

December 2016 #45

# Judith Lumley Centre

for mother, infant and family health research

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### Thank you Rhonda

Our dear friend and colleague Professor Rhonda Small is retiring. After 26 years at the Centre, Rhonda's retirement marks the end of an exceptional and remarkable era. Rhonda has worked at the Judith Lumley Centre (formerly Mother and Child Health Research) since its establishment in 1991 (as The Centre for the Study of Mothers' and Children's Health Research) and was Centre Director from 2009 - 2013.

As Rhonda's retirement nears, we would like to pay tribute to Rhonda. Rhonda's quiet determination and passion for improving women's lives has been an inspiration to us all. We thank her for her kindness and warmth, her compassion, integrity and humanity, and her leadership and friendship. We thank Rhonda for her contributions to improving the health and wellbeing of mothers and children, and to improving the conditions of research staff. We thank her for contributions to the Centre these past 26 years, which have shaped it into the supportive, one-of-a-kind Centre it is renowned for, and which it will continue to be.

To honour Rhonda and her achievements, a very special farewell party was held in late November. Past and present colleagues and students, as well as Rhonda's family, were present to pay tribute to Rhonda and celebrate the exceptional woman she is. A few photos from the day are included in this newsletter. We have also included a few tributes from Rhonda's colleagues, students and friends, to document the impact Rhonda has had on so many of us, both personally and professionally. These tributes will be included in a book for Rhonda. If you would like to add a tribute of your own, please email us at [jlc@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:jlc@latrobe.edu.au).



Helene Johns, Simone Pakin, Mary Caruana, Rhonda Small, Helen McLachlan and Kate Dawson singing at Rhonda's farewell

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**NEWS**

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**
**Awards**

**Dr. Leesa Hooker** was one of the 2016 recipients of the Nancy Millis award for theses of exceptional merit. Leesa's outstanding thesis was titled "*Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Nursing Practice for Women and Children Experiencing Family Violence*". Congratulations Leesa.

**Ingrid Wilson** won the best student poster award at the 21st International Nursing Network on Violence Against Women conference, hosted by the Judith Lumley Centre in Melbourne 26-28 October 2016. The title of her poster was: "*As soon as there was no alcohol it was just like it never happened. Women's experience of fear and harm from an alcohol-affected intimate partner*".



Ingrid Wilson at the NNVWI conference

**Ingrid Wilson** reached the final of the University-wide 3MT competition and was awarded a People's Choice Award for the presentation of her research "Living the cycle of drinking and intimate partner violence".



Rhonda and her son Felix



Celebrating Rhonda

## In Appreciation: Paying tribute to Rhonda Small

I first met Rhonda in the early nineties and soon discovered the wonderful combination of qualities for which we love and value Rhonda. First up I met the *feminist Rhonda*, with her undoubted commitment to improving the lives of birthing women and of mothers. These values have animated the wonderful work Rhonda has achieved. Then there is the *human rights and diversity active Rhonda* working to improve the lives of the other, the migrant and refugee women or the entire community of migrants and refugees. The *politically active and committed Rhonda* has been a fabulous NTEU representative and used her award winning negotiating skills to fight for and win better conditions for all staff, but especially her colleagues in research.

But there are other equally important sides to Rhonda. The *scholarly Rhonda* was committed to maximising quality and rigour to answer questions important to improving women's health and they were fearlessly challenging the stereotype that feminist research must be qualitative. Then there is the *very loyal and devoted Rhonda*. I was very moved as witness to Rhonda's care and advocacy for her mother Valda, as she became more frail and sicker. Similarly no one can doubt her care and devotion to Judith, ensuring that Judith was honoured for her contribution to mothers, through celebrations, contributions to Judith's Order of Australia and the launch of the Judith Lumley Centre.

While it is going to be hard for many of us, now it is time to let Rhonda go and devote some time to her other great loves – to her children, Hannah, Kaj and Felix, to the joy of her grandchildren, books, theatre, music and friends, but most importantly to her good self. I am seriously hoping to remain one of these friends. Thank you Rhonda for the love, commitment and support you have given all of us. We hope you stay in touch with us.

