Centre Directors

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Our Work

The principal objective of the Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI) is to conduct multi-disciplinary research into health sector practices, organisation and management, that directly enhances the delivery of high quality, safe, efficient and affordable health care. The emphasis is on translational research, and turning policy into practice.

The AIHI vision is to lead in health system innovation through world class research, generating, disseminating and translating research knowledge that can improve health systems. Our mission is to enhance local, institutional and international health system decision making through evidence; and use systems sciences and translational approaches to provide innovative, evidence based solutions to specified healthcare delivery problems. The AIHI is comprised of three independent, collaborating research centres:

- Centre for Health Informatics;
- Centre for Health Systems and Safety Research;
- Centre for Healthcare Resilience and Implementation Science.

We have 100 researchers, fellows and visiting appointees, and 20 higher degree research students, of whom the majority are PhD candidates. Our major sources of income [running at more than $15 million per annum, up from $5 million five years ago] are National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) program and project funding, University income and NSW Health infrastructure support, Australian Research Council (ARC) discovery and linkage funding, and commissioned research.

The Institute publishes more than 200 scientific papers and chapters per annum, in addition to numerous monographs and reports. We focus on translational impact in areas such as improved health systems, models for changing practice and organisations, decision support for clinicians, the recognition of deteriorating patients, improving quality of care and patient safety, eHealth and rapid response for at risk patients.

The Institute is internationally unique. As a highly flexible, multi-disciplinary organisation, we are able to attract world class researchers from diverse backgrounds. Each of our three research centres contributes to the Institute’s common mission and vision. Our work is highly collaborative: projects often involve researchers from each of the centres, supported by research grants awarded across the centres and resulting in publications with authorship shared by researchers across the Institute. Staff move between centres as required, and may hold cross-centre Institute-level responsibilities. Our highly specialised scientists are encouraged to combine their skills to develop novel questions and test new hypotheses in the field of health services research. This highly successful structure has resulted in the development of expert communities of practice within a multi-disciplinary setting.
Centre for Health Informatics

Our healthcare system faces unprecedented challenges of rising costs, diminishing workforces, increasing service demand, and greater expectations for quality and safety of care. Meeting these challenges will require the reinvention of healthcare, and necessitates tools, techniques and research evidence that come from systems science and information technology – now known as informatics.

Australia’s largest and oldest academic health informatics research group, the Centre for Health Informatics (CHI) is internationally recognised for its ground-breaking contributions and works from ‘cell to system’ developing new ways of delivering safe and effective healthcare using 21st C technologies. Examples of CHI’s work include:

- **Healthy.me** - A ‘Facebook for healthcare’ that helps consumers manage their care, which in multiple trials has been shown to improve health service delivery, and has generated a spin-off start-up company.
- A health analytics laboratory that is at the cutting edge of health data science, collaborating with colleagues at Stanford University on new ways of using patient record data to improve clinical decision making.
- The world’s first and most widely adopted classification for eHealth safety, used to monitor technology related risks in the US and Europe.
- Network science applied to the problem of evidence translation, looking for early signals of unreported bias in the production of research evidence through to distortions in the uptake of evidence into practice, in partnership with colleagues at Harvard University.

- Automating the process of systematic review by using search tools and text-processing algorithms to find the evidence related to a given question, and then to extract and summarise the evidence in a form that helps decision-making.

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Centre for Health Systems and Safety Research

The Centre for Health Systems and Safety Research (CHSSR) has an international reputation for its research centred on the design and execution of rigorous and innovative approaches to evaluating health informatics interventions providing evidence of their effectiveness, efficiency and safety. The CHSSR has made significant contributions to research which adopts a systems perspective to measure how interventions impact clinical work, communication processes and patient safety.

Research areas of the CHSSR include:

- Medication safety and eHealth.
- Work innovation, communication and eHealth.
- Safety and integration of aged and community care.
- Pathology and imaging informatics.
- Human factors and eHealth.
- Applied health economics, evaluation methods and approaches to statistical analyses.

The CHSSR research team has particular expertise in the evaluation of complex health interventions and their impact on clinical effectiveness and safety. The Centre aims to make fundamental contributions to advancing the discipline areas of health informatics and health services research and building an evidence base to inform healthcare delivery and policy. We work closely with healthcare bodies and industry to translate our findings into practice.

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Centre for Healthcare Resilience and Implementation Science

The Centre for Healthcare Resilience and Implementation Science (CHRIS) (formerly, the Centre for Clinical Governance Research) is Australia’s most prominent and productive group in its field. CHRIS has six streams of research: patient safety research; appropriateness of care; behaviour change; human factors and resilience; improvement studies; and implementation science. Staff provide large scale, high impact investigations into key topics designed to improve the health system including NHMRC- and ARC-funded research into:

- Accreditation, and how it drives improvements in standards and quality of care.
- Inter-professional learning and practice, particularly the way teams can work more productively together.
- Clinical management and leadership.
- Healthcare quality and safety.
- The cultures, resilience and structures of healthcare provision.
- Restructuring.
- Injury studies.
- Communities of practice and social-professional networks.
- International health care policy issues.

This work is recognised through many international publications, presentations and keynote addresses. We engage with many people in the community, (e.g. consumers, industry partners, departments of health) to conduct our research, increase its value to patients, and encourage results to be translated into practice improvements.

Our research is collaborative and involves many researchers, partners and colleagues nationally and internationally. We have strong expertise in social science theories, harnessing multi-method data sets, and conducting large scale trials and studies of significance. Our work is translational, involving health system participants, industry, and other Universities.

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Higher degree research at AIHI

The AIHI is continually seeking high quality candidates to undertake higher degree research. Potential students are encouraged to review the Institute's website to become familiar with the expertise and interests of the academic staff. (www.aihi.mq.edu.au)

Please contact the appropriate Centre Director to discuss study options and possible projects. Alternatively, inquiries to undertake a PhD or Masters study can be directed to the Higher Degree Research Coordinator.

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March 2015