



International Centre for Future Health Systems News



UNSW
International Centre for Future Health Systems

International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS) News April 2025

Message from the ICFHS Director



Welcome to the second newsletter of the International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS), based at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). I thank you for the support and interest you have been providing to our new interdisciplinary health systems research, policy and advocacy centre.

In this newsletter we are providing you with updates on our policy work, our projects, our publications, and our advocacy, as well as the individual achievements of ICFHS members. We particularly welcome those who have joined our centre since the start of the year, including our new researchers, our new associate members from across UNSW, and our new adjunct (honorary) members from across Australia and around the world.

Among the highlights in this newsletter, we are pleased to provide details of our success in leading the establishment of Australia's new National Multidisciplinary Primary Care Research, Policy and Advocacy Consortium, with funding from the Medical Research Future Fund, bringing together 100 primary care clinician researchers from across the country to develop and evaluate new models of multidisciplinary team based care to better meet the future health needs of all people in Australia.

I am also pleased to welcome Professor Patricia M. Davidson as my co-director of the ICFHS. Patricia has a long and distinguished career as a global leader in nursing and health systems research, as well as very senior academic experience, including serving most recently as Vice Chancellor of the University of Wollongong. Patricia will serve as co-director for six months from 1 June, while I settle into my new role as Australia's next Chief Medical Officer, and arrangements are made for the appointment of a permanent centre co-director.

I look forward to continuing working with you as we lead research, policy and advocacy work on health systems reform at local, national and global levels. Please reach out if you would like to discuss opportunities to engage with our work.

Best wishes

Professor Michael Kidd AO FAFHMS

Director

International Centre for Future Health Systems

Our Research Highlights

Michael Kidd AO has been appointed as Australia's next Chief Medical Officer from 1 June 2025



Professor Kidd is the Director of the International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS) and served as Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Principal Medical Advisor with the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care during the COVID-19 pandemic. His new appointment will be part-time at 0.8 FTE, allowing him to continue his work with the ICFHS at UNSW, and with his research team at the University of Oxford. [Read more](#).

Professor Patricia M. Davidson appointed Co-Director, ICFHS

We are thrilled to announce that Professor Patricia M. Davidson has been appointed as the interim Co-Director of the International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS) at UNSW Sydney. Prof. Davidson will be in this role from June 1, 2025, for six months, working in a 0.6 FTE capacity. Professor Michael Kidd AO, who has been instrumental in establishing the ICFHS, will also continue at 0.2 FTE as Co-Director with Prof. Davidson, along with his appointment as Australia's Chief Medical Officer.

Prof. Davidson brings an exceptional career in healthcare, health systems, research, education, and policy, to this position. She has served as Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Wollongong (2021–2024) and is currently a Vice Chancellor's Fellow at UNSW Sydney. Her previous roles include Dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in Baltimore and Professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. With a long-standing commitment to health services research, Prof. Davidson is renowned for her innovative, data-driven approaches to improving healthcare delivery globally.

Prof. Davidson also holds prominent current leadership roles, including Chair of the NSW International Education Advisory Board and membership on the Research Australia board. Her work has consistently focused on advancing person-centred care and addressing inequities in health outcomes for vulnerable populations worldwide.

Prof. Davidson's appointment marks an exciting new chapter for the ICFHS as it continues to drive excellence in research, policy reform, and advocacy in partnership with clinicians, consumers, researchers, educators, industry leaders, and policy makers in Australia and around the world. We are confident that her leadership will further position the ICFHS as a global leader in health systems innovation.

Please join us in welcoming Prof Davidson to this new role.

ICFHS leads the establishment of Australia's National Multidisciplinary Primary Care Research, Policy and Advocacy Consortium



The Australian Government has committed over \$22 million for primary care research, including \$5.2m to ICFHS researchers to establish national Multidisciplinary Primary Care Research, Policy and Advocacy Consortium. ICFHS researchers, led by Director, Professor Michael Kidd AO, and Associate Professor Margo Barr, together with 100 primary care research colleagues based in over 20 primary care research groups around Australia, and the Consumers

Health Forum of Australia, have been funded to look at new and better ways to deliver primary care and improve outcomes for patients. [Read more](#).

The Lancet Commission on Transforming Primary Health Care in the Post-COVID-19 Era



The Lancet has launched this new global commission to explore the challenges faced by primary health care systems throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing post-pandemic reforms needed to support the transformation of primary health care to better meet future community needs in countries all around the world. ICFHS Director, Professor Michael Kidd AO, is one of the co-chairs of the Commission, with Commissioners including ICFHS adjunct members

Associate Professor Luke Allen, Professor Trisha Greenhalgh OBE, Professor Katherine Rouleau and Professor Karen Tu. [Read more](#).

Our People

ICFHS researcher Dr Jialing Lin has been promoted to Senior Research Associate



Dr Jialing Lin's new role as a Senior Research Associate was commenced on 1st January 2025. Please see Dr Jialing Lin's [researcher profile here](#).

ICFHS PhD student Prince Peprah has received his completion letter of his PhD



Prince Peprah has completed his academic requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The title of his thesis was 'Towards health equity: A qualitative inquiry into understanding and addressing health literacy needs of African refugees within Australian primary health care settings'. [Read more](#).