Angela Taft  
Director, Judith Lumley Centre

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## Staff news

We warmly welcome two new staff members to JLC.



**Dr Marcos Signorelli** is an Adjunct Professor of Collective Health at Federal University of Parana, Brazil and has returned to the JLC for a sabbatical year. Since his last visit in 2010 as a Public Health PhD student, Marcos has continued his collaborative work with Professor Angela Taft and JLC. In 2014 Angela was a Visiting Professor at the Federal University of Sao Paulo and Federal University of Parana. They recently published a paper together<sup>1</sup> about Brazilian public policies addressed to prevent/reduce violence against women and the key role of family health workers from primary health care.

Marcos returned to the JLC in October as a postdoctoral fellow. During his year at JLC he will learn about cluster randomised controlled trials (RCT), a highlighted research expertise of JLC. Marcos will propose a future project in collaboration with JLC, to promote an intervention RCT addressed to detect and prevent/reduce domestic violence against women in Brazilian primary health care with support of family health workers.

1. Signorelli MC, Taft A, Pereira PPG. Domestic violence against women, public policies and community health workers in Brazilian primary health care. *Cien Saude Colet.* In press. Available online at: <https://goo.gl/LVeLRI>

Rhonda is an amazing woman and has been a huge influence on my life, both as a scholar and an activist, but most importantly she is one of the kindest people I know. Her ethics are beyond reproach. I was one of her earlier PhD students (2003-2008/9). She is always very generous with her time and has continued to be a mentor to me long after I ceased to be her student. Rhonda understands the importance of family and the difficulties that women face in finding the time and space to write. Vale Rhonda. Thanks for making the journey with me.

Sue Armstrong

While I had known Rhonda to some extent since my arrival at ARCSHS in 2000, it wasn't until she 'moved in upstairs' that we became close. Rhonda and I faced similar challenges, running research centres on soft money, and finding ourselves sometimes at odds with the Faculty. Whenever I popped upstairs to talk with Rhonda I found a measured and considered view of whatever issues we were facing, and a willingness to collaborate in finding solutions. The 'upstairs lot' brought a marvellous new dimension to Franklin Street, with Rhonda leading the way in encouraging collaboration between ARCSHS and her centre. Increasingly, the two centres became close, sharing administrative arrangements and social functions.

Rhonda is everything you would want from a research leader. She is rigorous in her thinking and analysis; she is unwavering in her support for her staff and students; she has compassion; and is a great negotiator – a talent from which we have all benefitted in her union role with special regard to research staff. To the extent that research staff at La Trobe have better working conditions than ever before, we all have Rhonda to thank.

Personally I have counted Rhonda not just as an ally, but as a friend. It's time for her to put herself first for a while. But I know that she will continue to do marvellous, socially relevant and important research through her association with the Karolinska. All the best to you Rhonda and thanks for the comradeship.

Marian Pitts

Professor, Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society

I worked with Rhonda at CSMCH and MCHR (now the Judith Lumley Centre) for approximately 15 years, starting as a research assistant and finishing as a research fellow. Rhonda was a fantastic role model and mentor. She is quietly determined and over the years worked her way through many obstacles for both the Centre and for her research. She was passionate about the research she was doing, and was always focussed on undertaking research with the aim of improving outcomes for women and their families. Her work with 'Mother's in a New Country' was particularly inspirational. One of the important lessons I learnt from Rhonda was the importance of translating research into practice.

I have special memories of Centre retreats in Daylesford, morning teas at the Queen Elizabeth Centre in Carlton and Centre Christmas parties complete with singing. Rhonda is inclusive, loyal, encouraging and caring. I feel privileged to have worked with Rhonda and for the Judith Lumley Centre to have shaped my formative years as a researcher.

