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Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Judith Lumley Centre newsletter from our new home in Bundoora. The Centre has continued to have many successes and achievements this year, and we are excited to share these with you.

To celebrate our new location and come together as a Centre, JLC held a special trivia afternoon with staff and students earlier in the year.



Trivia winning team: Call the Midwives

Sara Stelfox, Touran Shefiei, Michelle Newton, Fiona McLardie-Hore, Helen McLachlan and Della Foster

Special Visit by Roberta Holmes

Jan Nicholson

On 29 May 2018, JLC hosted an afternoon tea for Mrs Roberta Holmes whose generous donation to La Trobe founded the ‘Transition to Contemporary Parenthood Program – Preparation and Support’ (TCPP). The visit was an opportunity to show off our new accommodation to a valued member of the broader JLC community.

Afternoon tea was followed by a series of presentations on the achievements of TCPP since its inception 5 years ago. Professor Jan Nicholson provided an overview of TCPP and its growth in terms of both the projects and people it supports. Dr Amanda Cooklin talked about the Families and Work research program, highlighting partnerships with industry and peak bodies and how the research is influencing public discourse. Dr Catherine Chamberlain introduced the Healing the Past Project funded by the NHMRC and Lowitja Institute to support Indigenous parents who have experienced complex trauma, and Professor Della Forster discussed DAISY, a new NHMRC-funded trial evaluating the impact of telephone peer support for preventing postnatal depression and anxiety in new mothers.

Mr Stephen May, Senior Director, Alumni and Advancement, closed the afternoon by thanking Mrs Holmes for her support and noting how her donation has provided a foundation for an ongoing program of research that is improving the health and wellbeing of Australian parents and their children.

NEWS IN BRIEF
Awards
PSANZ awards report

In March, at the 22nd Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand (PSANZ) Annual Congress held in Auckland, **Maggie Flood** was fortunate to have been awarded two prizes for the poster: *Primary postpartum haemorrhage and breastfeeding for confinements 2009-13 in Victoria*. Co-authors are Mary-Ann Davey, Sue McDonald, Wendy Pollock and Fiona Cullinane. The poster presents results from one aspect of Maggie's doctoral research which analysed primary postpartum haemorrhage (excessive bleeding in the 24 hours after childbirth) data from the Victorian Perinatal Data Collection for 2003 – 13.

The first prize was the New Investigator's Award for the Midwifery category (poster) and the second was the PSANZ President's New Investigator's Award for best poster (all categories) presented at the Congress. Maggie was eligible for these awards as an early career researcher. Along with certificates to acknowledge the awards generous prize money totalling \$1250 will contribute to her participation at the PSANZ Congress in 2019 and further her professional development.

Royal Women's International Nurses and Midwives Day Celebration

Congratulations to Robyn Matthews (and team) who won the peer voted award for her poster on *Perceptions of 'Expertise' as part of The EXPert Study: Exploring nurses' and midwives' perceptions of 'expertise' and what it is like to work at The Women's* at the Nurses and Midwives Research Poster Competition at The Royal Women's Hospital International Nurses and Midwives Day celebration in May. Robyn is enrolled in a research Masters at the Judith Lumley Centre.

Fathers Forum
Why Fathers' Care Matters: Enabling Gender Equity in Care and Work

Co-hosted by the Transition to Contemporary Parenthood Program, Judith Lumley Centre

Amanda Cooklin



On the 9th of August, Amanda Cooklin, Jan Nicholson and Stacey Hokke co-convoked, with Dr Liana Leach (from The ANU), a national forum focussed on fathers, parenting, work and care. The event *Why Fathers' Care Matters* was co-sponsored by the *Transition to Contemporary Parenthood Program* (JLC) and *The Gender Institute* at The Australian National University.

Fathers' participation in caring for young children provides life-long opportunities for fathers, their partners and children. However, there continue to be entrenched social and structural barriers to fathers' equal participation in care (e.g. only 2% of Australian fathers access government paid parental leave as a primary carer). The goal of this forum was to share our knowledge of why fathers' care matters and what barriers prevent fathers from successfully combining work with care.

The forum included presentations from leading researchers: Professor Lyndall Strazdins (The ANU), A/Professor Richard Fletcher (University of Newcastle), Dr Jenny Baxter (Australian Institute of Family Studies), and Professor Jan Nicholson (La Trobe University). There was a panel discussion from policy and industry experts – led by Parents at Work CEO Emma Walsh, with representatives from Westpac, the Workplace Gender Equity Agency, Deloitte, and The Department of Social Services. Finally, a panel of fathers rounded out the discussion, generating a consensus range of possible solutions with all forum participants. These will be disseminated broadly, and opportunities for future collaboration and partnerships identified.

