new projects that were funded for in 2004. A particularly innovative project has been in the area of data linkage (of police crash records with hospital admissions data) as part of our core research program, funded by our funding partners: NSW Health, the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (RTA) and the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW (MAA). One of our projects, the Junior Australian Football Safety Study received significant industry awards through the involvement of the Northside Junior AFL (in NSW) and the Eastern Football League (in Victoria).

Perhaps the most outstanding success in 2004, was the awarding of an NHMRC Capacity Building Grant Partnership to a team of leading NSW injury researchers, including myself and A/Prof Ann Williamson at the IRMRC. Together with our collaborators at the George Institute (University of Sydney, USyd), School of Public Health and Community Medicine (UNSW), Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute (UNSW) and the Rehabilitation Studies Unit (USyd), we have been awarded $2.3 million over the next 5 years to build further capacity in population-based injury research. This will help fund two postdoctoral fellowships at the IRMRC in 2005-2009.

Having said all this, our success can also be measured in terms of how widely we have disseminated our research through peer-review journal papers, other publications and both invited and other conference presentations. Of particular note, were our 10 presentations at the 7th World Conference on Injury prevention and safety Promotion in Vienna in June and 7 presentations at the 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference in Mackay in September. In addition, senior IRMRC staff played key roles in the debate and information presentations at the NSW Government's Road safety Summit at Port Macquarie in June.

I hope you enjoy reading this inaugural IRMRC Research Summary and are as excited about our research achievements as we have been.
The New South Wales (NSW) Injury Risk Management Research Centre (IRMRC) is an independent research centre of the University of New South Wales (UNSW). It has strong collaborative and administrative links to the UNSW Faculties of Engineering, Medicine and Science. The IRMRC receives core funding from its three funding partners: NSW Health, the Motor Accidents Authority (MAA), and the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA). Other research activities are supported by Australian Research Council (ARC) grants, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants and other industry sources as outlined in pages 12 to 24. Some staff support is also provided by NHMRC fellowships and scholarships and the UNSW.

The three core funding agencies have significant investments in injury prevention in NSW:

- The Injury Prevention and Policy Branch of NSW Health is responsible for developing policy and program initiatives which reduce the burden of death and serious injury to the NSW Health system.

- The MAA is a statutory corporation that regulates the NSW Motor Accidents Scheme, the Compulsory Third Party (CTP) personal injury insurance scheme for motor vehicles registered in New South Wales.

- The RTA is the NSW State Government agency responsible for providing road planning, construction and maintenance solutions for the NSW community, with an emphasis on meeting community, environmental, regulatory and economic needs and, in so doing, for improving road safety, through better road user behaviour, vehicles and roads to save lives and reduce injuries.

The core research projects of the centre reflect the focus of these funding agencies and the broader research program supplements these areas.
DIRECTOR AND NHMRC PRINCIPAL RESEARCH FELLOW
Prof Caroline Finch – PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Associate Prof Ann Williamson – PhD, BSc (Hons)

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW
Dr Julie Hatfield – PhD, BA (Hons)
Dr Andrew Hayen – PhD, MBostat, BA (Hons)
Dr Shauna Sherker – PhD, MSc, BSc

RESEARCH FELLOWS
Souffiane Bousfous – MPH (Hons), BH (Hons)
Rena Friswell – BA (Hons)

SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICERS
Carlo Caponecchia – BA (Hons)
Rebecca Dennis – B Health Science (Hons)
Ralston Fernandes – BSc (Hons)
Susanne Murphy – BSc (Hons)
Mary Potter-Forbes – MComm, B Health Administration
Maria Romiti – BSpSc
Marcia Schmertmann – MPH, BSc
Therese Ma – M.Psych, B.Psych (Hons)

ADJUNCT SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW
Dr John Orchard – FASC, FACSM, FASMF, PhD, MD, MBBS, BA

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER
Dr Andrew Marich – MBBS, BSc (Hons)

BIOSTATISTICAL TRAINEE
Aarthi Ayyar – BCom

CASUAL RESEARCH ASSISTANTS
Deborah Bradford
Zoe Hill
Fiona McDonald
Eugene Qua
Amanda Site
Penny Wareham

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
Timothy Chamberlain
Nadine Kasparian
Kristy Martire
Danny Redrup
Patrick Shun
Christine Widjaja

Business Manager – Gina Lam – BA (Hons)

Executive Assistant to the Director –
Henny Oentojo – MBA, B.Bus

Administrative Officer – Patricia Villaciel –
B.Music, TAFE Music Cert II
The IRMRC has an active postgraduate student research training program. Supervision or co-supervision is provided by IRMRC staff, as described below.

All UNSW-based IRMRC students are formally enrolled in other UNSW schools. In 2004, IRMRC students were enrolled in the UNSW Faculties of Science and Medicine.

**PhD STUDENTS**

**Troy Baker**
Degree enrolled: PhD
School of enrolment: School of Psychology
Main supervisor: A/Prof Ann Williamson
Project/thesis title: Error in skilled behaviour

**Rebecca Dennis**
Degree enrolled: PhD
School of enrolment: School of Safety Science
Main supervisor: Prof Caroline Finch
Co-supervisors: Dr Andrew McIntosh (School of Safety Science, UNSW), Prof Bruce Elliott (UWA)
Project/thesis title: Cricket fast bowling workload, injury and performance project

**Soufiane Boufous**
Degree enrolled: PhD
School of enrolment: School of Public Health and Community Medicine
Main supervisor: Prof Caroline Finch
Co-supervisor: A/Prof Stephen Lord (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute)
Project/thesis title: Data linkage and injury in older people

**Ralston Fernandes**
Degree enrolled: PhD
School of enrolment: School of Psychology
Main supervisor: Dr Julie Hatfield
Co-supervisor: Dr Soames Job (RTA)
Project/thesis title: Risk taking attitudes of young NSW drivers
Rena Friswell

Degree enrolled: PhD
School of enrolment: School of Public Health and Community Medicine
Main supervisor: A/Prof Ann Williamson
Co-supervisor: A/Prof Deborah Black (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW)
Project/thesis title: Driver Fatigue

Marcia Schmertmann

Degree enrolled: PhD
School of enrolment: School of Public Health and Community Medicine
Main supervisor: A/Prof Ann Williamson
Co-supervisor: A/Prof Deborah Black (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW)
Project/thesis title: Predictive value of identified environmental, socio-demographic and behavioural factors for unintentional poisonings in young children

Basema Saddik

Degree enrolled: PhD
School of enrolment: School of Public Health and Community Medicine
Main supervisor: A/Prof Ann Williamson
Co-supervisor: A/Prof Deborah Black (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW)
Project/thesis title: Assessing neurotoxicity in working children in Lebanon