Fiona Bruinsma

Cancer Council Victoria

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We warmly welcome Ms **Lisa Pascoe** as a new member of the EHLS at School team. Lisa will work on the NHMRC-funded EHLS at

School study, following-up participants from the Early Home Learning Study (EHLS) when children are 7 – 8 years of age. Lisa is based in Wodonga and is responsible for data collection in the Albury-Wodonga area. She has a background in Maternal and Child Health, with a Masters of Child, Family and Community Nursing from La Trobe University. The team is set to grow again in early 2017 as data collection for EHLS at School increases.

JLC also bid farewell to two significant staff members who contributed greatly to the research work and friendly culture of the Centre.



Firstly, JLC would like to congratulate Dr **Kristina Edvardsson** on her new position as a Senior Lecturer in

Nursing at La Trobe's Northern Clinical School, to commence in 2017. Kristina joined the JLC in 2011 as a PhD student before being awarded a Forte Marie Curie International Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2014. Kristina has worked on a large research project on maternal health care in Rwanda, and was international coordinator for the CROss-Country Ultrasound Study (CROCUS) investigating midwives' and obstetricians' experiences and views of the use of ultrasound and the maternal/fetal role across Australia, Norway, Sweden, Rwanda, Tanzania and Vietnam.

I have very fond memories of Rhonda. She was a tremendous colleague, friend and supporter. I first met her in 1992, just before I joined the newly established research centre: Mothers' and Children's Health Research Centre.

I have here a photograph of our group taken at a retreat held at Hepburn Springs exactly 22 years ago as I write this. This event was to mark Judith Lumley's imminent departure to Oxford where she would head up the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. It was both a happy and a reflective time for us all. You can see Rhonda there in the centre beside Judith. I wonder how many faces are now known?



MCHCR at Hepburn Springs, 24 Nov 1994

Rhonda certainly contributed to the special qualities the 'Centre' has always had: friendship, support and enjoyment. Her presence always made work a happy place. With her I have moved through many shared events including getting grants, writing papers, finishing theses, sharing the joys of grandparenthood, and some sad losses too. It has made the last 22 years a wonderful slice of life. My love and thanks to Rhonda.

Lyn Watson

I have so many great memories of Rhonda's support and assistance during my 12 years at the Judith Lumley Centre. I think Rhonda's compassion and commitment to social justice, gender equity and inclusiveness is what is my most lasting memory of her work - not only her research but she was the NTEU representative for many years and on behalf of us all achieved great outcomes (especially for research only academics) in the enterprise bargaining agreements she was involved in.

Jo-Anne Rayner  
Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care

Rhonda, it has been a great joy to learn to know you. When I was at La Trobe I appreciated coming to your home and meeting with your wonderful family, and also to take a break from English and be able to speak my own language. I have always looked up to you as a researcher, your research skills as such, but also the choice of questions that you have explored and investigated. They have always been grounded in a great belief in women and their lives, and focussed on support in cases when needed during pregnancy, throughout the period of childbirth to the months thereafter. When you accepted the position as foreign adjunct professor at Karolinska Institutet we were thrilled. We were in desperate need of a person of your calibre, and with your expertise in migrant women's specific problems. Directly, you delivered by obtaining research funding together with Erica Schytt. For me personally I will continue to look forward to your visits to Sweden and our good talks. You have become one of my best friends. I wish that you will now be able to enjoy your new life, and feel free to really do ONLY the things that are closest to your heart.  
*En stor varm kram från.*

Ulla Waldenström  
Karolinska Institutet

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Kristina has been wonderful to work with and her regular presence in the Centre will be missed. We wish Kristina all the best in her new role, and hope her ongoing research will keep her tied to us. Thank you for bringing a bit of sunshine to the JLC Kristina. We look forward to seeing you soon.



JLC is also saddened to farewell Dr **Cattram Nguyen**. Cattram is a biostatistician and post-doctoral

researcher at the Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics Unit at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, and has just completed a two-year part-time secondment to the JLC. Cattram has provided a wealth of statistical support and expertise to the TCPP program and across the Centre, and has consulted on numerous research projects including LSAC, EHLS, ANROWS and work-family conflict, as well as many student projects. Cattram has had an active presence at JLC, contributing to grant applications, supervising Masters of Public Health students, and presenting at the Centre and at national and international conferences.