Scholarships

Congratulations to Pam McCalman on both beginning her Masters in July and receiving the award of the Ernest Daniel Williams Scholarship. Ernest Daniel (Ernie) Williams was a real estate agent based in Melbourne, who had a long association with the Norman Beischer Medical Research Foundation (NBMRF) and advised the Board in real estate matters over many years. Ernie had a strong sense of care and support for family and the wider community and enormous empathy for those disadvantaged beyond their control, particularly children. He also appreciated the impact education had on creating opportunities for individuals. These factors led Ernie to approach the Foundation with the view of leaving the residue of his estate to the Foundation. His wish was for the Foundation to provide one or more scholarships with the purpose of supporting the education of Aboriginal students and to encourage any academic study that would benefit the long-term health and well-being of the Aboriginal Community.

Research Funding Success – Building on the IVY app

Della Forster

Congratulations to Della Forster, Helen McLachlan, Touran Shafiei, Laura Biggs and Sara Couch on receiving a Building Healthy Communities RFA grant. The internal team, along with Greg Wadley from the University of Melbourne, as well as Terri Smith and Cathy Wyett from PANDA – Perinatal Depression and Anxiety Australia – received \$28,166 to conduct “*A moderated online peer support app to prevent perinatal depression and anxiety in ‘at risk’ expectant and new mothers: a pilot randomised controlled trial*”. The app is called IVY (InVestigating an online communitY of support for emotional health in pregnancy).

In 2017, a team from JLC, PANDA and University of Melbourne co-designed the IVY app (along with potential end-users). IVY is a moderated online peer support app to prevent perinatal depression and anxiety in ‘at risk’ expectant and new mothers. We received some seed funding from the Norman Beischer Medical Research Foundation originally, and successfully completed basic app development and field-testing. We are now up to the next stage – a pilot randomised controlled trial (RCT). We received a small grant from the Building Healthy Communities 2018 grant round to further refine the app, and then undertake the pilot RCT with up to 100 women in late pregnancy. This will enable us to further test the app and to test study uptake, RCT processes, and give an indication of outcomes for sample size calculations. Pregnant women in the intervention group will be given access to the app for 12 weeks, so up to 8–10 weeks postpartum. (It was 12 weeks postpartum in the original application). All women in both groups will be interviewed by telephone at 10–12 weeks postpartum, and women in the intervention group will also be asked about their views and experiences of using the app, exploring how they found the functionality, the content and usefulness of the app. Our aim is to ensure the feasibility, acceptability, functionality and safety of the app in ‘real life’ with pregnant women, and to evaluate identifying and recruiting of participants and peer engagement processes.

More Grant Success

Congratulations to Dr Catherine Chamberlain and Prof Angela Taft for their recent achievements with NHMRC funding.

Cath has been awarded an NHMRC Career Development Fellowship (\$437,036). This four-year Fellowship will support Cath to continue leading the *Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future* project, which aims to co-design perinatal assessment and support strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents who have experienced complex childhood trauma. The Fellowship also includes a program of work around evidence synthesis and reviews to address priority areas for improve health equity during the perinatal period.

Angela is a chief investigator for a new Centre for Research Excellence in Women’s Sexual and Reproductive Health in Primary Care (\$2.5M). The multi-disciplinary and

Staff news

Data collection has now finished for the *Early Home Learning Study* (EHLS) at School study and there have been some staff movements regarding field workers. Wodonga-based Research Assistant, Lisa Pascoe, has finished up. Ellen Koutsodimitropoulos has now moved to London where she is working as a Speech Pathologist with children in schools. She is continuing to assist with data scoring remotely.

Welcome to Research Fellow Dr Naomi Ralph who joined the *Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future* project at the start of the year. The Centre also welcomes two staff members for the HARMONY project: Dr Ann Wilson, Project Coordinator, and Emma Sayers, Research Administration Officer.



Congratulations to Kristina and David Edvardsson, who welcomed baby Marcus on 16 May 2018.