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE STUDENTS

Alex Donaldson

Degree enrolled: Doctor of Health Sciences
School of enrolment: School of Health Sciences, Deakin University
Main supervisor: Prof Caroline Finch
Project/thesis title: Development of an audit tool of the safety policies and practices adopted by community sporting clubs

MASTERS STUDENTS - RESEARCH STUDENTS

Therese Ma

Degree enrolled: Master of Psychology
School of enrolment: School of Psychology
Main supervisor: A/Prof Ann Williamson
Project/thesis title: The effects of stimulus interval and knowledge of results on sustained attention performance
Maria Romiti
Degree enrolled: Master of Safety Science (Research)
School of enrolment: School of Safety Science
Main supervisor: Dr Andrew McIntosh (School of Safety Science, UNSW)
Co-supervisor: Prof Caroline Finch
Project/thesis title: A comparative analysis of the incidence of injuries, behaviours, and attitudes of under 15 and under 18 Australian Football and Rugby players

MASTERS STUDENTS - PLACEMENTS
Melissa Cooley
Degree enrolled: Master of Forensic Psychology (placement)
School of enrolment: School of Psychology
Main supervisor: A/Prof Ann Williamson
Project/thesis title: Psychostimulants and driving

Linda Hayes
Degree enrolled: Master of Forensic Psychology (placement)
School of enrolment: School of Psychology
Main supervisor: A/Prof Ann Williamson
Project/thesis title: Psychostimulants and driving

Laura O'Neill
Degree enrolled: Master of Forensic Psychology (placement)
School of enrolment: School of Psychology
Main supervisor: A/Prof Ann Williamson
Project/thesis title: Psychostimulants and driving

MASTER STUDENTS – MINOR RESEARCH PROJECT
Prakash Chandrasekar
Degree enrolled: Master of Statistics - minor thesis
School of enrolment: School of Mathematics
Main supervisor: Prof William Dunsmuir (School of Mathematics, UNSW)
Co-supervisor: Prof Caroline Finch
Project/thesis title: Regression models for serially dependent drowning count time series data

Sanja Lujic
Degree enrolled: Master of Statistics - minor thesis
School of enrolment: School of Mathematics
Main supervisor: Prof William Dunsmuir (School of Mathematics, UNSW)
Co-supervisor: A/Prof Ann Williamson
Project/thesis title: Impact of telecommuting on traffic accidents in Sydney: A what if analysis

John Quinn
Degree enrolled: Master of Occupational Health and Safety
School of enrolment: School of Safety Science
Main supervisor: Prof Caroline Finch
Project/thesis title: Hydration status and injuries in Australian football

AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF SPORTS PHYSICIANS TRAINEE (RESEARCH PROJECT)
Katherine Rae
Degree enrolled: Australian College of Sports Physicians Registrar Training
Main supervisor: Prof Caroline Finch
Project/thesis title: Comparison of two sporting injury coding schemes
The activities of the IRMRC are guided by three management committees: the Board of Management, the Quarterly Review Committee and the Research Advisory Committee.

**BOARD OF MANAGEMENT**

The Board of Management oversees the Centre's strategic directions and financial management. During 2004, the Board of Management comprised the following members:

**PROFESSOR ELSPETH MCLACHLAN**
Chair, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research, UNSW

**PROFESSOR MIKE ARCHER**
Dean, Faculty of Science, UNSW (August and November)

**MS PAM ALBANY**
Manager, Injury Prevention and Policy Branch, NSW Health (February, May and August)

**A/PROFESSOR ALDO BAGNARA**
Acting Dean, Faculty of Science, UNSW (February and May)

**MR DAVID BOWEN**
General Manager, Motor Accidents Authority

**PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH**
Director, IRMRC

**MS ERICA GRAY**
Health Promotion Coordinator, Illawara Area Health

**DR SOAMES JOB**
General Manager, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority

**MS REBECCA MITCHELL**
Senior Policy Analyst, NSW Health (November)

**PROFESSOR BRENDON PARKER**
Dean, Faculty of Engineering, UNSW

**PROFESSOR ANTHONY ZWI**
Representative of the Dean, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW

Members of the Board of Management
From left to right: Mr David Bowen (MBA), Ms Pam Albany (NSW Health), Prof Elspeth McLachlan (Chair)
QUARTERLY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Quarterly Review Committee sets policy and guidelines for the management of, and access to, the Centre’s data resources. During 2004, the Committee comprised the following members:

PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH  
Chair, Director, IRMRC

MR KWAME ATSU  
Principal Officer, Statistics – Insurance Division, Motor Accidents Authority

MR SOUFIANE BOUFOUS  
Data Manager, IRMRC

MR MICHAEL DE ROOS  
Manager, Pedestrian and Vulnerable Road User Programs, Roads and Traffic Authority (December)

MR BILL PINK  
Acting Manager, Information Section, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority (December)

MS REBECCA MITCHELL  
Senior Policy Analyst, NSW Health

DR ANDREW HAYEN  
Biostatistician, IRMRC (December)

MR ROBERT RAMSAY  
Manager, Information Section, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority (March-September)
RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Research Advisory Committee provides advice to the Board about the research directions of the Centre. In 2004, the Committee comprised the following members:

A/PROFESSOR STEPHEN LORD
Chair, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, UNSW

PROFESSOR RICHARD BRYANT
School of Psychology, UNSW

PROFESSOR JEAN CROSS
School of Safety Science, UNSW

PROFESSOR WILLIAM DUNSMUIR
School of Mathematics, UNSW

PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH
Director, IRMRC

DR SOAMES JOB
General Manager, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority

DR BERMAN KAYIS
School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, UNSW

PROFESSOR JOHN LANGLEY
Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago, New Zealand

A/PROFESSOR ANN WILLIAMSON
Deputy Director, IRMRC, UNSW

DR KAREN ZWI
School of Women's and Children's Health, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW

Members of the Research Advisory Committee
From left to right: Front Row: Prof Caroline Finch, Dr Berman Kayis, A/Prof Ann Williamson, Dr Karen Zwi
Back Row: Dr Soames Job, Prof William Dunsmuir, A/Prof Stephen Lord (Chair), Prof John Langley, Prof Jean Cross
In addition to the Management Committees, the IRMRC established Project Advisory Committees for its major data projects.

