Handbook

PHAA

Introduction  
Welcome to the Mentee Handbook!  
This document displays the diverse range of mentors participating in the PHAA National Mentoring   
Program for 2023. It is designed to help you select your mentor preferences for your application as a   
Student, Early Career or Career Transition mentee.  
As you navigate your way through you will find each mentor’s skills/area of expertise and topic area   
of expertise summarised in visual tables. Each mentor also has a dedicated page with further   
information including a short biography detailing their professional Career experience and the types   
of mentees they are available to mentor.  
Summary tables   
Click on the links below to view a visual summary all mentor skills/area of expertise and topic areas of   
expertise (based on PHAA Special Interest Groups). The table links are ‘View only’; however, you can   
download the table and ‘Sort/Filter by Colour’ for the skills you are seeking guidance for and/or your   
specific Areas of interests.

Public Health Association   
of Australia  
The Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) is recognised as the principal non-government   
organisation for public health in Australia and works to promote the health and well-being of all   
Australians. The Association seeks better population health outcomes based on prevention, the social   
determinants of health, and equity principles.  
Key roles of the organisation include capacity building, advocacy, and the development of policy. Core   
to our work is an evidence base drawn from a wide range of members working in public health   
practice, research, administration, and related fields who volunteer their time to inform policy,   
support advocacy, and assist in capacity building within the sector.  
PHAA is a national organisation comprising around 2000 individual members and representing over   
40 professional groups concerned with the promotion of health at a population level. Membership of   
PHAA is open to any person who is supportive of the objectives of the Association. These are to:  
  
 • advocate for the reduction of health inequalities across Australia and international   
communities;  
  
 • encourage research and promote knowledge relating to the problems, needs, and   
development of public health;  
  
 • promote and provide a forum for the regular exchange of views and information;  
  
 • promote the development and education of workers in public health;  
  
 • promote, maintain and extend the interest of PHAA’s Branches, Special Interest Groups, and   
any affiliated organisations;  
  
 • promote excellence in public health practice; and,  
  
 • advocate the objects and policies of the Association.  
Student & Young Professional’s Committee  
The Students and Young Professionals in Public Health (SYPPH) group of the PHAA is a portal for   
students and young professionals interested in public health to maintain and expand their professional   
networks and improve their career prospects in public health. The group is led by a dedicated   
committee of young professionals who act as an advisory for, and oversee the activities of, students   
and young professionals at a national level, with close links to state branch student and young   
professional representatives.

PHAA National Mentoring Program  
The Public Health Association of Australia welcomes you to the PHAA National Mentoring Program.   
This information pack has been designed to provide an introduction to the program as well as a stepby-step guide on how to participate.  
Public health works to promote greater health and well-being of individuals and communities and   
requires a multidisciplinary approach to address and tackle these important health challenges. As a   
broad and varied discipline, public health encompasses an enormous variety of research and   
employment opportunities. As such, it can be difficult for people new to the field (and even for those   
established in the area) to make decisions about work and study directions.  
The PHAA National Mentoring Program coordinates and facilitates the pairing of mentors and   
mentees in public health. The program runs over the course of nine months and primarily functions   
as a way to initiate a mentee-mentor relationship. The program is purposely flexible in design to allow   
mentees and mentors to work together in identifying the mentoring needs of the mentee and develop   
corresponding objectives for the mentee-mentor relationship over the duration of the program. The   
program aims to build the capacity of student and early career members of the PHAA through   
teaching, training, networking, and providing them with appropriate resources. Participants, both   
mentees and mentors, benefit from the program in different ways, depending on what they hope to   
get out of the process. Table 1 shows the likely benefits for mentees and mentors of the mentoring   
program.  
  
Benefits of the Program  
  
MENTEES  
  
 • Opportunity to discuss and seek guidance and advice regarding own career ideas, helping to make more informed choices in the future  
 • Opportunity to meet a public health practitioner with experience in your area of interest  
 • Advice on resources relevant to your area/s of interest  
 • Enhanced professional development and increased confidence  
 • Exposure to new ideas and perspectives  
  
MENTORS  
 • Opportunity to facilitate the mentee’s professional growth  
 • Revitalised enthusiasm and affirmation of role as an experienced worker  
 • Further develop interpersonal and communication skills  
 • Gain experience in explaining the scope and skills of your work to a different audience  
 • Exposure to new ideas and perspectives

Adam Shoesmith   
  
Bio  
  
 I am a Post-doctoral Research Fellow in Public Health and Behavioural Science through the University of Newcastle. I am also affiliated with the National Centre of Implementation Science and Hunter New England Population Health. My research examines the implementation and sustainability of evidence-based chronic disease prevention initiatives in schools and early childcare settings. I have extensive experience in co-designing, co-producing and co-disseminating community-based preventive health programs, in partnership with government and non-government organisations, and research institutions to ensure that effective translation of evidence into policy and practice leads to sustained positive health outcomes for populations.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Health Promotion  
Child and Youth Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Grant writing  
Job application (CV, interviews, etc.)  
Leadership  
Research  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Adyya Gupta   
  
Bio  
  
 Dr. Adyya Gupta is a Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) Early Career Fellow and an Executive Dean’s Health Research Fellow at Global Centre for Preventive Health and Nutrition (GLOBE) within Institute for Health Transformation at Deakin University. Her research focusses on building the evidence for effective and equitable policy and practice approaches, to create a healthy (online) food retail environment for all. She is the chair of the Online food retail environment Community of Practice of researchers within Nourish Network at Deakin University. Adyya is an editor for Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health. She is also an executive committee member of Food and Nutrition Special Interest Group (FANSIG) at PHAA. Adyya has expertise in applying mixed methodology to public health research and is a lecturer in Research methods teaching postgraduate students at Deakin University. Adyya’s PhD explored the determinants of high sugar consumption and associated inequalities in the Australian population. Adyya has a dental public health background and her research focusses on generating evidence to address common risk factors for general and oral health to reduce chronic disease health burden using mixed methods.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Food and Nutrition  
Health Promotion  
Oral Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Fellowship application  
Career transition  
Grant writing  
Job application (CV, interviews, etc.)  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Non–governmental organisation  
Recently graduated  
Research  
Teaching  
Work life balance  
Policy  
Advocacy  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Aimee Brownbill   
  