We are sad to say farewell to Ingrid Wilson who was working as the Coordinator for La Trobe Violence Against Women Network. Ingrid and family are off to new adventures and new international roles. Congratulations on this exciting new stage.

patient-focussed CRE, based at Monash University, aims to both improve women's access to critical sexual and reproductive health services and improve pregnancy outcomes. Angela will play a leading role in abortion prevention.

Congratulations to Leesa Hooker and Angela Taft who were awarded funding by Australia's National Research Organisation on Women's Safety (ANROWS) for their project "*RECOVER - Reconnecting mothers and children after violence: The child-parent psychotherapy pilot*" (\$137,514). This 12-month study will examine the acceptability of child-parent psychotherapy as an early intervention to reduce trauma in children and mothers recovering from intimate partner violence.

Funds disbursed from the Luke Batty Foundation to ANROWS, following the Foundation's recent closure, have enabled funding of the RECOVER project. ANROWS will carry on the legacy of the Luke Batty Foundation. You can read more about the disbursement of funds here: lukebattyfoundation.org.au/honour-luke/

Exploring the feasibility of conducting an international, multi-site randomised controlled trial to test if primary midwife-led care improves outcomes for migrant and refugee women: the "MAGNOLIA" study

Helen McLachlan

A research team from the Judith Lumley Centre, with collaborators from the Multicultural Centre for Women's Health (Melbourne), King's College in London and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm¹, have been successful in receiving a La Trobe University 'Building Healthy Communities' grant to assess the feasibility of conducting a randomised controlled trial (RCT) of caseload midwifery for migrant/refugee women.

Caseload midwifery (primary midwife-led care, the 'gold standard'), where women have continuity of care from a 'known' midwife during pregnancy, labour, birth and postpartum, is associated with better clinical and psychosocial outcomes.¹⁻² Our RCT of caseload (COSMOS; n=2,300 low risk women) found women allocated to caseload had fewer caesareans and other interventions, higher satisfaction and breastfeeding initiation, and their infants less likely to be low birthweight or admitted to a neonatal unit.

A Cochrane review (led by investigator Professor Jane Sandall), which includes COSMOS, concluded that given the benefits, *most* women should be offered midwife-led maternity care (Sandall, Soltani et al. 2016) but that this did not apply to high risk women given there were no trials including this group only, and *none* of women with social complexity, including two very vulnerable groups – migrant and refugee women.²

Compared with non-immigrant women, those having a baby in a new country have more negative birth experiences, and many have poorer maternal and infant outcomes (e.g. perinatal mortality, preterm birth).

New Higher Degree students



Jessica Bee

commenced at JLC in March as a Professional Doctorate student with a focus on increasing breastfeeding rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women



Noushin Arefadib

commenced at JLC in May. Her PhD is titled "Assessing the mental health screening practices of Victorian Maternal and Child Health Services" and

explores screening practices in line with the view that 'screening' is not simply the administration of a screening tool, but a continuum which begins with the provision of adequate professional training and support, screening, appropriate referrals and support for mothers, and follow-up.



Stefanie Zugna

is a registered midwife who completed her Master of Midwifery with JLC in 2013. Her PhD is part of an evaluation of a state-wide maternity education program called Maternity and Newborn Emergencies (MANE).



Pamela McCalman

commenced her Master's degree as of July, after 18 months at JLC as a research officer working on the NHMRC funded partnership project, "Woman's Journey". Pam

has a background in midwifery and will focus her Master's degree on the views and experiences of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women who have received continuity of midwife care in Victoria.

The "MAGNOLIA" trial (Midwifery-led cAre for immiGraNt and refugee mOthers Living In A new country: A randomised controlled trial) feasibility study will commence in October 2018 and will be conducted in three countries (Australia, Sweden and the United Kingdom), where almost one third of women giving birth are born outside the respective country. The study will assess the feasibility of conducting an international, multi-site adequately powered RCT of caseload midwifery for migrant/refugee women, and to test the effect on maternal and infant health outcomes.