DATA LINKAGE PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Project Advisory Committee provided expert advice on issues relating to data linkage of hospital admissions records and police crash records. In 2004, the Committee comprised the following members:

PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH

Chair, Director, IRMRC

MR KWAME ATSU

Principal Officer, Statistics — Insurance Division, Motor Accidents Authority

MS AARTHİ AYYAR

Biostatistical Trainee, IRMRC

MR SOUFİANE BOUFOSU

Data Manager, IRMRC

PROFESSOR WILLIAM DUNSMUIR

School of Mathematics, UNSW

MS REBECCA MITCHELL

Senior Policy Analyst, NSW Health

MR ROBERT RAMSAY

Manager, Information Section, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority

PROFESSOR MARK STEVENSON

Director, Injury Prevention and Trauma Care Program, The George Institute for International Health

A/PROFESSOR ANN WILLIAMSON

Deputy Director, IRMRC
RTA/WORKCOVER FATIGUE DATA LINKAGE PROJECT COMMITTEE

This Project Advisory Committee provided expert advice for the linkage of police crash records with workplace injury insurance cover claims to identify crashes involving fatigue. In 2004, the Committee comprised the following members:

**A/PROFESSOR ANN WILLIAMSON**
Chair, Deputy Director, IRMRC

**MR SOUFIANE BOUFOUS**
Data Manager, IRMRC

**MR TONY DAVIES**
Manager, Data Management, WorkCover NSW

**PROFESSOR CAROLINE FINCH**
Director, IRMRC

**MR ROBERT RAMSAY**
Manager, Information Section, Road Safety Strategy, Roads and Traffic Authority
During 2004, the IRMRC staff were involved in a range of research projects across the following broad areas:

- data systems and injury surveillance
- public health approaches for injury prevention
- road safety
- sports and recreational injury
- work-related injury

The following is a brief summary of each project, including the research collaborators and funding received during 2004.

DATA SYSTEMS AND INJURY EPIDEMIOLOGY

A REVIEW OF INJURY DEATHS IN NSW OVER THE PERIOD 1998-2002

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Marcia Schmertmann, Caroline Finch, Ann Williamson

FUNDING
2003-2004, Core funding

SUMMARY
This project involved analysis of injury mortality for NSW based on available data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. A published report described trends in annual death rates over time for the 15 most common injury death mechanisms. These 15 injury mechanisms accounted for 86% of all injury deaths over the period 1998-2002.
RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARIES

LINKAGE OF HOSPITAL SEPARATIONS AND POLICE CRASH RECORDS

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Soufiane Boufous, Aarthi Ayyar, Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Prof William Dunsmuir (School of Mathematics, UNSW)

FUNDING
2004-2005, Core funding

SUMMARY
Work commenced on a major data linkage exercise using probabilistic linkage techniques to link hospital separations data with police crash records for the period 2000/2001. During 2004, the methodology was developed and initial screening of the two datasets undertaken.

ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN HOSPITALISED FRACTURES IN OLDER PERSONS IN NSW OVER THE PAST DECADE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Soufiane Boufous, Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
A/Prof Stephen Lord (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute)

FUNDING
2004, Core funding

SUMMARY
This project examined trends in fracture incidence, as measured by hospital admissions, in older persons in NSW.

Separate analyses were conducted on trends in the incidence of hip fracture and pelvic fractures. The hip fracture analyses were published in the Medical Journal of Australia.

TRENDS IN SCALD/BURN INJURIES IN NSW

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Soufiane Boufous, Caroline Finch

FUNDING
2004-2005, Core funding

SUMMARY
This project involved an analysis of trends in scald/burns hospitalisation rates in NSW in two high risk groups: children aged 0-4 years and people aged at least 65 years.

THE TRIAGE INJURY SURVEILLANCE PROJECT

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Andrew Marich (NSW Public Health Officer Training Program), Caroline Finch

FUNDING
2004, Core funding

SUMMARY
This project is investigating the utility of narrative text, as routinely entered by emergency department triage nurses, for the purposes of injury surveillance and evaluating the ability of the Public Health Real-Time Emergency Department Surveillance System (PHREDSS) to identify injury-related emergency presentations at NSW hospitals.
PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACHES FOR INJURY PREVENTION

Staff Involved in public health research approaches
From left to right: Dr Andrew Marich (Public Health Officer), Ms Aarthi Ayyar (Biostatistical Trainee)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND VIOLENCE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Prof Anthony Zwi (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW). The project is being directed by Prof Zwi and his team at the School of Public Health and Community Medicine.

FUNDING
2004-2005, NSW Health (funding received in 2004: $50,000)

SUMMARY
This project is exploring future possibilities associated with linking the work of population health personnel with other sectors and disciplines currently engaged in the prevention of violence and crime. The project will describe future initiatives aimed at improving the quality of health data from the perspective of those attempting to prevent violence, together with recommendations for a future work program.

PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINEE FELLOWSHIP ON CORONIAL AND EMERGENCY DATA

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch

FUNDING
2004-2005, NSW Health (funding received in 2004: $52,987)

SUMMARY
This project provides workplace training opportunities for NSW Health public health trainees to spend 6-12 months at the IRMRC developing skills in injury prevention work. In 2004, the first Public Health Trainee, Andrew Marich, worked on assessing the value of NSW emergency department data collections for injury prevention.

BIOSTATISTICAL APPROACHES FOR INJURY DATA

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Prof William Dunsmaur (School of Mathematics, UNSW)

FUNDING
2004-2007, NSW Health (funding received in 2004: $74,500)

SUMMARY
The Biostatistical Approaches for Injury Data program provides workplace training opportunities for NSW Health biostatistical trainee officers. The focus is on improved understanding of the nature of injury data and developing statistical approaches for its analysis. In 2004, the trainee, Aarthi Ayyar, contributed to the development of the IRMRC's data linkage methodology.
ROAD SAFETY

SUMMARY
This project has evaluated non-regulatory, alternative approaches to work-rest scheduling for long distance road transport drivers.

EVALUATING DIFFERENCES IN HEAVY VEHICLE DRIVER FATIGUE LEVELS OF DAY AND NIGHT DRIVING

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Rena Friswell

COLLABORATORS
Dr Anne-Marie Feyer (Pricewaterhouse Coopers/NEOH, University of Otago), Prof Phillipa Gander (Sleep/Wake Research Centre, Massey University)

FUNDING
2000-2004, National Road Transport Commission (funding received in 2004: $30,877)

Fatigue in Motorcyclists

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Rena Friswell, Therese Ma

FUNDING
2003-2004, Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia/Wellongong City Council (funding received in 2004: $5,000)

SUMMARY
This study examined the development of fatigue in a group of recreational motorcycle riders during a day trip. The day trip involved approximately 4.5 hours of riding interspersed with 1.5 hours of break. The results suggested that longer rides might compromise safety.