Bio  
  
 Dr Aimee Brownbill is Policy and Research Manager at the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education. Aimee has a PhD in Medicine (Public Health), a Bachelor’s Degree in Health Sciences (Nutrition and Health Promotion) and Honours Degree in Public Health and has contributed to collaborative applied research projects in the fields of nutrition, alcohol and tobacco control. She has authored peer-reviewed journal articles and presented her research nationally and internationally. She has also authored reports and briefings for government nd consults on public health policies in Australia. She has recently been awarded an ARC Early Career Industry Fellowship.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Food and Nutrition  
Health Promotion  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Job application  
Leadership  
NGOs  
Policy  
Research  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Alexandra Mcmanus   
  
Bio  
  
 Professor Alexandra McManus Director McManus R&D Consulting; Adj Prof School of Medicine Uni Notre Dame Sydney; Adj Prof Faculty HSc Curtin University; President Kidsafe WA. My background is in epidemiology, public health and intervention research. Much of my work has been as part of collaborative teams seeking to improve health outcomes across the lifespan. For the past decade I have been working with regional communities to support the medical and health workforce; and facilitate collaborative approaches to health care access and delivery. I am currently focussing on the development, implementation and evaluation of Innovative Models of Shared Care to improve health outcomes in rural communities.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 [is blank]   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
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Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
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 Alvin Lee   
  
Bio  
  
 I am an executive leader and applied epidemiologist who has worked in government, not-for-profit and academic sectors. I have a successful track record in leading major public health programs and research. I’ve managed large teams and have highly advanced leadership, analytical, stakeholder management, governance, people development, problem solving, operational management and strategic development skills.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 International Health  
Women’s Health  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Health Promotion  
Immunisation  
One Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Fellowship application  
Job application (CV, interviews, etc.)  
Leadership  
Non–governmental organisation  
Research  
Work life balance  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Andrew Robertson   
  
Bio  
  
 Dr Andrew (Andy) Robertson is the Assistant Director General and Chief Health Officer within the Public and Aboriginal Health Division in the Western Australia Department of Health (WA Health). With specialist qualifications in Public Health Medicine and Medical Administration, he served with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) from 1984 until 2003. In October 2003, he took up the position of the Director, Disaster Preparedness and Management in WA Health. In December 2004, he led the Australian Medical Relief team into the Maldives post tsunami, managed WA Health’s response to the 2005 Bali Bombing, led the WA Health team into Indonesia after the Yogyakarta earthquakes in June 2006, worked as the Radiation Health Adviser to the Australian Embassy after the Fukushima nuclear incident in 2011 and conducted the AUSMAT needs assessment in Nepal after the Nepal earthquake in 2015. Since 2008, as Director, Disaster Management and Deputy Chief Health Officer, he has coordinated the WA Health disaster and public health responses to local disasters and acted as the Chief Information Officer and the Chief Medical Officer. He has been undertaking the current role since June 2018, including leading the WA Health response to the COVID-19 outbreak.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Immunisation  
International Health  
Injury Prevention  
Political Economy of Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Policy  
Job application (CV, interviews, etc.)  
Leadership  
Working as a healthcare practitioner  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Anna Nicholson   
  
Bio  
  
 Anna Nicholson has been working in public health research and evaluation since 2010, on a background of allied health. Anna completed a PhD in 2016 on the effectiveness of advertising and warning labels for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander smokers, as part of a research partnership between Menzies School of Health Research, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and Cancer Council Victoria. Since then, Anna has led several busy research and evaluation programs and teams, including for SunSmart Victoria and Beyond Blue, where she managed research, evaluation, and knowledge translation activities. Anna has also worked as a public health practitioner in regional Victoria, where she brokered health and equity outcomes in local government policies and community settings. Anna held a leadership role for the Public Health Association of Australia (Victoria Branch) from 2019-2022, as a spokesperson and advocate for state-based public health priorities. Anna returned to Cancer Council Victoria in 2023 as the David Hill Research Fellow. Anna has a keen interest in policy evaluation and health equity.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Health Promotion  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Career transition  
Non–governmental organisation  
Leadership  
Research  
Work life balance  
Grant writing  
Job application (CV, interviews, etc.)  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Anne Marie Thow   
  
Bio  
  
 Prof Anne Marie Thow's research uses theories of public policy making to explore facilitators and barriers to best practice public health nutrition policy, with a particular focus on the interface between economic policy and nutrition. Anne Marie currently collaborates on research in Asia, Africa and the Pacific, designed to strengthen nutrition policy making. Anne Marie regularly consults with national governments and international agencies regarding nutrition policy, and was appointed to ongoing membership of the Nutrition Guidance Advisory Group, Policy Subgroup of the World Health Organization in 2018. Her research and analyses appears in The Lancet, Nutrition Reviews, Bulletin of the World Health Organanization, and Health Policy among others. Prior to undertaking her PhD at the University of Sydney, Anne Marie worked for the Governments of Australia and Fiji on nutrition policy issues. She trained in nutrition and has a Masters in Public Policy and Economics.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Food and Nutrition  
Health Promotion  
Political Economy of Health  
International Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Policy  
Career transition  
Grant writing  
Job application (CV, interviews, etc.)  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Research  
Teaching  
Work life balance  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Aziz Rahman   
  
Bio  
  
 I am an experienced academic and a public health physician. I have been working in the areas of public health research and teaching for more than 15 years, both in Australian and international settings. I have a good track record of providing leadership in completing different research and community projects successfully focusing on different aspects of public health and health promotion, securing funding and producing high quality research publications. My research track record includes work on tobacco, non-communicable diseases, global burden of diseases, nursing, health promotion, gender differences in health outcomes, outbreak investigations, mental health, Indigenous health, health and wellbeing of disadvantaged, rural and multicultural population. My experience also includes working with multidisciplinary teams and stakeholders, including Government and non-Government organizations, academics, community leaders and general public. I have experience of working at La Trobe University, Deakin University, Australian Catholic University (ACU) and the University of Adelaide in Australia. I have successfully led a number of multi-country research projects, which includes projects in Australia, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, UAE and UK. Besides my professional role, I am also involved in a number of professional and community organizations as a volunteer. At PHAA, I am working as a Board Member and Covenor for the Health Promotion SIG.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Health Promotion  
Mental Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 International experience and networks  
Job application  
Leadership  
Research  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Biswajit Banik   
  