We would like to thank Cattram not only for her statistical expertise and contributions to research, but for her warmth and generosity. She will be very much missed, but we look forward to collaborating and working with Cattram in 2017 and beyond.

## NNVAWI Conference 2016

Angela Taft

La Trobe University (Judith Lumley Centre) hosted the 21st Nursing Network on Violence against Women International (NNVAWI) conference in Melbourne, 26-28 October. The conference theme was: Strengthening healthcare systems to promote safety and health of women and families.

Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno (World Health Organization), Professor Jacquelyn Campbell (Johns Hopkins School of Nursing), Professor Jane Koziol-McLain (Auckland University of Technology), Professor Kelsey Hegarty (University of Melbourne) and Ms Rosie Batty (Family violence campaigner) were the invited plenary speakers. They addressed the role of the health system in tackling family violence from global, regional and national perspectives but in Rosie Batty's case, from direct and moving personal experience. La Trobe's Vice Chancellor Professor John Dewar welcomed the delegates on the university's behalf.

Delegates across 12 countries came together to share their violence against women (VAW) research, with around 150 delegates. For the first time, the NNVAWI conference included two pre-conference workshops on violence and abuse research methods and cultural responsiveness, Indigenous people and violence. Other sessions included a higher degree research student breakfast, four streams of concurrent sessions over two days, symposia on a range of VAW topics and appointment of the new NNVAWI board. Congratulations to our own Ingrid Wilson who was awarded best student poster presentation (Women's experiences of fear and harm from an alcohol-affected intimate partner), and Laura Biggs on her appointment as the new NNVAWI board student representative for 2017-2018. Feedback from delegates has rated it among the best NNVAWI conferences ever held.

You can find more information about the conference on the JLC website [latrobe.edu.au/jlc/news-events/NNVAWI-Conference-2016](http://latrobe.edu.au/jlc/news-events/NNVAWI-Conference-2016)

or follow the link and scroll through the full conference Twitter story at [storify.com/lhooker/2016-nursing-network-on-violence-against-women-int](http://storify.com/lhooker/2016-nursing-network-on-violence-against-women-int)



Ms Rosie Batty delivering opening address at NNVAWI Conference 2016

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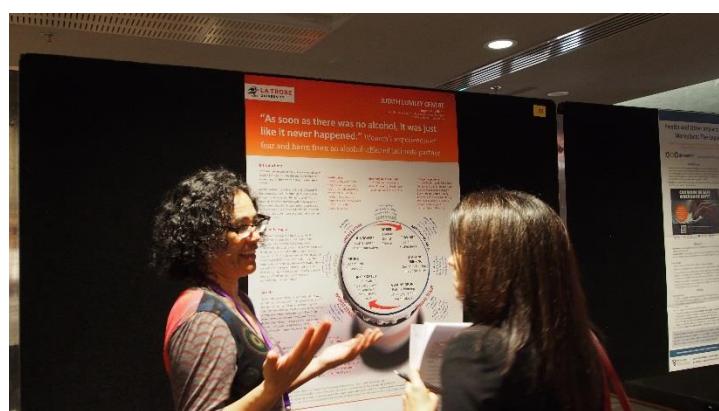
Congratulations to Dr **Sharinne Crawford** and her partner Dave on the birth of their son Marcus Peter in October.



Manuela Columbini (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine),  
Kayli Wild, Angela Taft and Claudia Garcia-Moreno (WHO)



Sonia Reisenhofer, Rosa Maria, Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno (WHO), Beatriz Quintanilla and Angela Taft



Ingrid Wilson at NNVWI Conference 2016 poster session

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## Grants

Forster D, McLachlan H, Shafiei T, Smith T, Richardson J, Wadley G, Biggs L, Stelfox S. Developing and testing a moderated online peer support intervention to prevent perinatal depression and anxiety and improve perinatal emotional health and wellbeing in 'at risk' expectant and new mothers; Norman Beischer Medical Research Foundation; \$102,317.



