

International Research Collaborative – Oral Health and Equity
Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology
The University of Western Australia



Summer Edition

Welcome to the second issue of the IRCOHE Bulletin. The IRCOHE has some 150 collaborators across the globe and is one of the leading dental public health research teams in Australasia.

Fellow Hajer Derbi Looks back 30 years at oral cancer in WA

As part of a successfully completed recent Master's Degree in Dental Public Health, Dr Hajer Derbi examined the rates of oral cancer in Western Australia over the last 25 years. Her recent publication in the international peer review literature finds a significant divide between city and rural people. She has also showed a continually rising rate of cases over the last 25 years. Clearly, oral cancer, a condition affecting older Australians, is set to increase as our population is ageing.

Hajer's work extends a substantial stream of previous work from the IRCOHE that identifies the need for health systems to rapidly adapt to the growing cancer rates that Australia (and many other countries) will face over the next couple of decades.

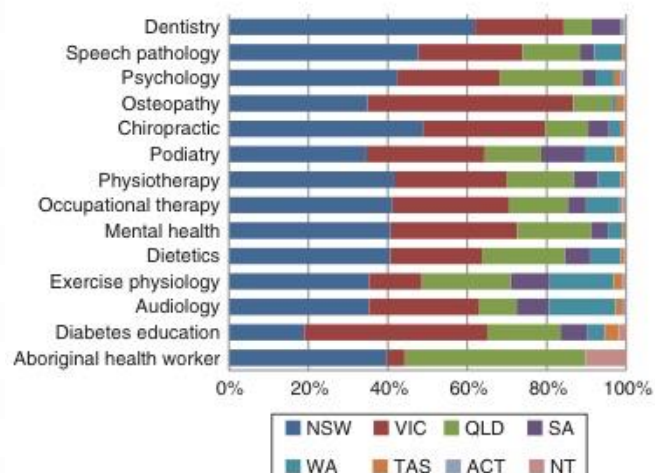
We congratulate Hajer on her ongoing research and wish her well with her future graduate studies.

DERBI HA, KRUGER E and TENNANT M Incidence of oral cancer in Western Australia (1982–2009): Trends and regional variations Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology Sept 2014

Dr Ray Lam celebrating great publications in public policy

Dr Ray Lam continues his outstanding doctorate studies looking at the public dental policy in Australia. To-date Ray has some half-dozen peer reviewed national and international publications to his name

Ray's recent publications have focused on an expose of the now defunct chronic diseases dental subsidy scheme. His work has shown that the expenditure for the program grew by over 13,000% in a single financial year and the size in NSW was huge in comparison to other States.



Ray has also published on novel new ways to adapt item numbers to include important diagnostic data.

Lam R, Kruger E, Tennant M. Role of the Chronic Dental Disease Scheme in Enhanced Primary Care: allied health or allied outlier? Aust J Prim Hlth 2014

Get to Know Our Fellows: Carla Rocha and Kristen Jackson

Graduate students and research associates of the team are Fellows of the IRCOHE. The list of Fellows is growing; we now have over 100 fellows across the world. Each newsletter we focus the spotlight on a couple of our Fellows' research. This month two of our recent new members describe their work.

Dr Kristen Jackson

Kirsten is an equine veterinary dentist whose work is primarily focussed on an equine dental condition known as peripheral cemental caries (sort of similar to decay of the roots of teeth in humans). The condition can lead to significant oral pain both directly as the sharp edges of the decayed teeth can lacerate the cheeks and tongue but also indirectly through the secondary periodontal disease and dental fractures from the weakened teeth. The condition is quite common in Western Australia but not so common elsewhere. Kirsten has been investigating likely factors influencing its development in Western Australian horses.

What is the IRCOHE?

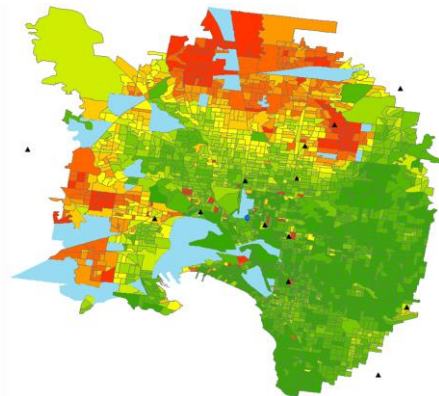
The International Research Collaborative – Oral Health and Equity (IRCOHE) is a multinational collaborative focused on developing innovative solutions in oral health education, research and service to address the global challenges associated with social inequities. The primary focus of the IRCOHE is to undertake cutting-edge research and develop strategies to address the significant unmet needs of marginalised communities.

