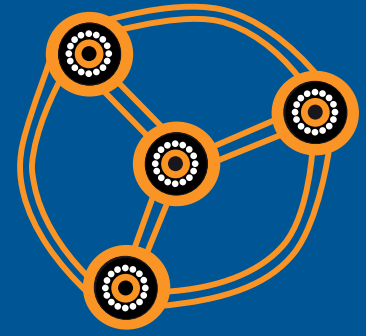


# KANYINI

## newsletter



Issue 3 | March 2009

### Greetings

Welcome to the 3rd Newsletter of the Kanyini Vascular Collaboration. Kanyini Vascular Collaboration is a partnership between The George Institute for International Health, the Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute and participating Indigenous primary health care services in Central Australia, NSW and Queensland. We look forward to meeting each other in the upcoming 4th Kanyini Investigator's meeting in Sydney on 23rd April, 2009.

### Study Updates

For detailed information about the component studies please visit the website at [www.kvc.org.au](http://www.kvc.org.au).

### The Kanyini Vascular Audit

Thank you to all our health service partners who participated in the Kanyini Audit Study which comprises of the Clinical Vascular Audit and the Systems Audit.

### The Clinical Vascular Audit

A total of 1165 records were audited with feedback given to individual sites. The first paper for publication for this study has been submitted and we are confident that it will provide important insights into cardiovascular disease risk management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in primary health care settings.

### The Systems Audit Assessment

Data collection is nearing completion for this component of the Kanyini Audit. In conjunction with the Kanyini Qualitative Study (see below) we are proposing a mixed methods analysis of health service factors effecting cardiovascular disease outcomes. The aim is that this will provide a policy-relevant understanding of how the 'system' level correlates to quality care practices.

### Health Service partners

1. Armajun Aboriginal Health Service Inc, Inverell NSW
2. Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Alice Springs NT
3. Inala Indigenous Health Service, Brisbane QLD
4. Ngaanyatjarra Health Service, Warbuton WA
5. Nganampa Health Council, SA
6. Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, Campbelltown NSW
7. Tobwabba Aboriginal Medical Service, Forster NSW
8. Urapuntja Health Service, Utopia NT
9. Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku, NT
10. Wuchopperen Health Service, Cairns QLD



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## The Kanyini Qualitative Study

The Kanyini Qualitative Study involves talking with communities and their families, health professionals, managerial staff and policy-makers about the barriers and facilitators to accessing quality health care. Interviews with community participants and health professionals have been piloted, interview schedules refined and data collection is ongoing. We have conducted around 50 interviews so far. The interview team consists of a diverse range of health professionals from partner health services, The George and Baker Heart Research Institute. This brings a rich and diverse range of experience to the study and enables multiple perspectives to be gained. It is anticipated interviews will be completed by July '09. We anticipate that from the wealth of knowledge gained from this work we will be able to offer insights to the barriers and enablers of care and appropriate recommendations of effective models of care for the prevention and management of chronic diseases.

## The Kanyini Polypill Study

The Kanyini Polypill Study is a clinical trial involving the use of a single combination polypill in the care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at high risk of cardiovascular disease. The polypill contains aspirin, two blood pressure lowering medicines and a cholesterol lowering medicine, as recommended by National Heart Foundation guidelines. The study hypothesis is that a single combination tablet will improve patient adherence and thus blood pressure and cholesterol levels. The study will be conducted in conjunction with a number of other related polypill studies both in Australia and internationally.

## Progress to date

Consultations with Kanyini collaboration partner sites are progressing well and ethical approval has been granted by the relevant jurisdictions in NSW, Queensland and Central Australia. Current work involves finalising operating procedures, database building, training and support for research staff, and consultation with pharmacies. More intensive work at each health service site will commence in April with the view to commencing recruitment in October 2009. The trial protocol is now registered with the Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry: ACTRN12608000584336.

## Electronic Decision Support Tool

One potential component of a comprehensive model of chronic disease care is an innovative electronic cardiovascular risk assessment tool designed to support health care providers in the identification of cardiovascular risk factors and to provide point-of-care access to national guideline recommendations. This tool has been piloted in NSW among 21 health professionals and 200 patients in three partner health services and several mainstream general practices. Data collection is now complete and analysis is ongoing. The findings will determine the feasibility and acceptability of the tool and help

guide its future development into a fully interactive version that is integrated within the commonly used medical software platforms.

## The Communication Project

The Communication Project comprises of the Communication Study, a documentary and supporting educational materials. The Communication Project has resulted from the progressive development in shooting footage for the documentary. The Communication Study purposefully examines the ethical and evidence based parameters for the effective delivery of KVC's research findings in outputs other than medical journals. The goal is the presentation of real research findings to different audiences, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, in an innovative, relevant and engaging manner. Since early 2008, we have been following the story of an Indigenous Australian as he negotiates the transition to life on dialysis. The footage has been compiled into a short video piece and it has generated much interest from potential investors for the production of the documentary. The conceptual framework being used in the Communication Study was developed by KVC Research Fellow, Ms Suzanne Ingram. This conceptual framework was presented as a poster presentation at the World Indigenous Peoples Conference: Education 2008 in Melbourne in December.