**Norman Beischer  
Medical Research  
Foundation™**

## Diabetes and Antenatal Milk Expressing: the DAME trial

Anita Moorhead

The Diabetes and Antenatal Milk Expressing (DAME) trial was completed in 2016. This large study undertaken in six study sites, is a randomised controlled trial exploring the safety and efficacy of antenatal milk expressing for women with diabetes in pregnancy.



The study involved assessing over 6000 women with diabetes in pregnancy for eligibility, approaching over 2300 for participation and following up 635 women and their babies.

This study has moved into the analysis and writing up phase. The research team have presented the results to the collaborating hospitals, Royal Women's Hospital, and Mercy Hospital for Women, Monash Health, Geelong and Frankston hospitals. We have also given presentations of the study results at a JLC lunchtime seminar (Della Forster), Lactation Consultants of Australia and New Zealand conference (Anita Moorhead) and the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (Lisa Amir in Washington DC). Anita Moorhead has been invited to present the results of the DAME study as a keynote speaker at a large international conference in Toronto, Canada in 2017. Anita who worked as the project coordinator is now enrolled as a PhD candidate on this project, and will undertake further work including women's views on expressing during pregnancy.

The results of the study are eagerly awaited by clinicians and women around the world as this is the first trial of its kind despite the widespread introduction of this practice. Publishing and dissemination of the outcomes of this study will assist maternity carers to give evidenced-based advice about antenatal expressing for women with low risk pregnancies who have diabetes in pregnancy.



Lisa Amir and Anita Moorhead presenting the study results at the 2016 Lactation Consultants of Australia and New Zealand conference in Melbourne

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## International Conferences

### 11th International Normal Labour and Birth conference, Sydney, October 2016.

Founded by Professor Soo Downe from University of Central Lancashire, The Normal Labour and Birth conference addresses the social, cultural, physiological, psychological, emotional and spiritual aspects of labour and birth. It leaves its home in Grange-over-Sands in England every second year to be held in another country. In October 2016 the 11th International Normal Labour and Birth conference was held in Sydney's Bicentennial park.

Many disciplines were represented at the conference and delegates came from many countries (over 40!), to discuss and disseminate research, ideas, policy and practices that support normal labour and birth. Kate Dawson and Michelle Newton were both honoured to be presenting their work regarding caseload midwifery care. They also co-facilitated a workshop led by Professor Jane Sandall (King's College London) together with Dr James Harris (King's College London), Professor Sally Tracy (University of Sydney) and Mrs. Hannah Rayment-Jones (King's College London), around the implementation of caseload midwifery models. The conference was an amazing event, full of great ideas, support and inspiration to continue the work to normalise labour and birth for women and their families.

## Parenting Kit evaluation

Touran Shafiei

The Royal Women's Hospital (the Women's) developed a parenting education kit (based on the 'California Kit' for new parents), known as Growing Together, with funding from the Victorian State Government. It aimed to provide evidence-based information to help prepare prospective parents for parenting.

The kit includes three components: an A4 sized book that covers the journey from conception to one year of age; an 'App' that has been specifically designed for the project; and a children's story book. The App has four modules – one each for preconception, pregnancy, parenting, and one for professionals. The App is interactive, and has push notifications, links to various appropriate sites and many other features.

Our team at Judith Lumley Centre, Della Forster, Jan Nicholson, Helen McLachlan, Michelle Newton, Heather Grimes, Fiona McLardie-Hore, Touran Shafiei (co-ordinator) and Sarah Hay (PhD candidate), were engaged to undertake an evaluation of Growing Together, measuring various outcomes including parents' views and experiences of the care and information, women's experience of motherhood, attachment, infant development, and parental knowledge and confidence as well as the views and experiences of health professionals.