Research programs are targeted at facilitating

“...global emphasis on addressing communities in need”

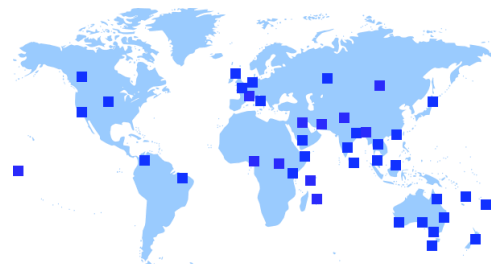
Dr Carla Rocha

Dr Rocha joined the IRCOHE in Summer'12 as a prosthodontist from Brazil. Carla, for the last 3 years, has been researching geographic accessibility to dental services and related factors, such as public transport and socioeconomic background. By using Geographical Information System (GIS) solutions to analyse secondary data sets, geographical catchment areas covered by dental hospitals are studied, and also some characteristics of the neighbourhoods investigated, to aid in the understanding of dental services utilisation.



Geographic Information Systems used to map populations and service access points

improved oral health in societies across the globe. Key issues include: oral health policy and strategy; accessibility; workforce: skills mix, education and distribution; and research oriented to health care needs and prevention.



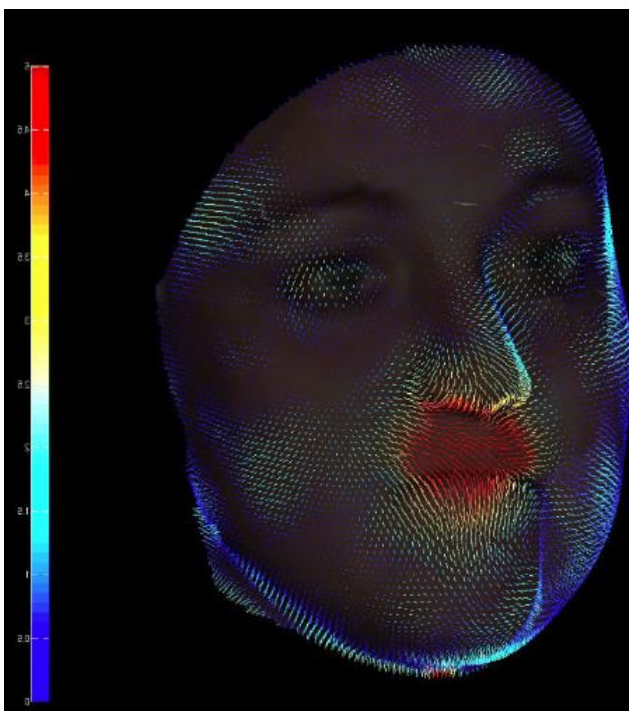
Contacts

Please contact Marc or Estie contacts at ircohe.net

Scholar wins major grant

Mark Walters, an expert in facial 3D modelling, based at Princess Margaret Hospital, has joined the team to complete his doctorate and this month he has won a prestigious grant (\$80,000) from the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation to advance his work.

Mark, an internationally published field leader, is completing his Doctorate with the team at the IRCOHE. His work uses modern state-of-the-art of high density, accurate and precise 3-dimensional digital capture of complex form of the face to model changes after surgery and in disease. This has particular importance for cranio-facial care as it provides an objective means to quantify the degree and pattern of residual deformity critical to assessing treatment requirement and efficacy. These emergent holistic anthropometric toolkits applied to population data in health and disease has considerable promise to understanding the patterns of facial growth and disharmony previously unattainable. Mark's successful grant will allow him to advance his studies using the latest hi-resolution equipment and remain at the forefront of this area of research. The team at the IRCOHE (and Fellows) are proud to be able to support this important work.



IRCOHE Publication award

The team at the IRCOHE were the proud winners of the Schools of Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology award for the most prolific publishers in 2014. The team has continued on its successes in 2012/13 with a publication in the peer-review literature every 2-3 weeks.

Congratulations to Grads

The IRCOHE team congratulates the 2014 graduates of the Masters in Primary Dental Public Health. The national gold-standard coursework program in Dental Public Health continues to produce graduates for the world. It has a very strong international flavour with graduates this year from as far afield as China, Libya, India and Cameroon. Congratulations to Leonard Woincham, Nuha A Alkaff, Nicholas Liu and Xianglin Kong.

Astonishingly sad WA fact

The rate of facial cellulitis in Western Australia is thirty times higher in the poor than in the wealthy. Most of this is related to poor dental health.