Bio  
  
 Dr Biswajit Banik is a medical doctor and public health academic. He works as a senior lecturer and the MPH Course Coordinator at the Institute of Health and Wellbeing (IHW), Federation University Australia. He teaches Master of Public Health programs as lead course coordinator and supervises HDR students. He is also appointed as a Research Fellow by the Manna Institute, Regional Australia Mental Health Research and Training, led by the University of New England. Biswajit is trained in quantitative and qualitative methodologies and hands-on research experience on sensitive topics such as sexual health, mental health and rural and regional health involving priority populations. Currently, he is a lead investigator of two projects to explore the mental health and wellbeing of young men in rural and remote Australia. Biswajit is a regular reviewer of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Development Grants to conduct the evaluation of the commercial value of the grant applications and a member of Human Research Ethics Committee of the Federation University.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Child and Youth Health  
Health Promotion  
International Health  
Mental Health  
Political Economy of Health  
Primary Health Care  
Women’s Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Fellowship application  
Grant writing  
Job application (CV, interviews, etc.)  
Policy  
Leadership  
International experience and networks  
Non–governmental organisation  
Research  
Teaching  
Work life balance  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Brahm Marjadi   
  
Bio  
  
 A/Prof Brahmaputra (Brahm) Marjadi is a Founding Member of the PHAA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Special Interest Group, where he served as inaugural Convenor (2020-2022) and Committee Member (2022-present). He served the PHAA International Health SIG as Co-Convenor (2014-2020, returning 2023-present) and Committee Member (2020-2023). He also served as PHAA Board Member (2020-2022) and became a Fellow of the PHAA in 2022. Brahm is the Associate Dean for Engagement and Associate Professor in Community Engaged Learning at the Western Sydney University School of Medicine. With a medical degree from Indonesia he has an eclectic career path since 1996 in GP practice, medical microbiology, health promoting schools, grassroot public health organisations, healthcare-associated infection prevention and control, medical education, and intersectionality of diversity aspects. Across his experiences, three things remain constant: his passion for teaching, his service to marginalised populations, and his interest in crosscultural knowledge translation. (Brahm is particularly keen on mentoring LGBTQIA+ and/or CALD mentees.)   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
International Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Career transition  
Fellowship application  
International experience and networks  
Job application  
Leadership  
Non–governmental organisation  
Policy  
Teaching  
Work life balance   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Daniel Demant   
  
Bio  
  
 Dr. Daniel Demant is an epidemiologist and Senior Lecturer at the University of Technology Sydney's School of Public Health. He holds a diverse range of qualifications, including degrees in Public Health, Epidemiology, Education, and Applied Social Sciences. His research focuses on health inequalities in minority populations, particularly substance use and sexual health. As an expert for higher education, Daniel was course director for undergraduate programs and is currently the director for postgraduate epidemiology. Prior to joining academic, Daniel was a health promotion and education officer​ in Australia and overseas.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Health Promotion  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Non–governmental organisation  
Research  
Teaching  
Policy  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 David Thomas   
  
Bio  
  
 Professor David Thomas is a public health researcher at Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin and also works on secondment at the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT). He has worked in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and health research for more than 30 years. He has been a member of PHAA for 35 years, serving the association in many roles. David has published research about many aspects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and the book, Reading Doctors’ Writing. Since he established the Tobacco Control Research Program at Menzies in 2007, his research, including the national longitudinal study ‘Talking About The Smokes’, has answered many questions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tobacco control. He has been involved in successful, and less successful, advocacy for public health policy reform. His work at AMSANT supports tobacco control in Aboriginal community-controlled health services across the NT. He previously worked as a doctor at three Aboriginal community-controlled health services.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Ecology and Environment  
Political Economy of Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Deborah Joy Hilton   
  
Bio  
  
 I have chosen to do research and literature review studies from home for many years out of choice. This allowed me to participate in my daughter's out of school activities while they were at primary school and high school. While this did not earn much income, I enjoyed having time with them at tennis, ballet, swimming and gymnastics. The work that I did from home was still of good enough quality that I have still participated in many conferences including; Australian Society for Medical Research conferences 2023, 2022, 2021, 2018, 2016 and 2003. PHAA conferences; 2019, 2016, Population Health Congress - 2015, 2018, Royal Statistical Society Conference, Brighton, UK - 2010; Australian Health and Medical Research Congress - 2006, 2002; Cochrane Colloquium - 2005; World Physiotherapy Congress - 2021, 2017; Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for PH conference - 2019; Safety conference 2022; 8th International Conference on PH [also social media ambassador] and the ANZ Virtual Statistical Conference - 2021. I was Print campaign finalist; Know about injury risks at the International Safety Media Awards at the Safety Conference and I was also awarded complementary registration to the Safety Conference as I accumulated the most points at the Virtual pre-safety conference.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Health Promotion  
Injury Prevention  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Research  
Work life balance  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Donna Mak   
  
Bio  
  
 Donna Mak is a public health physician who works at Communicable Disease Control Directorate, WA Health and teaches medical students at the School of Medicine, Fremantle University of Notre Dame. Donna is passionate about growing the next generation of public health practitioners. Outside of work Donna enjoys choral singing (an extreme sport in COVID-times!), swimming, kayaking and is an avid reader and member of 3 book clubs.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Primary Health Care  
Immunisation  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Career transition  
Job application (CV, interviews, etc.)  
Leadership  
Teaching  
Working as a healthcare practitioner  
Working with or within government  
Advocacy  
Policy  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Edward Jegasothy   
  
Bio  
  
 I am an epidemiologist and biostatistician working as a Senior Lecturer at the Sydney School of Public Health. I have studied and worked in public health for 11 years in both government and academia.  
In government, I have worked as a trainee biostatistician and epidemiologist, placed with the NSW Environmental Health Branch, Communicable Disease Branch, Centre for Road Safety and the Sydney Local Health District Public Health Unit. In these roles I have gained expertise in health, environmental and other data, risk communication, and policy development. I have also worked closely with senior decision makers in NSW Health as well as other agencies in Commonwealth, state and local government. At the University of Sydney, I have experience in teaching and research across a wide range of areas within public health including environmental health, epidemiology, global health and sustainability. I have also developed strong connections and collaborations with adjacent disciplines.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Ecology and Environment  
Injury Prevention  
International Health  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Career transition  
Job application (CV, interviews, etc.)  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Research  
Teaching  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Fiona Robards   
  