Fatigue Management Programmes: Impact on Sleep, Fatigue and Performance

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Samantha Sadural, Rena Friswell

COLLABORATORS
Dr Anne-Marie Feyer (Pricewaterhouse Coopers/NEOH, University of Otago)

FUNDING
2000-2004, The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (funding received in 2004: $1,720)

Fatigue in the Light Trucking Sector

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Rena Friswell

COLLABORATORS
Dr Anne-Marie Feyer (Pricewaterhouse Coopers/NEOH, University of Otago)

FUNDING
2003-2006, Australian Research Council Linkage grant (funding partners: Motor Accidents Authority, National Road Transport
Commission, Australian Transport Safety Bureau, the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission) (funding received in 2004: $213,149)

SUMMARY
The project is examining the effects of fatigue on safety and performance in the light trucking sector. In 2004, the project involved surveying employer and driver representatives from a range of sectors within the light trucking industry.

RISK PERCEPTIONS, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS REGARDING DRIVER FATIGUE IN NSW YOUTH: THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN EVIDENCE-BASED DRIVER FATIGUE EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION STRATEGY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield

FUNDING
2002-2005, Motor Accidents Authority (funding received in 2004: $13,211)

SUMMARY
The project is developing a Driver Fatigue Message for young drivers, based on investigation of young drivers' perceptions of, attitudes toward, and behaviours relating to, driver fatigue. Evaluation of the effectiveness of this message will be undertaken in 2005.

THE PREVALENCE OF WORK-RELATED DRIVER FATIGUE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Soufiane Boufous

FUNDING
2004, Roads and Traffic Authority (funding received in 2004: $15,304)

SUMMARY
This study was an attempt to examine the question of whether work-related road traffic casualty crashes differ from non-work related casualty crashes by linking the NSW workers compensation dataset with the RTA's Traffic Accident Database (TADs). This project involved data matching of the crash database from the Roads and Traffic Authority of NSW (TADS) and the workers compensation dataset of the WorkCover Authority of NSW in order to determine the involvement of fatigue in drivers commuting between work and home.

NEW SOUTH WALES YOUNG DRIVERS' COHORT STUDY

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

COLLABORATORS
Prof Robyn Norton, Prof Mark Stevenson, Prof Mark Woodward (The George Institute for International Health, University of Sydney); Prof Maurice Eisenbruch (School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW); Mr Don Carseldine (Roads and Traffic Authority). This project is led by the George Institute for International Health.

FUNDING
2000-2006, NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (no funding received in 2004)

SUMMARY
This prospective cohort study is collecting information about potential risk factors for crashes and injuries from 20,000 young people aged 17-24 years, at the time they receive their provisional drivers licence at the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority licensing centre. Information is being collected on road risk perceptions and road risk taking behaviours, pre-licensing driving experience and training/education. This information will then be linked prospectively to information about motor vehicle crash and injury involvement, prior to the age of 30 years, collected and recorded routinely in databases maintained by the RTA and the NSW coroners.
RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARIES

DRIVER DISTRACTION STUDY
CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

COLLABORATORS
This project is led by the UWA Injury Research Centre.

FUNDING
2003-2005, Motor Accidents Authority
(no funding received in 2004)

SUMMARY
The aim of this study is to investigate the effects of distractions on driving. It involves telephone surveying 600 drivers in Western Australia and Sydney regarding their experiences and attitudes to distractions while driving.

PSYCHOSTIMULANT USE IN LONG DISTANCE ROAD TRANSPORT
CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

FUNDING
2004-2005, NSW Health (funding received in 2004: $20,000)

SUMMARY
This project involves two phases: first, an analysis of existing survey data from two national surveys of long distance truck drivers and second, a survey of more specific aspects of drug use and attitudes among long distance truck drivers.

RISK TAKING ATTITUDES OF YOUNG NSW DRIVERS
CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Ralston Fernandes

FUNDING
2003-2005, Motor Accidents Authority
(funding received in 2004: $30,004)

SUMMARY
The aim of this project is to challenge the assumption that similar intervention strategies will impact different risky driving behaviours. By identifying which psychological factors (e.g. attitudes, personality styles, etc) are associated with particular driving behaviours, the project will form the basis for more specifically targeted, and so more effective, intervention strategies to be developed.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MESSAGES AND EXPERIENCES TO REDUCE ROAD-RELATED ILLUSORY INVULNERABILITY AND RISKY DRIVING, FOR SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN AND YOUNG DRIVERS
CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Carlo Caponecchia

FUNDING
2001-2005, Motor Accidents Authority
(no funding received in 2004)

Summary
The aim of this project is to develop and evaluate messages to improve risk perception in young drivers. For example, the messages aim to reduce "illusory invulnerability" – that is, people's belief that they are less likely than their peers to experience negative events (e.g. a car crash) – and so to reduce risky driving. The effects on simulated and on-road driving will be assessed.

IMPLICIT ATTITUDES AND SIMULATED DRIVING BEHAVIOUR
CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Julie Hatfield, Ralston Fernandes

FUNDING
2004-2005, Australian Transport Safety Bureau (funding received in 2004: $20,108)

SUMMARY
The aim of this project is to validate self-reported attitudes toward speeding using
an implicit measure of these attitudes. The Implicit Association Test (IAT) is a computer task that uses reaction time to assess associations between speeding-related words and positive versus negatively valenced words. Association of speeding (self-reported and driving simulator) with explicit and implicit attitudes toward speeding will also be assessed.

**EVALUATION OF PROFILE LINE MARKING AS A ROAD SAFETY COUNTERMEASURE**

**CENTRE INVESTIGATOR**
Julie Hatfield, Susanne Murphy

**FUNDING**
2004-2006, Australian Research Council Linkage Grant (funding partner: Roads and Traffic Authority) (funding received in 2004: $55,347)

**SUMMARY**
This project is a systematic behavioural and psychological evaluation of the effects of Profile Line Markings (raised bumps at the road edge to alert drivers going off the road), including the role of road users’ beliefs regarding Profile Line Markings. Improved understanding of Profile Line Markings’ effect on vehicle controllers, and the underlying mechanisms, will allow optimal use of this road safety strategy.

**THE EFFECTS OF IN-VEHICLE AUDIOVISUAL DISPLAY UNITS ON SIMULATED DRIVING**

**CENTRE INVESTIGATOR**
Julie Hatfield, Timothy Chamberlain

**FUNDING**
2004-2005, Roads and Traffic Authority (no funding received in 2004)

**SUMMARY**
This project aims to evaluate the impact on simulated driving of 1) the audio materials of an audiovisual program (compared to radio and no-sound conditions); and 2) the visual materials of an audiovisual program from a display unit positioned as if on the front-seatback of a vehicle in an adjacent lane (compared to a no-materials condition). Results may have implications for regulations relating to in-vehicle audiovisual display units.
SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL INJURY

PARENTAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS SPORTS SAFETY
CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Soufiane Boufous, Caroline Finch

COLLABORATOR
Prof Adrian Bauman (School of Public Health, University of Sydney)

FUNDING
2000-2004, Core funding

SUMMARY:
Data from the 2002 NSW Child Health Survey was used to explore the relationships between parents’ safety concerns and the extent to which these influence their choices of physical activity participation for their children. The results were published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health.