Prof Helen McLachlan (JLC), Dr Touran Shafiei (JLC), Prof Della Forster (JLC and the Royal Women's Hospital), Dr Michelle Newton (JLC), Prof Jane Sandall (King's College London), Dr Mia Ahlberg (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm), Ms Regina Quiazon, (Multicultural Centre for Women's Health, Melbourne)

References

- ¹ McLachlan HL, Forster DA, Davey MA, Farrell T, Gold L, Biro MA, Albers L, Flood M, Oats J, Waldenström U. Effects of continuity of care by a primary midwife (caseload midwifery) on caesarean section rates in women of low obstetric risk: the COSMOS randomised controlled trial. *BJOG*. 2012 Nov;119(12):1483-92. doi: 10.1111/j.1471-0528.2012.03446.x. Epub 2012 Jul 25. PubMed PMID: 22830446
- ² Sandall J, Soltani H, Gates S, Shennan A, Devane D. Midwife-led continuity models versus other models of care for childbearing women. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2015 Sep 15;(9):CD004667. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD004667.pub4. Review. Update in: *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 016;4:CD004667. PubMed PMID: 26370160



Successful grant from Building Health Communities (BHC) Research Focus Area

Lisa Amir

"Making breastfeeding visible: evaluating strategies to increase women's comfort with breastfeeding in public" is the title of this project which aims to address a significant barrier facing new mothers at present: breastfeeding in public.¹ The current lack of community acceptance of breastfeeding in public places means that many mothers are avoiding breastfeeding in public by staying at home, expressing milk to feed in a bottle, feeding in isolation (and even in public toilets), or quitting breastfeeding early to avoid possible confrontation.²⁻³ Even at the Royal Women's Hospital, an accredited Baby Friendly Hospital, it is rare to actually see women breastfeeding.

Our BHC-funded 2016 project worked with key stakeholders in local government

Conference presentations

Australian Society of Psychosocial Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Sydney

Laura Whitburn: *Labour pain – an updated review of the literature.* Based on collaborative work with Lester Jones, Mary-Ann Davey and Sue McDonald.

World Health Organization Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery Conference, Cairns

Kayli Wild: *Supporting midwives and nurses to respond to violence against women: insights from curriculum development in Timor-Leste.* On behalf of Kayli Wild, Lidia Gomes, Angelina Fernandes, Luísa Marcal, Guilhermina de Araujo, Angela Taft.

Hot Topics in Breastfeeding 2018, Madrid and Barcelona, Spain

Lisa Amir: *What have we learnt from the CASTLE study?*

Nipple and breast pain and infection in breastfeeding women.

Diabetes and antenatal milk expressing (DAME): a randomised controlled trial.

Lactation and medications: a multidisciplinary approach to making hard decisions.

Breastfeeding in public.

Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine Australia/New Zealand Regional Conference, Surfers Paradise

Lisa Amir: *Nipple and breast pain.*

Gender, Work & Organisation Conference, Sydney

Stacey Hokke: *'The relationship between flexible work-family strategies and parents' mental health and occupational wellbeing in Australia'.*

Mandi Cooklin: *'Discrimination on the basis of parent status in Australia: who is vulnerable and how does it link to mothers' and fathers' mental health?'; and 'Change and stability in work-family conflict and mothers' and fathers' mental health'*

(Melbourne and Bendigo) and the Australian Breastfeeding Association to identify how mothers experience breastfeeding outside the home. Input from over 50 individuals informed our report by an urban designer for innovative designs for breastfeeding friendly public spaces.

The aims of this project are to:

- design breastfeeding friendly places in public areas of the Royal Women's Hospital based on input from women from diverse groups,
- display life-size cut-outs of breastfeeding women and evaluate the attitudes of community members and hospital staff, and
- adapt the "Seeing Breastfeeding Scale" for Australian use.

A/Prof Lisa Amir will lead the project, in collaboration with Dr Julie Rudner, a lecturer in Community Planning and Development, La Trobe University, based in Bendigo. Dr Helene Johns is an ECR at the Judith Lumley Centre and Clinical Midwife Consultant at the Royal Women's Hospital. Dr Susan Tawia is the Manager for Breastfeeding Information and Research for the Australian Breastfeeding Association, and was an investigator on the 2016 project. New members of the team are Prof Pat Hoddinott, Chair in Primary Care, who developed the "Seeing Breastfeeding Scale" and Dr Sinead Currie, Lecturer, who is a health behaviour change psychologist, and both are located at the University of Stirling, Scotland.

1. Amir LH. *Breastfeeding in public: "You can do it?". Int Breastfeed J 2014;9:187.*
2. McIntyre E, Hiller JE, Turnbull D. *Determinants of infant feeding practices in a low socio-economic area: identifying environmental barriers to breastfeeding. Aust N Z J Public Health 1999;23(2):207-09.*
3. Scott JA, Kwok YY, Synnott K, et al. *A comparison of maternal attitudes to breastfeeding in public and the association with breastfeeding duration in four European countries: Results of a cohort study. Birth 2015;42(1):78-85.*

International Breastfeeding Journal

Lisa Amir

Lisa Amir established the *International Breastfeeding Journal* as a new online journal, published by BioMed Central, and it was launched in 2006. It has taken a while to be eligible for an Impact Factor – but it was worth the wait.