Bio  
  
 With experience as a researcher, policy analyst, health service manager and psychologist, Dr Fiona Robards has a strong interest in public health advocacy to achieve equity, health and wellbeing for marginalised young people. Fiona is an academic at The University of Sydney, coordinating three public health units of study in the Masters of Sexual and Reproductive Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health. She is also a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Sydney School of Public Health, conducting research in health literacy. Her PhD explored How marginalised young people navigate the Australian healthcare system. Fiona also has Masters-level training in psychology, art therapy, health service management and public health. As part of her national public health advocacy, Fiona is Co-convenor of the Public Health Association of Australia’s Child and Youth Health Special Interest Group and a member of the Australian Child Rights Taskforce Leadership Group. In her International work, Fiona is Co-chair of the World Federation of Public Health Associations, Women, Children and Youth Working Group. As a public health consultant, Fiona provides strategic planning, policy and resource development to the government and community healthcare sectors.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Child and Youth Health  
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Mental Health  
Justice Health  
Health Promotion  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Career transition  
Job application (CV, interviews, etc.)  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Non–governmental organisation  
Research  
Teaching  
Work life balance  
Working as a healthcare practitioner  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Freddy Sitas   
  
Bio  
  
 I have a D Phil in epidemiology from Oxford University and an MSc in Epidemiology from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. I have made a significant contribution in the design and implementation of policy relevant population and clinical infrastructure studies of chronic disease prevention, that also enhances collaboration between clinicians, laboratory scientists and epidemiologists (e.g. 45 and Up, CLEAR, Johannesburg Cancer Study, South African smoking and death notification study). I have led several programs, collaborations and consortia quantifying the effects of environmental and lifestyle factors such as smoking and infection on cancer and premature mortality. My career has spanned investigations on cholera, occupational health, environmental cluster investigations, cancer and death registration, and the relationship between smoking, “onco-viruses” and related lifestyles (BMI, alcohol, hormonal factors) to cancer and premature mortality). my current interests include smoking, vaping and infectious respiratory disease.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
International Health  
Primary Health Care  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Career transition  
Job application  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Non-governmental organisation  
Research  
Work life balance  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Hannah Badland   
  
Bio  
  
 Professor Badland's research examines how the built environment is connected to health, wellbeing, and inequities in both adults and children internationally, with an interest in vulnerable communities. Her interdisciplinary, mixed-methods research program engages with end-users, typically policymakers and non-government organisations, to influence on-the-ground change. She is currently working on two major research themes. One is optimising the social determinants of health for those with disability. The other focuses on reducing inequities in early childhood development. The emphasis in both these streams is understanding how local built and social environments support or hinder opportunity.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Child and Youth Health  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Ecology and Environment  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Policy  
Fellowship application  
Grant writing  
Job application  
Leadership  
Research  
Work life balance  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Hannah Moore   
  
Bio  
  
 A/Prof Hannah Moore is Program Head, Infections and Vaccines at the Telethon Kids Institute; Co-Head of the Infectious Disease Epidemiology team within the Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases at the Telethon Kids Institute and Associate Professor at the School of Population Health, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia. In 2021 she was awarded a 5-year Stan Perron Charitable Foundation fellowship and further funding from the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund through the WA Near-miss Awards program. Her research passion lies in unlocking the hidden power of data through linkages and epidemiological analyses, and then seeing the results both improve the knowledge and burden of infectious diseases, and translate into better informed vaccination programs for society. Her current focuses are respiratory infections, especially respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) – the most common virus affecting infants. She has previously contributed to state and national influenza vaccination policy. In 2020 she also joined the Strep A Vaccine Global Consortium (SAVAC) to increase knowledge and awareness of the global burden of Group A Streptococcal diseases. A/Prof Moore has been awarded >$8M in competitive research grants, co-authored >130 papers, was TEDxPerth 2018 speaker and recipient of the WA Premiers Science Early Career Scientist Award (2015).   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Immunisation  
Child and Youth Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Fellowship application  
Grant writing  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Non-governmental organisation  
Research  
Work life balance  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Jane Frawley   
  
Bio  
  
 Jane Frawley is an A/Professor in the School of Public Health at UTS. She was a NHMRC Early Career Fellow from 2017-2021. Jane is the course director for the Master of Public Health Program, the Graduate Certificate in Public Health and Communicable Disease, and the Graduate Certificate of Health Analytics. Jane’s primary area of research is women and children’s health with a focus on infectious disease and vaccination. Jane is currently leading programs of work in the Pacific region around supporting vaccine uptake. She also works in the area of child and youth health and wellbeing in Australia and the Pacific region.   
  
   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Immunisation  
International Health  
Women’s Health  
Child and Youth Health  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Fellowship application  
Grant writing  
Job application  
International experience and networks  
Research  
Teaching  
Work life balance  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Joanne Flavel   
  
Bio  
  
 I am a Research Fellow at Stretton Health Equity at the University of Adelaide. I am a public health researcher with significant expertise in quantitative research. My research interests and research experience cover a variety of topics, including interactions between health and work, health promotion, the social and economic determinants of health, health economics, injury epidemiology, global public health, and social determinants of refugee settlement outcomes.   
  
   
  
I am an International Union for Health Promotion and Education registered health promotion practitioner and I am a member of the international Punching Above Weight (PAW) Network, formed to advance thinking and research about why some countries do much better in terms of health outcomes than would be predicted by their economic status. I am also a Global Burden of Disease Collaborator. In addition to my research skills, I have experience in public health advocacy and policy writing.   
  
   
  
Alongside my academic position, I am actively involved in the Public Health Association of Australia and the Australian Health Promotion Association. I am Co-convenor of the PHAA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Special Interest Group and Membership Secretary and co-Vice-President for the PHAA South Australian Branch. I received the PHAA Emerging Leader Award, the Health Promotion SIG Early Career Award for Research and the PHAA SA President’s Award in 2022.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Health Promotion  
Women’s Health  
Primary Health Care  
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Political Economy of Health  
Food and Nutrition  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Grant writing  
Job application  
Research  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 John Lowe   
  
Bio  
  
 For the past 40 years I have been a researcher and academic. I have over 300 publications and have attracted more than 30 million of Research dollars both in Australia and USA. I did work before that time within Queensland health. The best match would be someone in an early researcher or academic career.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Health Promotion  
Injury Prevention  
Mental Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Grant writing  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Research  
Teaching  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Julie Anne Mitchell   
  
Bio  
  
 My passion and interest has always been in public health policy. Looking for ways to incrementally improve the health of ‘many’ rather than a ‘few’ through the application of science, research, public health policy and consumer sentiment . This has led me on a career through the Victorian and NSW public health system working in both the government and non-government sector in the areas of women’s health, tobacco control, primary prevention, heart health and public health nutrition. As a senior executive, I have managed highly skilled and experienced teams; overseen successful state and national public health programs; and been a regular media commentator on chronic disease prevention and women's health. I have clear insight into the challenges facing health delivery in Australia and the importance of adopting an agile mindset to drive transformation, build capability and integrate digital technologies to optimize program outcomes. Most recently I have focused on diversity and inclusion and how this can be addressed through policy initiatives in the workplace. My formal training includes MPH, Grad Dip in Health Promotion and a BA in Gender studies. I am also a board member of a not for profit research organization.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Health Promotion  
Women’s Health  
Primary Health Care  
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Political Economy of Health  
Food and Nutrition  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Job application  
Non-governmental organisation  
Working with or within government  
Leadership  
Policy  
Career transition  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Kate McBride   
  