CRICKET FAST BOWLING WORKLOAD, INJURY AND PERFORMANCE PROJECT
CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Rebecca Dennis, Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Prof Bruce Elliott (School of Human Movement and Exercise Science, UWA), Dr Andrew McIntosh (School of Safety Science, UNSW)

FUNDING
2003-2005, Cricket Australia (funding received in 2004: $40,145)

SUMMARY
This project is identifying risk and other factors related to the outcomes of injury and performance in cricket fast bowlers.

MANAGING RETURN-TO-PLAY DECISIONS FOLLOWING MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (MTBI): A COHORT STUDY
CENTRE INVESTIGATOR
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Prof Mark Stevenson (The George Institute for International Health, University of Sydney), Dr Michael Collins and Dr Mark Lovell (University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre), Dr Andy Lee (School of Population Health, University of Western Australia), Dr Andrew McIntosh (School of Safety Science, UNSW). This project is led by the George Institute for International Health.

FUNDING
2004-2008, USA Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Grant (no funding received in 2004)

SUMMARY
This 5 year project involves a cohort study to assess the risk of head injuries in rugby footballers and to determine the longer term sequelae of them in order to provide an evidence base for return to play guidelines after concussion.
SUBSTANCE USE AND SNOW SPORT ACTIVITY: AN INVESTIGATION OF RISK PERCEPTIONS, ATTITUDES AND KNOWLEDGE

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch, Shauna Sherker

COLLABORATORS
Prof Jim Kehoe (School of Psychology, UNSW), Dr Mark Dovety (NSW Southern Area Health Services)

FUNDING
2004, NSW Southern Area Health Services (funding received in 2004: $30,909)

SUMMARY
Drug and alcohol use, combined with fatigue, may impair perceptions of injury risk as well as increasing the actual risk of injury, thus potentially placing people at an even higher risk of injury. The aim of this study was to learn more about the knowledge and views that skiers and snowboarders have about their risk of injury and to investigate the role of fatigue, alcohol and drug use on skier and snowboarder injury risk perception.

THE JUNIOR AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL SAFETY STUDY (JAFSS)

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Caroline Finch, Maria Romiti

COLLABORATOR
Dr Belinda Gabb (Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University)

FUNDING

SUMMARY
This project aims to quantify the risk of injury in junior Australian Football and to identify possible areas for minimising risk of injury. Primary data collectors collected full football participation information and basic injury details at games and training sessions during the 2004 playing season.
THE SQUASH EYEWEAR RESEARCH PROJECT (SQERP)

CENTRE INVESTIGATOR
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
Dr Rochelle Elme (Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University), Prof Neville Owen (School of Population Health, University of Queensland), Dr Cathy McCarty (Marshfield Clinic Research Centre, Marshfield USA)

FUNDING
National Health and Medical Research Council (funding received in 2002-2004: $43,603)

SUMMARY
This project applied an ecological framework to the development of an eyewear promotion intervention aimed at achieving behaviour change. The intervention was implemented in a sample of squash venues and evaluated against control venue experiences.

REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF VICTORIAN SPORT RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

CENTRE INVESTIGATOR
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
A/Prof Leonie Otago, A/Prof Peter Swan, Dr Jennifer Blitvich, Ms Sue Brown (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat). This project is led by the University of Ballarat researchers.

FUNDING
2004-2005, Department for Victorian Communities (no funding received in 2004)

SUMMARY
This project is examining the extent to which Victorian State Sporting Bodies have developed and implemented risk management plans.

PARENTAL PERCEPTIONS OF SPORTS INJURY RISK

CENTRE INVESTIGATOR
Caroline Finch

COLLABORATORS
A/Prof Leonie Otago, Dr Michael Reynolds, Dr Michael Spittle, Prof Warren Payne, Dr Jack Harvey (School of Human Movement and Sports Sciences, University of Ballarat). This project is led by the University of Ballarat researchers.

FUNDING
2004-2005, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (no funding received in 2004)

SUMMARY
This project is using a survey methodology to interview parents about their children’s sporting activities and their perception of sports injury risks during these activities.

FEASIBILITY TRIAL OF A MINIMUM WATER SAFETY DATASET

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson

FUNDING
2001-2004, NSW Water Safety Taskforce, Department Sport and Recreation, NSW Health (no funding received in 2004)

SUMMARY
The aim of this project was to trial methods for collecting comprehensive and systematic data on rescues on NSW beaches.
RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARIES

WORK-RELATED INJURY
ANALYSIS OF SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES MINING INDUSTRY

CENTRE INVESTIGATOR
Ann Williamson

FUNDING
2001-2005, The NSW Department of Mineral Resources (no funding received in 2004)

SUMMARY
This project involves an annual analysis and interpretation of reportable incident and injury data collected by the Department of Primary Industries (formerly the Department of Mineral Resources). This included: identification of trends in incidents and injuries; degree of movement and reason for movement; a breakdown of incidents by different classifications and subsequent cross tabulations to identify causes; examination of numbers, factors and circumstances for fatalities and non-fatal injuries.

THE EFFECTS OF PRECARIOUS WORK ON OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

CENTRE INVESTIGATOR
Ann Williamson

COLLABORATORS
Prof Phillip Bohle and Prof Michael Quinlan (School of Organisation and Management, UNSW). This project is led by the School of Organisation and Management, UNSW.

FUNDING
2001-2005, Australian Research Council Discovery Grant (no funding received in 2004)

SUMMARY
The aim of this project is to examine the effects of precarious working arrangements (e.g., casual work, payment by results) on occupational health and safety. The study is using survey methodology to evaluate current work practices and health and safety outcomes in three industry sectors: transport, hospitality, and call centres.

NHMRC INJURY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

CENTRE INVESTIGATOR
Ann Williamson

COLLABORATOR
Prof Tony Parker
(School of Human Movement Studies, QUT)

FUNDING

SUMMARY
This project is a workplace safety collaborative project being coordinated by Injury Prevention and Control Australia (IPCA). It involves the development of an overview of injury information on the mining industry in Australia.