Della Forster, Touran Shafiei, Jan Nicholson, Michelle Newton, Sarah Hay, Fiona McLardie-Hore, Heather Grimes and Helen McLachlan

The evaluation consists of three components:

**Component A:** distribution of 500 Growing Together kits via a cluster randomised controlled trial to 500 first time mothers, with matching data collected from another 500 first time mothers who did not receive the kit.

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## National Conferences

### National Longitudinal Data Conference, Canberra, October 2016

The National Longitudinal Data Conference, jointly convened by the Federal Department of Social Services and the Australian Institute for Family Studies (AIFS), held its biennial conference in October in Canberra. Members of the Transition to Contemporary Parenthood Team (Amanda Cooklin, Jan Nicholson, Catram Nguyen) with partners from Australian National University (Lyndall Strazdins, Liana Leach, Huong Dinh) had a symposium accepted for presentation.

The symposium "Work and Family Health and Wellbeing" was presided by Lyndall Strazdins who outlined the pathways via which the work-family interface influences family life and health outcomes. Presentations from Drs Cooklin, Leach and Dinh then evidenced this model showing a link between work-family conflict and parents' and children's mental health (or depression) from the transition to parenthood and beyond. Dr. Nguyen's paper presented a phenomenon common to all cohort studies – the handling of missing data – and showed the implications of various treatments on study results.

The overall goal of the symposia was to report evidence showing how work conditions shape parents health and child development and, in so doing, highlight potential sites for workplace interventions that can support working parents.

Data collection included postal or online surveys at two months postpartum, telephone interviews six months after birth, postal or online partner surveys at six month and online surveys 12 months after birth.

**Component B:** an evaluation of the views and experiences of key stakeholders. This component explores views and experiences of midwives and medical staff providing maternity care at the Women's.

**Component C:** after completion of Component A, roll out of 1500 Growing Together kits to all women booking for pregnancy care (primiparas and multiparas).

Data collection for two month surveys, six month telephone interviews and partner surveys have been completed. We are currently collecting 12 month data and staff experiences.

### Breastfeeding in public: a 2016 VicHealth award finalist

Lisa Amir

Based on the evidence that breastfeeding is important, yet stigmatised in public settings, we set out to transform community spaces. This innovative interdisciplinary collaboration between academics in health (A/Professor Lisa Amir and Dr. Helene Johns from the Judith Lumley Centre) and planning (Dr. Julie Rudner) in partnership with local government and the Australian Breastfeeding Association aims to make public spaces more inclusive for breastfeeding women. We used an urban design approach with mothers to find ways to overcome barriers so that in the future women can comfortably feed their babies away from home.

The project was a finalist in the 2016 VicHealth awards in the Research into Action category and the research team, including the designer Jenny Donovan, enjoyed the presentation ceremony at Federation Square on 1 December 2016.



Helene Johns, Jenny Donovan, Julie Rudner, Lisa Amir and Susan Tawia  
at Deakin Edge, Federation Square

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## Media

The report on the *Midwives Against Violence* project conducted by JLC scholars Dr Kayli Wild and Professors Angela Taft and Susan McDonald with their Timorese colleagues from Department of Midwifery at the University of Timor Leste, received wide coverage including PM on the ABC and the Timor Post.



## Visiting Fellow, Associate Professor Jay Buzhardt

Naomi Hackworth

In October, TCPP had the pleasure of hosting A/Professor Jay Buzhardt from Juniper Gardens Children's Project, University of Kansas, United States, a visiting fellow funded by the Transforming Human Societies Research Focus Area. Dr Jay Buzhardt's collaborative research program focuses on investigating factors that impact the implementation, usability and effectiveness of technology-supported evidence-based practices, assessment, and training. His work in this area targets parents, teachers, and service providers who struggle to provide or access evidence-based practices for children with disabilities due to limited training, geographic remoteness, or lack of local expertise.