Bio  
  
 Kate is an epidemiologist, mixed methods public health researcher, and Associate Professor in Population Health at Western Sydney University. Kate has more than 16 years’ experience in population health and chronic disease research including development, evaluation and translation of lifestyle interventions and exploration of barriers to healthcare, particularly among individuals living with obesity. Kate is a passionate advocate for the health of high risk, marginalised populations through the optimisation of healthcare access among these individuals. Kate coordinates and teaches on several epidemiology, population health and evidence-based medicine units in the MD degree as well the Master of Epidemiology. Kate is the current President of the NSW Branch, Public Health Association of Australia as well as National Board Member.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Primary Health Care  
Women’s Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Job application  
Leadership  
Research  
Teaching  
Work life balance  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Katherine Cullerton   
  
Bio  
  
 I am a Senior Lecturer of global health and health policy at the School of Public Health, University of Queensland. My research focusses on why evidence doesn’t translate into policy, increasing the agency of advocates to effectively influence policy and exploring whether it is ever acceptable for population health researchers to engage with the food industry. I am also a qualified dietitian and prior to becoming an academic I worked in a range of settings including with Aboriginal communities, schools, tobacco control and as a national policy officer.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Food and Nutrition  
Health Promotion  
Political Economy of Health   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Career transition  
Research  
Teaching  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Kathryn Backholer   
  
Bio  
  
 I am an academic with a full research load. I work in multi-disciplinary teams and lead several large research programs. I consult to UN organisations and governments across the world, particularly in the South Asia and South-East Asia region. My main focus is public health nutrition, but I also work across other risk factors (tobacco, alcohol, e-cigarettes). I have chaired and sat on many fellowship and grant committees and have mentored and supervised many EMCRs on how to build competitive academic track records. I have three young children and live in regional Victoria.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Food and Nutrition  
Health Promotion  
Political Economy of Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Policy  
Fellowship application  
Grant writing  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Research  
Work life balance  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career   
  
  
  
  
  
 Kerryn O'Rourke   
  
Bio  
  
 I have been in public health for around 20 years after making the transition from clinical nursing. I have a wide range of interests and experience - with a common focus on social and health equity. My roles have included health promotion practice and leadership, policy development and advocacy, and I currently work as a Senior Research Fellow with Charles Darwin University (remotely from Melbourne). In this role I specialise in realist evaluation. My qualifications include a PhD, Master of Health Sciences, Master of Public Health, Post-Grad Dip Health Promotion, and a Bachelor of Nursing. I am also a graduate of the Victorian Public Health Training Scheme.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Child and Youth Health  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Health Promotion  
International Health  
Women’s Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Career transition  
Job application  
Leadership  
Research  
Working as a healthcare practitioner  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Krishna Hort   
  
Bio  
  
 My career was not planned and has evolved as my interests changed. My initial experience as a volunteer doctor in a rural hospital in Bangladesh led to a shift from an interest in clinical care to public health. This led me to master’s study in public health, work in the NSW public health system, and qualification as a public health physician through the AFPHM. I also continued my interest in countries of the Asia Pacific, with periods of work on Australian aid projects in Philippines and Indonesia. The Asian Tsunami of 2004 provided me with an opportunity to work on the rebuilding of the health system in Aceh and led me to join the newly formed Nossal Institute for Global Health at the University of Melbourne. I have worked in management and technical roles at the Institute for the last 15 years, with a particular interest in health systems, policies and organisation, and the development of partnerships between Australian health system experts and colleagues in countries of the Asia Pacific. I have recently retired but have some experience in supporting / mentoring and advising colleagues and institute staff on finding and pursuing their interests.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 International Health  
One Health   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Policy  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Teaching  
Working with or within government   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Lea Merone   
  
Bio  
  
 Dr Lea Merone is a medical Dr from the UK. After emigrating to Cairns in 2016 she completed her Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and obtained her fellowship of the Australian Faculty of Public Health Medicine in 2020. In 2022, she completed her PhD exploring Androcentricity in medicine. She is currently working with Cairns Hospital as the clinical lead for Voluntary Assisted Dying and the Senior Medical Administration Registrar.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Ecology and Environment  
Women’s Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Career transition  
Fellowship application  
Grant writing  
Job application  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Research  
Teaching  
Work life balance  
Working as a healthcare practitioner  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
     
  
  
  
  
  
 Lisa McHugh   
  
Bio  
  
 Dr Lisa McHugh is an infectious diseases and perinatal epidemiologist and NHMRC Emerging Leader (EL1) Research Fellow at The University of Queensland School of Public Health. With over 25 years’ experience in clinical research, her expertise and interests include clinical midwifery, First Nations health, epidemiology, infectious diseases, maternal vaccination and pregnancy and birth outcomes. Lisa is a graduate of the Australian National University MPhil in Applied Epidemiology (MAE) program (2014/15), and she completed her PhD in the uptake and safety of influenza and pertussis vaccines in pregnant women and their infants (passed 2019). Lisa’s current Fellowship is evaluating Australian maternal vaccination programs.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Immunisation  
Women's Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Fellowship application  
Non-governmental organisation  
Research  
Working as a healthcare practitioner  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Malcolm Baalman   
  
Bio  
  
 Political adviser to independent politician (7 years, 1990s); chief of staff to ACT Health Minister (4 years); work in private sector NGOs; 11 years in Victorian Public service, 6 years in PHAA national office; useful at mentoring in relation to public sector work and ethics, political matters including parliament, government generally, NGO culture and work; note: NOT a traditional public health career or academic qualifications; but have been involved in health systems at a policy level for over a decade overall.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Political Economy of Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Leadership  
Non-governmental organisation  
Work life balance  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Michelle Jongenelis   
  