A PROJECT TO COLLECT AND EXAMINE DATA ON FATIGUE, WITH FOCUS ON PRIORITY INDUSTRIES

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Rena Friswell, Therese Ma, Soufiane Boufous

FUNDING

SUMMARY
This project involved a review of existing datasets on injury in Australia, to identify those containing information on work-related and fatigue-related injuries in the priority industries. This research determined the nature and extent of data that are available in Australia and that bear upon the relationship
between occupational injury/disease and fatigue in four priority industry – construction, manufacturing, transport and storage, and health and community services.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING UNPLANNED MOVEMENTS OF MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT IN MINING IN NSW

CENTRE INVESTIGATORS
Ann Williamson, Therese Ma

FUNDING
2004, the NSW Department of Mineral Resources (funding received in 2004: $21,125)

SUMMARY
The aim of this analysis was to look at the causal circumstances across mine safety incidents of unplanned movements of mechanical equipment reported in the NSW Department of Mineral Resources incident database between July 1999 and July 2003. This information is being used to identify common features and to use these to determine the strategies likely to be most effective in preventing incidents.
PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FUNDING IN 2004 BUT FOR WHICH RESEARCH WORK WILL NOT COMMENCE UNTIL 2005

IRMRC staff are listed in bold in the following list


Finch C. Development of falls injury risk protections, fall injury indicators for NSW, a program of fall injury-related research for NSW and a framework for evaluation and review of the falls policy. NSW Health Injury Prevention and Policy Branch. 2005. $87,000.


Finch C, Potter-Forbes M, Abelson P, Driscoll T. Cost of work related injuries and illness in NSW.

NSW Workcover Authority. 2005. $93,220.


Williamson A. Time of day, time awake and alcohol: The effects on fatigue and performance. ARC Discovery Grant. 2005. $115,000.
LIST OF MAJOR COLLABORATORS

During 2004, the Centre had major research collaborations with a number of people across UNSW and external to it.

MS KRISTY ABBOTT
A/PROFESSOR LYNNE BILSTON
DR REBECCA BRAHAM
MR DON CARSELDINE
DR MICHAEL COLLINS
PROFESSOR JEAN CROSS
MR ALEX DONALDSON
PROFESSOR WILLIAM DUNSMUIR
DR ROCHELLE EIME
PROFESSOR MAURICE EISENBRUCH
PROFESSOR BRUCE ELLIOTT
DR ANNE-MARIE FEYER
DR BELINDA GABBE
PROFESSOR PHILLIPA GANDER
PROFESSOR JIM KEOH
MR PAUL KLARENAR
DR DAVID LLOYD
A/PROFESSOR STEPHEN LORD
DR MARK LOVELL
MS MARY MAHONEY
DR ANDREW MCINTOSH
PROFESSOR ROBYN NORTON
PROFESSOR NEVILLE OWEN
A/PROFESSOR LEONIE OTAGO
PROFESSOR MARK STEVENSON
PROFESSOR MARK WOODWARD
PROFESSOR ANTHONY ZWI

Youthsafe
Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, UNSW
Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
Roads and Traffic Authority
University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre
School of Safety Science, UNSW
Northern Beaches Area Health Service
School of Mathematics, UNSW
School of Human Movement and Sport Science, University of Ballarat
School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW
School of Human Movement and Exercise Science, University of Western Australia
Pricewaterhouse Coopers/NEOH, University of Otago
Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University
Sleep/Wake Research Centre, Massey University
School of Psychology, UNSW
Northern Sydney Health
School of Human Movement and Exercise Science, University of Western Australia
Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute
University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre
School of Health Sciences, Deakin University
School of Safety Science, UNSW
George Institute of International Health, University of Sydney
School of Public Health, University of Queensland
School of Human Movement and Sport Science, University of Ballarat
George Institute of International Health, University of Sydney
School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW
During 2004, Prof Caroline Finch and A/Prof Ann Williamson were members of a partnership of leading NSW injury researchers established to develop capacity building opportunities in injury research in this state. The team of seven research leaders (Prof Caroline Finch and A/Prof Ann Williamson, IRMRC; Prof Mark Stevenson and Prof Robyn Norton, The George Institute for International Health; Prof Anthony Zwi, School of Public Health and Community Medicine, UNSW; A/Prof Stephen Lord, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute; A/Prof Ian Cameron, Rehabilitation Studies Unit, USyd) were awarded a $2.35 million NHMRC Capacity Building Grant in Population Health to grow this collaboration and to train younger researchers over the next five years.
**VISITORS TO THE CENTRE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DR REBECCA BRAHAM</strong></td>
<td>Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DR ANTHONY CARTER</strong></td>
<td>School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, James Cook University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DR LESLEY DAY</strong></td>
<td>Monash University Accident Research Centre</td>
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<td><strong>DR BELINDA GABBE</strong></td>
<td>Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, Monash University</td>
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<td><strong>DR ROCHELLE EIME</strong></td>
<td>School of Human Movement and Sport Science, University of Ballarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DR ALAN HOBBS</strong></td>
<td>NASA-Ames Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROF JOHN LANGLEY</strong></td>
<td>Injury Prevention Research Unit, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MS MARY MAHONEY</strong></td>
<td>School of Health Sciences, Deakin University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MR MIKE TSIOHTIS</strong></td>
<td>Research Manager – Safety and Traffic, Australian Road Research Board (Vic)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MS NICOLA RABOT</strong></td>
<td>Department of Human Services, Public Health Branch (Vic)</td>
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</table>
In 2004, the IRMRC delivered an innovative course on injury prevention focusing on a broad multidisciplinary approach to risk management. The objective of the course was to explore concepts in injury risk management with particular emphasis on understanding how injury occurs and how injury differs from other public health problems. The course covered:

- What is injury? The size of the problems and different ways of counting injury.
- Introduction to the concepts of risk, risk assessment and risk management. Quality and safety, hazards and risks and the role of risk perception.
- Injury surveillance including sources of injury data, injury coding and classification and introduces ICD coding of injury mechanism, nature and agency as well as the limitations of population databases.
- Approaches to injury prevention policy and intervention and the role of regulation.
- Introduction to human factors and injury.
- Injury risk management in the real world.

The course was conducted over five consecutive days in July and 14 students were enrolled in it. The course is a university accredited, counting as six units of credit towards postgraduate qualifications. It was also offered as a non-award programme for non-UNSW students.
A major role of the IRMRC is to analyse and report on population-level data relating to injury occurrence and injury risk management in New South Wales. It does this through its own research activities, as well as through providing a data service for interested agencies.

The IRMRC provides a free “data analysis and advice” service to its funding partners and their approved agencies. This service is also available to other agencies on a fee for service basis. This service includes the analysis of various datasets, provision of research advice, provision of data quality advice, review of documents, and conduct of literature reviews.