Suzanne Ingram at WIPCE conference presenting the conceptual framework of this project

## Staff Profile - Indigenous Research Fellow Joanne De Vries



### How did you start working at Wuchopperen?

My family clan is Wakaid from Badu Island and my totem is Crocodile in the Torres Strait. I speak Kala Lagaw Ya, Torres Strait Kirol and Australian English. I was inspired to work in health by my mother who was a nurse on Thursday Island and by my passion to make a difference to the health of Australian Indigenous people. I had worked in Education and Government Departments and I decided to go back to studies in 2002. I chose to do an Aboriginal Health Worker Certificate Diploma level, as I believed that it would enable me to better serve the community.

I have been working at Wuchopperen Health service since 2004 and first started in a data entry position. I am currently the Programs Coordinator, Women's Sexual Health worker and Kanyini Research Officer. I have also been in previous roles where I coordinated women's health program, was the Healthy for Life site officer and was the acting Executive Officer for the Primary Health Unit.

### What are some of your key experiences at Wuchopperen?

The annual Community Days and Health Promotion Days are always spectacular and enjoyable. I also enjoy being part of the progress and development of Primary Health Care Programs and

resources. I helped develop and starred in a cervical smear health education DVD for Indigenous Women titled, "Don't be Shame be Game". There are great opportunities for up skilling and personal development at annual health program workshops and conferences where there is the opportunity to build a close network with health workers nationally.

There are also those key little moments that are precious to me such as when patients invite you to be part of their child's birth or when I can hold their hands through their anxious moments.

### What do you see as your role in being Kanyini Indigenous Research Fellow?

Research is a fundamental part of health and the Kanyini Vascular Collaboration research will have essential key outcomes in areas of engagement, service delivery and more. Importantly, the research is advocating the voice of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait people all over Australia. My role is significant, as it is the connection to the community and ensures that the research is being delivered appropriately, culturally and with integrity. I see my role as an encouragement for other Indigenous Health Workers to extend their capacity in their personal development by doing effective health research as one of the many ways to improve Indigenous health.

I am excited and feel honoured to be part of this collaborative project which I believe will greatly benefit the community.

### What do you do for fun?

I like listening to music, reading a good book and cooking. I also like to hang out with my family. It is really important to me. Life at work can be stressful but when I spend time with my family - it's all worth it.

*"Jo is perfectly situated for this research with Kanyini. She is a respected and respectful health worker in the community. She is both gentle and firm. Indigenous health research will gain immeasurably with her involvement. The team is fortunate to be able to support her as she establishes this part of her career." – Suzanne Ingram (KVC Research Fellow).*

## News From Our Partners

**Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation** NSW received The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' (RACGP) National General Practice of the Year Award for 2008. Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation, an aboriginal community controlled health service, was recognised for its outstanding patient centred approach and relationships it has built in the community.



### **Inala Indigenous Health Service:**

Dr Noel Hayman was the winner of 14th Annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Deadlys Award – Outstanding Achievement in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, 2008. The Deadlys Awards was established in 1995 and celebrates national Indigenous achievements in music, arts, sports, education and health.

## Congratulations



We would like to congratulate Maria and Mike Tchan on the arrival of their lovely baby girl Amelia!

## Introduction of new staff

A special welcome to: Ms Pamela Simon, an Indigenous Research Fellow based at Tharawal Aboriginal Corporation who will work with Kanyini on the Qualitative Study and Dr Hueiming Liu who is based in Sydney and joins the Kanyini team as the Program Manager while Maria Tchan is on maternity leave.

## Invited presentations

2008

*Addressing the burden of chronic vascular diseases among Indigenous Australians.* Annual General Meeting of the Rural Doctors Network, Sydney, November 2008

2008

*The Kanyini Vascular Collaboration: Improving the management of chronic vascular/metabolic disease.* 4th National Disease Management Conference, Australian Disease Management Association, Sydney, September 2008

## Conference presentations/posters

2008

'What's to know? Developing educational materials for understanding and recognizing (mis)communication in Aboriginal Health.' World Indigenous People's Conference: Education) WIPC:E, Melbourne

2008

The identification and Management of vascular diseases and their risk factors in eight Indigenous primary health care services across Australia - The result of the Kanyini Vascular Audit. Chronic Disease Network Conference, Alice Springs

2008

Understanding the barriers and enablers to chronic disease for Indigenous Australians - The Kanyini Qualitative Study (poster presentation). Chronic Disease Network Conference, Alice Springs

2008

The identification and management of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and risk factors in Aboriginal primary health care. Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology - Annual Scientific Meeting

## Publications

Peiris D, Brown A, Cass A. *Addressing inequities in access to quality health care for Indigenous peoples.* Canadian Medical Association Journal 2008; 179 (10): 985-986

Brown A, Patel A, Cass A, Peiris D, Howard M, Tchan M, Rickards B, Yarnold D, Hayman N, Lawrence C, Brady J, De Vries J, Scuderi N, *The Identification and Management of Vascular Diseases and Their Risk Factors in Eight Indigenous Primary Health Care Services—The Results of the Kanyini Vascular Collaboration Audit study.* Heart, Lung & Circulation, Vol 17, Supp 3, 2008: S157

## Conference Abstracts submitted/accepted

2009 *The Electronic Decision Support - Pilot Study* (Oral Presentation).

Heart Foundation Conference 2009

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