Bio  
  
 Dr Michelle Jongenelis has expertise in health promotion, intervention development and evaluation, behavioural psychology, and clinical psychology. She works across multiple and diverse health-related behaviours including alcohol and tobacco control (including use of e-cigarettes), nutrition, physical activity, and sun protection. Michelle works as a researcher and consultant for a broad range of organisations covering the not-for-profit and government sectors. She sits on the Australian Council of Smoking and Health and the World Federation of Public Health Associations Tobacco Control Working Group. In 2020, Dr Jongenelis was awarded an NHMRC Investigator Grant for her project, Minimising uptake of e-cigarettes and encouraging cessation among Australian adolescents and adults. This project aims to (i) develop and test a model examining predictors of e-cigarette use and susceptibility to use among adolescents and adults; (ii) develop, implement, and evaluate messages that effectively minimise uptake and encourage cessation of e-cigarette use; and (iii) develop resources for stakeholders that provide guidance on managing use. Results have the potential to inform efforts addressing the growing use of e-cigarettes among Australians and may thus assist in preventing potential increases in smoking prevalence rates and minimise the harms associated with use.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Food & Nutrition  
Health Promotion  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Research  
Fellowship application  
Grant writing  
Job application  
Leadership  
Non-governmental organisation  
Working as a healthcare practitioner  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Natasha Egoroff   
  
Bio  
  
 I am a Northern Territory based epidemiologist specialising in sexually transmissible infection and blood-borne virus surveillance at NT Health. I have a cross sectoral background in government, university, and Aboriginal Community Controlled settings and hold a Master of Philosophy in Applied Epidemiology (MAE), Master of Clinical Epidemiology and Bachelor of Biomedical Science.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Primary Health Care  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Grant writing  
Non-governmental organisation  
Recently graduated  
Research  
Work life balance  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Natasha Howard   
  
Bio  
  
 A/Prof Tash Howard is the Program Lead: Implementation Science, Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity Theme, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). The research program incorporates a systems view and privileges Indigenous knowledges to deliver mixed-method inter-disciplinary perspectives which aim to generate policy and practice-based evidence on the social determinants of health. The program has a key interest in exploring place-health factors and identifying important contextual factors that can be readily implemented within health and community settings. Over the last 15 years, Tash has been active in advocacy and mentoring of the local public health community in both research and practice.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Diversity, equity and inclusion  
Primary Health Care   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Research  
Grant writing  
Job application  
Leadership   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline   
  
  
  
  
  
 Noni Walker   
  
Bio  
  
 Noni has worked in public health for more than 30 years in project design, implementation and evaluation as well as advocay and policy development, . Her work has included roles with the Australian Council on Smoking and Health, Telethon Kids Institute, Heart Foundation, Cancer Council WA, WA Department of Health, Healthway, the International Network of Health Promotion Foundations, the Place of Reflection consortium, Perth Home Care Services and other NGOs, as well as academic positions at Edith Cowan University.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Food and Nutrition  
Health Promotion  
Injury Prevention  
Justice Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Career transition  
Grant writing  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Non-governmental organisation  
Policy  
Research  
Teaching  
Work life balance  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline   
  
  
  
  
  
 Patricia Lee   
  
Bio  
  
 Patricia Lee is an associate professor and epidemiologist in the School of Medicine and Dentistry, Griffith University. She has over 20 years of teaching and working experience in epidemiology and biostatistics. Patricia is the Program Advisor of the Master of Global Public Health Program and Epidemiology subject lead at Griffith University. She has been involved in many international and Australian research projects. Her research interests include epidemiology, health risk modelling, risk analysis, health promotion (especially in workplace and mental health promotion) and disease prevention. She has a strong track record in mentoring junior researchers or public health graduates seeking careers or HDR opportunities in public health or epidemiology.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Health Promotion  
International Health  
Mental Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Career transition  
Fellowship application  
International experience and networks  
Job application  
Leadership  
Research  
Teaching  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
 Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline   
  
  
  
  
  
 Paul Gardiner   
  
Bio  
  
 Paul Gardiner's multidisciplinary research promotes active ageing with a focus on helping people improve and maintain quality of life. Paul's PhD research reported for the first time that it is feasible to reduce sedentary time in older adults. Paul's current research builds on this to examine behavioural approaches to dementia prevention. Paul is also Program Director of the Master of Public Health program at The University of Queensland. Paul is part of the Our Voice Citizen Science global research network. This network has over 30 members across six continents and aims to improve health equity through allowing citizens to discover their environment, discuss their findings, and advocate for change. Paul has a strong interest in diversity, equity and inclusion and co-founded the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Special Interest Group of the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA). Previous research areas have included evaluation of drug and alcohol treatment services, development and dissemination of parenting programs, stillbirth epidemiology, and women's health.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Health Promotion  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Fellowship application  
Grant writing  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Research  
Teaching  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Rimante Ronto   
  
Bio  
  
 Dr Rimante Ronto is a senior lecturer in Public Health and the course director of Master Public Health at Macquarie University. She is also a researcher in Public Health Nutrition, within the Department of Health Systems and Populations, Macquarie University. Her doctoral research project focused on the role of food literacy in shaping adolescents’ dietary behaviours. Rimante works collaboratively with multidisciplinary teams to increase healthy dietary behaviours among children, adolescents and young adults through nutrition education, food policy and food environment. Rimante’s current research focuses on identifying effective strategies to promote sustainable and healthy dietary behaviours and create sustainable food systems.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
     
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
     
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
     
  
  
  
  
  
 Rob Moodie   
  
Bio  
  
 Rob Moodie is Professor of Public Health at the University of Melbourne’s School of Population and Global Health (MSPGH), and Professor of Public Health at the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences in Malawi. Prior to this he was the Director of Teaching and Learning at MSPGH, and before that was the inaugural Chair of Global Health at the Nossal Institute. He was trained in medicine and public health and worked in refugee health care in the Sudan for Save the Children Fund and Medicins Sans Frontieres, and later for Congress, the Aboriginal Community controlled health service in Central Australia from 1982-1988. He worked for many years on HIV prevention for the Health Department Victoria, the Burnet Institute, WHO's Global Programme on AIDS. He was then appointed as the inaugural Director of Country Support for UNAIDS in Geneva from 1995-98 and was a member of the Commission on AIDS in the Pacific. He chaired the Technical Advisory Panel of Avahan, the Gates Foundation's HIV prevention program in India from 2004-2013. He was CEO of VicHealth from 1998-2007, the world’s first health promotion foundation based on a dedicated tobacco tax. From 2008-2011 he chaired the National Preventative Health Taskforce in Australia, which recommended the introduction of plain packaging. He chaired the Gavi Vaccine Alliance’s Evaluation Advisory Committee from 2013-2019 and advises the World Health Organization in the areas of Non-Communicable Diseases and Health Promotion. His major interests are in public health leadership skills, health promotion, the role of unhealthy commodity industries (Big Tobacco, Ultra-processed food, Alcohol, Gambling) in harming health, as well as road safety. He has been teaching and refining leadership skills training programs for the last 15 years mainly in Australia, Malawi, and south Asia. He has co-edited and co-authored 4 books including Promoting Mental Health, Hands on Health Promotion and Recipes for a Great Life written with Gabriel Gate   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Food and Nutrition  
Health Promotion  
International Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Policy  
Teaching  
Work life balance  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline   
  