In June, the 2018 Journal Citation Reports were released (based on articles published in 2016 and 2017) and *International Breastfeeding Journal* (IBJ) received its first impact factor: 2.300! IBJ is also now included in the Web of Science journal rankings, at 33/82 in Obstetrics and Gynecology and 41/124 in Pediatrics, putting it in the second quartile in both categories.

The Impact Factor is only one measure of a journal's success, but we feel proud to have achieved this result. In 2017, we published 51 papers, with authors from 28 countries. We thank our Editorial Board, and all the reviewers who play an essential role in ensuring academic rigour is maintained.

Tenders

Angela Taft, Leesa Hooker, Jan Nicholson, Lael Ridgway. *Maternal & Child Health Workforce Professional Development Plan-Family Violence.* Department of Education and Training. April – October 2018: \$213,406.

A large, short timeframe project by the State Government to develop the framework for family and domestic violence training for MCHN services. It involves a statewide survey for MCH nurses, analyses of existing routine data and a large amount of qualitative interviews.

PhD Celebrations

JLC has had many PhD celebrations over the past few months. We would like to congratulate the below students on their achievements.

Margaret Flood

Title: *Examining postpartum haemorrhage: Risk factors, data quality and reporting*

Maggie Flood completed a PhD with publications early in 2018. Her research investigated childbirth haemorrhage and the reliability of data for births in Victoria. Maggie found that the incidence and severity of haemorrhage have increased significantly and that Victorian birth data analysed were reliable. The findings identified predisposing conditions for postpartum haemorrhage. This information will enable caregivers to better prepare for and manage haemorrhage.

Supervisors: Dr Mary-Ann Davey, Prof Sue McDonald and Dr Wendy Pollock.

Laura Whitburn

Title: *The nature of labour pain*

Laura's PhD aimed to better understand the complex experience of labour pain. She discovered that labour pain is different to other pains, and is shaped by cognitive, social and environmental factors. The findings have philosophical implications on understanding pain, and practical applications in enhancing support of women during labour.

Supervisors: Prof Rhonda Small, Prof Sue McDonald, Dr Mary-Ann Davey and Lester Jones.

Moni Rani Saha

Title: *Women's medicine use postpartum and breastfeeding practices*

The main objective of Moni's PhD dissertation was to contribute evidence about the impact of postpartum women's medicine use on breastfeeding practices using a large population-based dataset. Findings suggest that women's medicine use might be negatively associated with breastfeeding practices depending on the type of medicine, and /or type of illnesses, but the association is not as simple as cause and effect and any firm conclusions are not possible.

Supervisor: A/Prof Lisa Amir

Laura Biggs

Title: *'I need help' An exploration of the PANDA - Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia National Helpline*

Laura's PhD was an evaluation of the PANDA - Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia Helpline. The overall aim was to understand who calls the Helpline, their motivations for seeking help, the experiences of callers receiving support, and the experiences of volunteers providing peer support. The findings demonstrate that the Helpline provides a well utilised, specialised service which addresses barriers to support such as geographical isolation, stigma, and difficulty accessing face-to-face services. The PANDA telephone support model has been sustained over time and provides highly valued support to a complex population.

Supervisors: Prof Helen McLachlan, Prof Della Forster, Dr Touran Shafiei, and Prof Pranee Liamputtong

In the media

The following are an example of some of the media appearances by staff at the centre.

Amir L. *Opinion: Let's protect, promote and support breastfeeding.* Bendigo Advertiser (and other Fairfax regional papers), 7 August 2018.

<https://www.bendigoadvertiser.com.au/story/5563061/lets-protect-promote-and-support-breastfeeding/?cs=82>

Wilson A, Tokhi M, Amir L. *Big Formula follows Big Tobacco playbook.* MJA Insight, 23 July 2018.