Information can be provided on a wide range of issues including different mechanisms of injury (e.g., road traffic crashes, falls, violence, etc.), various population groups (e.g., children, older people and those from non-English backgrounds, etc) and different locations of occurrence (e.g., on the road, at home and in the workplace, etc).
All IRMRC authors are listed in bold in the following lists.

**PEER-REVIEW JOURNAL PAPERS**


NON-PEER REVIEW PAPERS


LETTERS


CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS


Hatfield J, Job RFS. Pedestrian and driver understanding of priority rules and different pedestrian crossing types. CD ROM Proceedings of 2004 Road Safety Research, Policing, and Education Conference, Perth, November.

RESEARCH REPORTS


Hatfield J. Job RFS. Beliefs and attitudes about speeding and its countermeasures. Report to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau. April 2004


BOOK CHAPTERS


CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS


Djkvucic I, Hatfield J, Job RFS. Experimental examination of the effect of attitude to the noise source on reaction, and of reaction on performance. Proceedings InterNoise 2004, Prague, August p325


Finch C. Sports safety in Australia: What has been happening over the past five years? 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Vienna, 6-9th June 2004. p233.


**PUBLICATIONS**


**Hatfield J, Job RFS.** Perception of priority rules at pedestrian crossings by pedestrians and drivers. Proceedings of Local Government Road Safety Conference, Sydney, September 2004. p68

**Hatfield J, Job RFS.** Examination of perceived air pollution as a moderator of reaction to aircraft noise. Proceedings InterNoise 2004, Prague, August 323


McIntosh A, Best J, Chalmers D, **Finch C,** McCrory P. Is protective headgear effective in rugby union football? The results of a randomised controlled trial. 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Vienna, 6-9th June 2004. p494.

McIntosh A, Finch C, **French C,** Romiti M. Attitudes towards safety and protective equipment in rugby union football. 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Vienna, 6-9th June 2004. p492.


**SchmERTmann ML.** Are children aged one to three years at increased risk of accidental poisoning? 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference, Mackay, 15-17th September 2004. p49.


**Williamson A, Garg U.** What can a tingle tell us about making workplaces safer? The causes of electric shock incidents in mining. 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Vienna, 6-9th June 2004. p857. 1.
CONFERENCE

PROF CAROLINE FINCH

- Finch C. Sports injury epidemiology - what’s it got to do with sports medicine. NSW Conference of Science and Medicine in Sport, Sydney, 6th March 2004. (Invited talk)


- Finch C. Sports safety in Australia - what has been happening over the past 5 years? 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Vienna, 6-9th June 2004. (Poster)


- Finch C. Sports safety in Australia - What has been happening over the past 5 years? 2004 Australian Conference of Science and Medicine in Sport, Alice Springs, October 2004. (Poster)

SOUFIANE BOUFOUS


- **Boufous S, Finch C,** Lord S. *Incidence of hip fracture in New South Wales: are our efforts having an effect?* 1st National Falls Prevention Conference, Manly November 2004. (Talk)

REBECCA DENNIS

- **Dennis R.** *Bowling workload as a risk factor for injury to elite cricket fast bowlers.* NSW Conference of Science and Medicine in Sport, Sydney, 6th March 2004. (Invited talk)


- **Dennis R, Orchard J, Finch C.** *Do longer and more frequent bowling spells increase the risk of injury to cricket fast bowlers?* 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference and 2nd Pacific Rim Safe Communities Conference, Mackay, Queensland, 15-17th September 2004. (Talk)

RALSTON FERNANDES

- **Fernandes R, Job RFS, Hatfield J.** *Young driver characteristics in the prediction of drink-driving: Comparing drink-driving with a range of driving behaviours.* 17th International Conference on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety, Glasgow, Scotland, August 2004. (Talk)

PRESENTATIONS

RENA FRISWELL

- Friswell R, Ma T, Williamson A. Fatigue in motorcycle riders. 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Vienna, 6-9th June 2004. (Poster)

DR JULIE HATFIELD

- Hatfield J. Pedestrian safety and concurrent mobile phone use. 28th International Congress of Psychology, Beijing, August 2004. (invited talk)
- Hatfield J, Job RFS. Ethnic differences in speeding and related beliefs and attitudes. 28th International Congress of Psychology, Beijing, August 2004. (invited talk)
- Hatfield J, Job RFS. Examination of perceived air pollution as a moderator of reaction to aircraft noise. Internoise 2004, Prague, August 2004. (invited talk)
- Djokvic I, Hatfield J, Job RFS. Experimental examination of the effect of attitude to the noise source on reaction, and of reaction on performance. Internoise 2004, Prague, August 2004. (invited talk)
- Hatfield J. Health Psychology. 28th International Congress of Psychology, Beijing, August 2004. (Invited Chair)

MARCIA SCHMERTMANN

- Schertmann M. Are children age one to three years at increased risk of accidental poisoning? 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference and 2nd Pacific Rim Safe Communities Conference, Mackay, Queensland, 15-17th September 2004. (Talk)

MARY POTTER FORBES

- Potter Forbes M. Injury costs! AUD 3.5 billion of preventable burden in the state of New South Wales, Australia. 7th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion, Vienna, 6-9th June 2004. (Poster and Talk)

MARIA ROMITI

GOVERNMENT AND POLICY FORUMS

PROF CAROLINE FINCH

- The NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre. NSW Health Promotion Directors Meeting, Sydney, 17th February 2004. (Invited talk)
- NSW Country Road Safety Summit, Port Macquarie, 26-28th May 2004. (Invited Chair)

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON

- Hours of work and fatigue: Regulation, work practices and personal needs. 3rd National OHS Regulation Consortium Workshop, 11-12th February 2004. (Invited talk)
- Using mining regulations to direct occupational health and safety. 3rd National OHS Regulation Consortium Workshop, 11-12th February 2004. (Invited talk)
- Regulating hours of work and fatigue. 3rd National OHS Regulation Consortium Workshop, 11-12th February 2004. (Invited talk)
- Heavy vehicles, speeding and crashes and on fatigue and performance in day and night driving in the long distance road transport industry. Presentation to National Transport Commission, Melbourne, 20th February 2004. (Invited talk)
- Psychometric tests and safety behaviours: Is there a link? Reliability and validity issues. Briefing session for National and District Officials, CFMEU Mining and Energy Division, 26th March 2004. (Invited talk)
- What do we know about the role of fatigue. Victorian Parliamentary Committee on Road Safety, Sydney, 29th April 2004. (Invited talk)
- Fatigue and driving: Everyone’s problem. NSW Country Road Safety Summit, Port Macquarie, 26-28th May 2004. (Invited talk)
- About the IRMRC. Road Safety Officers Meeting, Sydney, September 2004. (Invited talk)