  
  
  
  
 Robert Hall   
  
Bio  
  
 I have been working in public health for 40 years. I started in remote Aboriginal health, with NT Health, and then the Urapuntja Health Service. I was Director of Communicable Diseases in the Commonwealth Department of Health, then Director of Communicable Disease Control in SA Health, then Director of Public Health and Chief Health Officer in Victoria. Then I worked as Public Health Medical Officer for the Victorian Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisation, then Senior Lecturer in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. I moved to the Adelaide Hills where I taught public health at UniSA, and at Flinders University. I was Director of Covid Operations and Medical Officer for Covid Immunisation for the SA Department of Health in 2021-22, before retiring at the end of 2022. Between 1990 and 2017 I was a member of the Technical Advisory Group on Immunization and Vaccine-Preventable Diseases for the Western Pacific Region of the World Health Organization and was chair of this group between 2005 and 2017. I have been on many national and state committees for government, including a time as a member of Council of the National Health and Medical Research Council. In the early 1990s I was national vice-president of the PHAA.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health  
Ecology & Environment  
Food & Nutrition  
Health Promotion  
Immunisation  
One Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Job application  
Leadership  
Teaching  
International experience and networks  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student – Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early career - Within the first five years of their career  
 Career transition – Professional Sea change, diversion in current career, changing  
professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Ros Sambell   
  
Bio  
  
 Lecturer, researcher and Nutrition Discipline Lead - Bachelor of Health Science, Edith Cowan University (ECU). Previously course coordinator of MPH. Membership: Nutrition and Health Innovation Research Institute (and recipient of the Capacity Building Award 2021) and the Centre for People, Place and Planet, ECU. Chair National Nutrition Network – Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC); Associate-Investigator – Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child; Stakeholder Committee for the “Connecting the Dots for Healthy Beginnings-Karitane Partnership Project” and the “Web-based Healthy Beginnings Project”; Steering Group for the 'Nutritious Tools'; Scientific Advisory Group - FoodStep - a sustainable approach for food services and ECEC, Helsinki, Finland. $550,000 (since 2015) of research funding including funding to support a - Pathway to healthy food environments: a guide for local governments in Western Australia; supervisor of Honours, Master and PhD students. She has expertise in community nutrition intervention design and development, knowledge brokerage and translation to improve population health outcomes. Expertise in ECEC food provision, food literacy, research translation for impact, higher education teaching and learning   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Food and Nutrition  
Health Promotion  
Child and Youth Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Grant writing  
Leadership  
Non-governmental organisation  
Research  
Teaching  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Rupa Zaman   
  
Bio  
  
 I am an experienced public health professional with over twenty years international experiences. Professionally I am a medical doctor with post graduations in Public Health, Work Health and Safety and Business Administration. I have implemented multiple flagship health, education, and water sanitation programs of world’s key INGOs in their USAID, DFID, DFAT, ADB, SDC and UNFPA funded projects. My technical expertise areas are in maximising the efficiencies of health and education programs to create a positive impact to the program beneficiaries. I am skilled in developing high performing programs for low resource setting areas with limited resources. I have also taught Public Health Methods at the the University of Wollongong during Spring 2023, to introduce the subject as the Subject Coordinator and managed a cohort of 200 students international and domestic respectively  
   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Child & Youth Health  
Complementary Medicine – Evidence, Research & Policy  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Health Promotion  
Injury Prevention  
International Health  
Mental Health  
Primary Health Care  
Women’s Health   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Research  
Job application  
Leadership  
Teaching  
Career transition  
Work life balance  
International experience and networks  
Non-governmental organisation  
Working as a healthcare practitioner  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student – Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early career - Within the first five years of their career  
Career transition – Professional Sea change, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline   
  
  
  
  
  
 Scott Avery   
  
Bio  
  
 Dr Scott Avery is a professor of Indigenous disability health and wellbeing in the School of Public Health, University of Technology Sydney. He is an Aboriginal man descendant from the Worimi people and is profoundly deaf.   
Dr Scott (as he prefers to be known) is a recognised educator, researcher and policy adviser on Indigenous cultural approaches for the inclusion of people with disability. He has extensive experience in conducting community-based research and policy in Indigenous and disability organisations and is the research and education partner for the First Peoples Disability Network. He has authored the publication 'Culture is Inclusion: A narrative of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability' (2018) based on his research. His community-based and intersectional approach has influenced national policy across Closing the Gap, Australia’s Disability Strategy, and the Disability Royal Commission. He has been appointed as an expert advisor to numerous Government bodies including the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Disability Research Partnership, National Disability Data Asset, and the Research Committee of the Lowitja Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research. He is also a director on the board of disability service provider Achieve Australia Ltd, and was an Ambassador for the International Day of People with Disability in 2023.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Non-governmental organisation  
Research  
Teaching  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Silvana Bettiol   
  
Bio  
  
 I was trained as a medical microbiologist, I worked in government laboratories and teaching at university before completing my PhD. I completed my postdoctoral training in the USA and then pursued an MPH and academic research and teaching. My teaching career moved from medical microbiology to public health   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Ecology and Environment  
Health Promotion  
International Health  
Oral Health  
One Health  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Job application  
Research  
Teaching  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Sotiris Vardoulakis   
  
Bio  
  
 Sotiris Vardoulakis is Professor of Environmental Public Health at the University of Canberra Health Research Centre, and Director of the NHMRC Healthy Environments And Lives (HEAL) National Research Network. Previously he held a number of senior academic, civil service and consultancy positions in the UK. He was Director of Research and Head of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Occupational Health at the Institute of Occupational Medicine in Edinburgh, Head of the Environmental Change Department, and of the Air Pollution and Climate Change Groups at Public Health England, and lecturer and course director (MPH) at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and at the University of Birmingham. He is currently Honorary Professor at the European Centre for Environment and Human Health at the University of Exeter, and Adjunct Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. For more than 25 years, Sotiris has advised national and local governments and international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, the European Parliament, the UK Government, and the Australian Department of Health, on the health effects of climate change, air pollution, sustainable development, environmental health, urban health, and risk communication. He has managed interdisciplinary teams and mentored many students, practitioners and researchers.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Ecology and Environment  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Career transition  
Grant writing  
Job application  
International experience and networks  
Leadership  
Research  
Teaching  
Work life balance  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Stephanie Munari   
  