<https://www.doctorportal.com.au/mjainsight/2018/28/big-formula-follows-big-tobacco-playbook/>

Edvardsson K. *Gender ratios and prenatal sex selection in Victoria.* The Age, 12 August 2018

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/the-missing-girls-never-born-in-victoria-20180811-p4zwx.html>

Andisheh Vahedi

Title: *The work-family interface and child mental health: longitudinal associations via family-functioning across childhood*

Andisheh Vahedi is a research assistant at JLC and works with the EHLS at School team. Andisheh has recently submitted her PhD thesis through School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne. Andisheh's PhD focused on parents' work-family experiences and longitudinal influences on children's and adolescents' mental health problems through parent-parent and parent-child interactions.

Supervisors: Dr Elizabeth Westrupp and Dr Isabel Krug

Notes from Singapore

Lester Jones



I am writing this one month after my relocation to Singapore. And so far, so good. Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) is a new University that has a mission "To develop individuals who build on their interests and talents to impact society by providing a nurturing environment that is uniquely enriched by world-class partners." My experience so far is this mission clearly informs their processes and activities and if the catering of staff events is anything to go by then they have got the 'nurturing' bit right. Importantly there is support as I continue towards my PhD with ICT setting me up with software, and a seamless transition from SIT Outlook to La Trobe Outlook on the one screen. So I can keep up with all the great achievements and successes at JLC! I have also had a successful Zoom meeting with my supervisors – despite some initial confusion by me about times. I learnt the need to trust the cleverness of electronic calendars to show local time wherever you are.

Across the board, SIT see it as a priority to engage and involve industry at all levels of the student journey and also have established some key learning partnerships with other Universities. For example, in the Health and Social Sciences 'cluster' – nursing is co-taught with University of Glasgow, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, diagnostic radiology and radiation therapies with Trinity College Dublin, and criminology with University of Liverpool. I anticipate there will be opportunities to continue relationships and set up new initiatives with JLC partners too. Stay tuned – but also get in touch if you have an idea.

Lunchtime seminars

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

These seminars showcase the work of our colleagues as well as national and international academics and researchers visiting the Centre. Please refer to our website at www.latrobe.edu.au/jlc/news-events/seminars-and-clubs

Son-biased sex ratios in migrant populations in Victoria: Publication in *International Journal of Epidemiology*

Kristina Edvardsson

Australia is a multicultural country and about a third of babies are born to mothers who were born overseas.

A number of recent studies from other Western high-income countries, including Canada, Greece, Italy, Norway, the UK and the USA, have shown that a higher than normal proportion of boys has been born in some key migrant communities, indicating that prenatal sex selection may be taking place following migration. A common pattern in these studies has been an increasing male-to-female ratio at birth particularly with increasing parity or birth order. This pattern is also seen in countries where sex selective practices have been documented and where male-to-female ratios are skewed.

A report by SBS radio based on ABS data published in 2013 indicated higher than normal proportions of boys being born in some migrant communities in 2003-2013 after resettling in Australia. However, the study was not peer-reviewed and the report did not account for parity or birth order of the child.

The aim of the study published in *International Journal of Epidemiology* study was to assess male-to-female ratios at birth per mother's country of birth for all births in Victoria in 1999-2015, and also to compare the male-to-female ratio among births to mothers born in other countries to that of mothers born in Australia.

The findings showed that compared to the naturally occurring male-to-female ratio and to the male-to-female ratio of births to Australian-born mothers (105 male births per 100 female births), there was a higher than expected proportion of male births among mothers born in India, China and the South-East Asia region. The highest proportions of males were found among later births (parity 2+) in the range of 122-125 male births per 100 female births in the time period 2011-2015, and among multiple births of Indian-born mothers (120 male per 100 female births).

The research group, including researchers from Monash University, the University of Canterbury, New Zealand and Lund University, Sweden is now planning for a large national study and qualitative studies investigating factors influencing prenatal sex selection following migration to Australia.

Edvardsson K, Axmon A, Powell R, Davey MA. Male-biased sex ratios in Australian migrant populations: a population-based study of 1 191 250 births 1999-2015. Int J Epidemiol. 2018 Jul 23. doi: 10.1093/ije/dyy148. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30052991.

Judith Lumley Centre

for mother, infant and family health research

Run Melbourne

Stacey Hokke

On Sunday June 29th, JLC staff and students took part in Run Melbourne to have fun, get fit and raise funds. Twelve staff and students and 10 friends and family came together on a sunny winter's day in Melbourne, running and/or walking 5km to 10km around the city. Over \$5,000 was raised for the Midwifery and Maternity Services Research Unit at the Women's – a fantastic effort! Thank you to Della Forster for organising such a wonderful day, and a big thank you to everyone who encouraged and supported the team.



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