DR JULIE HATFIELD

- Drink driving in country NSW. Country Road Safety Summit, Port Macquarie, 27th June 2004. (Invited talk)

DR SHAUNA SHERKER

- An overview of playground injury research to date. NSWHealth – Injury Prevention Meeting, April 2004, Sydney, NSW. (Invited talk)
OTHER PRESENTATIONS

PROF CAROLINE FINCH

• The statistics of injury risk management. School of Mathematics, 12th May 2004. (Invited seminar)
• Protective equipment and sports - perceived injury risks and safety behaviours. School of Psychology, 19th May 2004. (Invited seminar)
• Is sports injury really inevitable? Faculty of Science seminar series, 22nd October 2004 (Invited seminar)

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON

• Documenting the burden of injury in NSW and Australia - Injury Surveillance. Injury Prevention Course, The George Institute and University of Sydney, August 2004. (Invited lecture)

DR JULIE HATFIELD

• Pedestrian and driver knowledge of priority rules for various types of crossings. 2004 Local Government Road Safety Conference, Sydney, September 2004. (Invited talk)
• The effects of mobile telephone use on concurrent road-user behaviour. UNSW School of Psychology Colloquium, September 2004. (Invited seminar)
• How is the local government road safety conference not a conference? NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre Short Course, July 2004. (Invited lecture)

DR SHAUNA SHERKER

In 2004, IRMRC staff received the following awards:

PROF CAROLINE FINCH

- The Inaugural Sports Medicine Australia (SMA) President’s Award at the Australian Conference of Science and Medicine in Sport. The President's Award is made annually by the SMA National Board to recognise outstanding service to the Federation and its members.

- NSW Sporting Injuries Committee’s FE Johnson Memorial Fellowship Award for outstanding achievement in the field of sports medicine.

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON

- The 2004 Award for Meritorious Achievement in Research awarded by the Australian Injury Prevention Network.


MARIA ROMITI

- Student bursary for the 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference, 15-17th September 2004, Mackay, Queensland.

MARCIA SCHMERTMANN

- Student bursary for the 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference, 15-17th September 2004, Mackay, Queensland.

The football body partners of the Junior Australian Football Safety Study (JAFSS) also received major awards for their involvement in the IRMRC research in 2004:

The Northside Junior Australian Football was awarded the 2004 NSW Sport Safety Award Gold Medal for Outstanding achievement by a sports organisation in implementing or adopting a safe sport practice.

The Eastern Football League, in Victoria, was awarded Finalists for the Safety Initiatives Award held by Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Prof Caroline Finch receives her FE Johnson Memorial Fellowship Award

JAFSS project team (Dr Delinda Gabbe, Ms Maria Romiti and Prof Caroline Finch) with Bob Robinson (President), Northside AFL. In receipt of the Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement by a sports organisation in implementing or adopting a safe sport practice.

Winners of 2004 AIPN Student Bursaries: Marcia Schmertmann, Maria Romiti, and Fiona Barrett with Richard Franklin, President AIPN
STAFF MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, PANELS AND WORKING PARTIES

PROF CAROLINE FINCH
- Deputy Convenor, NSW Child Death Review Team.
- Member, Awards Committee, NSW Sporting Injuries Committee.
- Member, Injury Prevention Research Institutes of Australasia (IPRIA), Sydney.
- Member, NHMRC Training Awards Committee Assessment Panel.
- Member, Organising Committee for 2005 Australian Conference of Science and Medicine in Sport.
- Member, Scientific Committee for the Australian Falls Prevention Inaugural Conference, Manly, November 2004.
- Member, Scientific Committee for the 7th Australian Injury Prevention Conference and 2nd Pacific Rim Safe Communities Conference, Mackay, Queensland, September 2004.
- Researcher member, Victorian Smartplay Steering Committee.

REBECCA DENNIS
- Student representative, Australian Injury Prevention Network Executive Committee.

DR JULIE HATFIELD
- Member, International Commission on the Behavioural Effects of Noise, Team 6 (Community Reaction).
- Member of NSW Road Safety Taskforce

DR SHAUNA SHERKER
- Member, Sports Medicine Australia (NSW) Board of Directors.
- NSW NHMRC representative, UNSW Faculty of Science Research Management Committee.

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON
- Chair, Human Ethics Advisory Panel (Health and Social), UNSW.
- Member, National Rail Industry Reference group on fatigue.
- Member, Performance Measures Task Group for NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council.
OTHER ACTIVITIES OF IRMRC STAFF

PROF CAROLINE FINCH

• Assessor of Victorian Department of Human Services Public Health Research Project Injury Prevention Grants.
• Editor, Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport.
• Invited attendance at the launch of the national SaferRoads project hosted by the Australian Automobile Association, Canberra, 31st March 2004.
• Invited participation in the Australian Recommendations for Health Promoting Physical Activity to Children and Young People Workshop, Canberra, 10th March 2004.

A/PROF ANN WILLIAMSON

• Assessor of ARC Discovery Project Grants.
• Attendance at the World Health Day Safety Forum on ‘Road Safety is no Accident’, held at Parliament House, 7th April 2004.
• Invited participant in MAA Youth Road Safety discussion forum, 19th February 2004.
• Invited participant in Performance Measures Workshop held by Department of Mineral Resources, 12th March 2004.
• Invited participant of a meeting called by NRMA to establish a MotorCycle Safety Research Group, 3rd March 2004.

• Invited participant, Youth ‘Safe Celebrating’ Stakeholder Meeting, 31st March 2004.
• Participant, Youth Safe Celebrating Forum, 23rd March 2004.

REBECCA DENNIS

• Attendance at the 5th Australasian Biomechanics Conference, UNSW, 9-10th December 2004.

RENA FRISWELL

• Attended Advance Media Training for Science Researchers, University of New South Wales, November 2004.
• Invited participant of a meeting called by NRMA to establish a MotorCycle Safety Research Group, 3rd March 2004.

DR JULIE HATFIELD

• Attended Advance Media Training for Science Researchers, University of New South Wales, November 2004.

MARIA ROMITI

• Attendance at the 5th Australasian Biomechanics Conference, UNSW, 9-10th December 2004.
OTHER ACTIVITIES OF IRMRC STAFF

DR SHAUNA SHERKER

- Attendance at Advance Media Training for Science Researchers, University of New South Wales, November 2004.
- Attendance at 5th Australasian Biomechanics Conference, UNSW, 9-10th December 2004.
- Reviewer of funding application for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Randomised Controlled Trial Committee.
- Reviewer of manuscripts for Injury Prevention, Canadian Medical Association Journal.