During his four-week visit, Jay gave two seminars at JLC and the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre discussing different aspects of his work supporting early childhood practitioners to conduct 'real time' assessments of child outcomes to inform discussions with parents about their children's developmental outcomes. Jay also ran two one-day workshops with Early Childhood Intervention Australia, to certify early educators, service providers, and early intervention professionals on the Early Communication Indicator (ECI), one of four Infant-Toddler Individual Growth & Development Indicators. Together with Lael Ridgway, Jay visited Whittlesea Council Maternal and Child Health Service and Tweddle Child and Family Health Service, and presented to the National Community Child Health, the Department of Education and Training and the Victorian Maternal and Child Health Coordinators Group. Together with the Early Home Learning Study team, Jay is preparing a paper comparing the early child language development trajectories of Australian and US children. In addition to all these activities, Jay ran the Marysville Marathon – an impressive achievement despite an abundance of JLC cake!

We look forward to continuing to work closely with Jay and his team in the future.



Jay Buzhardt, Naomi Hackworth, Jan Nicholson, Lael Ridgway

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## Lunchtime seminars

We hold lunchtime seminars on the **first Wednesday of every month** from February to December, from 12.30 - 1.30 pm and **extra seminars** at alternative times.

These seminars showcase the work of our colleagues as well as national and international academics and researchers visiting the Centre.

For more information, please refer to our website at [www.latrobe.edu.au/jlc/news-events/seminars-and-clubs](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jlc/news-events/seminars-and-clubs)

If you would like to be added to our mailing list or update your details, please email us at [jlc@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:jlc@latrobe.edu.au).

## Visiting Fellow, Professor Erica Schytt

Rhonda Small

In November, Professor Erica Schytt visited the Judith Lumley Centre and the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Erica was an invited visiting academic representing the 'Healthy Families' cluster of the School.

Professor Schytt is a leading Swedish midwifery researcher who currently leads a program of research with the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and in collaboration with Rhonda Small at the Centre, designed to improve maternity care and outcomes for migrant women in Sweden. She presented this work at a well-attended lunchtime seminar during her visit.

Erica also met with researchers and midwife academics on the Bundoora campus. As a result of these meetings, progress has been made on extending the already successful midwifery student exchange between La Trobe and the Karolinska, to establish a similar program with the Bergen University College in Norway, where Erica has a part-time appointment. A further outcome of these meetings was to jointly progress new work in relation to simulated learning in midwifery.

Other meetings during Erica's two weeks included a gathering of researchers from the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, the Royal Women's Hospital and the Centre who are all involved in developing and evaluating group pregnancy care in Melbourne and in Sweden. This proved to be a very productive sharing of ideas about the group pregnancy models being established, evaluation methods, key outcomes and implementation. Erica also engaged with some of the School's key clinical partners at the Royal Women's Hospital and a range of possibilities for future collaboration were discussed.



Erica Schytt, centre back, with staff and visitors at lunchtime seminar

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**World Health Organization meeting on intimate partner violence, Geneva, October 2016**



Professor Angela Taft and Dr Marcos Signorelli were invited to participate in a small World Health Organization (WHO) workshop in Geneva for a 'Meeting on health interventions research for addressing intimate partner violence in low- and middle-income countries' from November 15th to 17th. The invitation was issued from Dr Claudia Garcia-Moreno and her team at WHO, who led the Multi-Country Study on Violence against Women, the WHO Guidelines for Clinicians responding to Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women and the associated Clinical Handbook.

The meeting, held at the Chateau de Penthes in beautiful 18th century surrounds, was tasked with developing model interventions in health care settings that could potentially be tested in a multi-country study. The stimulating meeting included prominent scholars from Peru and Brazil, and those working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Palestine, Timor Leste, Hong Kong, Mexico, India, Nepal and South Africa. The aim is that the work will be further developed in the coming years.

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- A La Trobe University  
215 Franklin Street  
Melbourne Vic 3000  
T +61 3 9479 8800  
E [jlc@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:jlc@latrobe.edu.au)  
W [www.latrobe.edu.au/jlc](http://www.latrobe.edu.au/jlc)

**Editorial Team:** Lisa Amir, Laura Biggs, Stacey Hokke