Bio  
  
 Steph is a PhD candidate and public health physician. Her PhD is aiming to strengthen chlamydia management in general practice to reduce associated reproductive morbidity in Australia. Steph also works as a Senior Research Officer at the Burnet Institute, where she works with sexually transmitted infection and blood borne virus sentinel surveillance data, and as a tutor at the University of Melbourne. Her past degrees include a Bachelor of Biomedicine, Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery, and a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Health Promotion   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Career transition  
Job application  
Non-governmental organisation  
Recently graduated  
Research  
Work life balance  
Working as a healthcare practitioner   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Student: Final year undergraduate, honours, Masters, or PhD student  
Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline   
  
  
  
  
  
 Vanessa Johnston   
  
Bio  
  
 A public health medicine specialist who has held senior roles across academia and government in research, health policy and program delivery over the past 15 years. I am passionate about working collaboratively and leading teams to achieve ambitious public health outcomes, with a focus on health equity. I have worked across a diverse range of areas of public health, including tobacco control, chronic diseases preventions, health promotion, health protection, and immunisation.  
  
My current role at CCNSW is strategic leadership role, leading in responsible for leading the Cancer Information and Support Services Division, with a focus on working with communities to achieve more equitable cancer outcomes.   
  
Prior to my current as Deputy Chief Health Officer for ACT Health Directorate, I played a key leadership role in responding to the public health threats of fire and smoke in Canberra during the  
Black Summer Bushfires and in steering the ACT through the COVID-19 pandemic. During the COVID-  
19 pandemic, I contributed to the national policy response through my role as Deputy Chair  
of the Communicable Diseases Network Australia Committee.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health  
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Immunisation  
Health Promotion  
   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Policy  
Career transition  
Fellowship application  
Grant writing  
Job application  
Leadership  
Research  
Work life balance  
Working with or within government  
   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
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Early Career: Within the first five years of their career  
Career Transition: Professional “sea change”, diversion in current career, changing professional discipline  
   
  
  
  
  
  
 Vivian Lin   
  
Bio  
  
 Professor Vivian Lin is the Executive Associate Dean of LKS Faculty of Medicine and Professor of Public Health Practice at University Hong Kong. Vivian was Chair of Public Health from 2000-2013 at La Trobe University in Melbourne. She worked at WHO as Director of Health Systems in the Western Pacific Regional Office for 20132018, and HAS consulted widely for the World Bank, United Kingdom’s Department for International Development, Australian Agency for International Development, WHO and various Australian governments. She was commissioned to undertake major studies of indicators used globally for gender equity and health, on risks and regulatory requirements for naturopathy, and evaluation of a health promotion leadership programme. Vivian is the co-author/editor on a number of books related to health policy and system in Australia, including on health planning, evidence-based health policy, and public health practice. As a ministerial appointee, she was the inaugural president of the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria 2000-2009, a member of the Australia-China Council 2006-2009and a member of the Diary Food Safety Board of Victoria 2000-2003. She served as a health policy editor for Social Sciences and Medicine, and as a member of the International Panel on Social Progress and chaired its cross-cutting group. A graduate of Yale and the University of California Berkeley, Vivian was a recipient of the Drotman Award given by the American Public Health Association in 1982 for promising young public health professionals. She is currently advising the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on their health strategy, serving on the technical advisory group on universal health coverage for who western pacific region, supporting who on urban governance for health and wellbeing in 7 cities, and participating on several lancet commissions.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Complementary Medicine – Evidence, Research & Policy  
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Health Promotion  
International Health  
Political Economy of Health  
Primary Health Care   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Advocacy  
Policy  
Leadership  
Career transition  
International experience and networks  
Working with or within government   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
 Early career - Within the first five years of their career  
 Career transition – Professional Sea change, diversion in current career, changing  
 professional discipline   
  
  
  
  
  
 Zohra Lassi   
  
Bio  
  
 I am a trained epidemiologist and mid-career academic researcher and Associate Professor, recognised internationally for my work identifying interventions for improving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition interventions in disadvantaged settings by advancing knowledge in public health practice and translation into global health policies and guidelines. I have published 210+ peer-reviewed papers, including Lancet, BMJ, BJOG, PLoS Medicine, and 10 Cochrane reviews. In addition, I am the author of 11 book chapters and several research/technical reports. I completed my PhD in late 2015 and have worked in perinatal research for more than 10 years. My research has contributed significantly to global maternal and newborn policies, and the significance of my work has resulted in several invited presentations at international meetings as well. I have made sustained contributions to Cochrane as an author, a referee, and trainer. I am a current Feedback Editor for the Acute Respiratory Infections Group. In 2011, I was awarded the prestigious international Kenneth Warren Prize from Cochrane for preparing a very high-quality systematic review. My expertise in evidence synthesis has also been recognised through invited membership of five separate Lancet Intervention Review Groups (Child Health Optimising (0-19) Series 2021, Maternal and Child Undernutrition Series 2021, Every Newborn Series 2014, Maternal and Child Nutrition Series 2013, Diarrhoea and Pneumonia Series 2013) and subsequent publications. In addition, I have been appointed as a Technical Advisor to the WHO on three occasions. I have been awarded the Women’s Research Excellence Award by the University of Adelaide for being an outstanding Early Career Researcher in 2016, Executive Dean Award for Research (early career) in 2017 and 2020 and was a finalist on 2019 Vice-Chancellor Award for Research Excellence and 2021 University Award for Outstanding Achievement in the category Excellence in Research. More recently, I was awarded 2021 HDA Women’s Excellence in Research Award, 2021 Robinson Research Institute Director’s Award for being an outstanding early/mid-career researcher, and 2021 Episteme Laureate by Sigma Nursing for being an excellent reflection of the nursing profession and acknowledging a breakthrough in nursing knowledge development that impacts the underserved relating to nutrition/malnutrition. I currently hold the competitive NHMRC Emerging Leader (EL2) Fellowship.   
  
Areas of interest  
  
 Child and Youth Health  
Food and Nutrition  
International Health  
Research and Policy   
  
Skills and areas of expertise  
  
 Fellowship application  
Grant writing  
International experience and networks  
Research   
  
Types of mentees comfortable mentoring  
  
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