Dr Rafal Chomik has been appointed as a Senior Research Fellow at ICFHS



Click [this link](#) to see Dr Rafal Chomik's staff profile.

Dr Peter Brown has been appointed as a Postdoc Fellow at ICFHS



Click [this link](#) to see Dr Peter Brown's researcher profile.

Dr Chris Dietz has been appointed as a Senior Research Associate at ICFHS



Click [this link](#) to see Dr Chris Dietz's researcher profile.

Dr Braulio Valencia Arroyo has been appointed as a Senior Research Associate at ICFHS



Click [this link](#) to see Dr Braulio Valencia Arroyo's researcher profile.

ICFHS welcomes the following adjunct members and associate members of our Centre appointed since the start of 2025:

Adjunct members: [Professor Aziz Sheikh](#), [Dr Catherine Spooner](#), [Dr Davide Bilardi](#), [Associate Professor David Silvera](#), [Dr Isabel Hanson](#), [Dr Lucinda Hiam](#), Associate Professor Mark Orr, [Professor William Wong](#)

Associate members: [Dr Amanuel Kidane Hagos](#), [Dr Ashwani Kumar](#), [Bobby Porykali](#), [Professor Carla Treloar](#), [Professor Christy Newman](#), [Dr Claire Deakin](#), [Dr David Carter](#), [Dan Dumbrell](#), [Ellen Hooper](#), [Dr Gary Nicholls](#), [Glen Ramos](#), Associate [Professor Holly Seale](#), [Dr Joanne Carson](#), [Jude Page](#), [Dr Mohammed Owais Qureshi](#), [Nishant Valecha](#), [Patricia McGrath](#), [Professor Raghu Lingam](#), [Dr Sameera Ansari](#), [Professor Xiaoqi Feng](#), [Dr Yuchen Xie](#)

News & Media

ICFHS researchers present at the 13th Health Services Research Conference



ICFHS researchers, Associate Professor Margo Barr, Jane Taggart, Dr Jialing Lin and Dr Cathy O'Callaghan, all presented our integrated care research in primary and community health at [Health Services Research Association of Australia and New Zealand \(HSRAANZ\) 13th Health Services Research Conference](#) in December 2024. The conference theme was Service Research in the Digital Age and the challenges/solutions that health services research can

offer using digital technologies building a sustainable, future-ready, and patient-focused health care system.

ICFHS Senior Research Fellow, Dr Patrick Harris advocacy win: Heat Smart City Plan launches for Sydney



Sydney's first [Heat Smart City Plan](#), developed by the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils and Resilient Sydney provides a five-year strategy to protect against extreme heat – Australia's deadliest natural hazard. ICFHS researcher, Dr Patrick Harris, serves as an academic advisor to the taskforce that shaped this plan, working alongside leaders in health, environment, planning, business, government and the community

sector to drive its actions. [Read more](#).

Strong public health responses to a pandemic are dependent on strong primary health care systems: findings on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on primary care in countries around the world.



ICFHS researchers joined with colleagues from around the world in reviewing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on primary health care services. These findings are published in the journal article, 'Ten pressure points in primary care during COVID-19: findings from an international narrative review'. The findings emphasise the need for improved pandemic planning and the active involvement of primary care practitioners in supporting governments and public

health authorities in preparing for future pandemic preparedness and responses. [Read more.](#)

The role of case reports in contemporary medical research



ICFHS Director, Professor Michael Kidd AO, discusses the evolving role of case reports in contemporary medical publishing and health and medical research with the editor of 'Springer Nature Research Communities' Dr. Mikhail Sinelnikov. You can read the interview via this [link](#).

ICFHS researchers publish on global primary care in 'The Lancet Global Health'



The article on 'Global primary care: what it is, what it isn't, and why it matters to us all' has been published in *The Lancet Global Health* by ICFHS Adjunct Associate Professor Luke Allen and ICFHS Director Professor Michael Kidd. They explain in this article that global primary care is focused on improving equitable access to high-quality care, especially in underserved populations. The paper also addresses challenges for

global primary care including the impacts of climate change and migration. [Read more.](#)

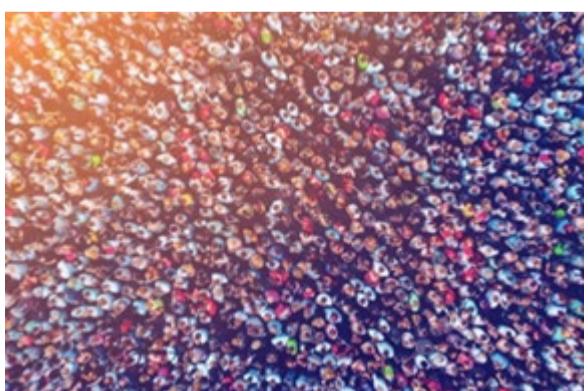
The role of general practice in disaster health management



In this editorial, ICFHS Director, Professor Michael Kidd AO, and colleagues explore the crucial role of general practitioners (GPs) in disaster health management in Australia. They highlight frontline contributions made during crises like bushfires, floods, and pandemics, the challenges faced, and the need for better integration of general practice services and staff into disaster response systems to ensure effective continuity of

community-based healthcare during emergencies. [Read more.](#)

Global health inequity and primary care



In this editorial, published in the *British Journal of General Practice*, ICFHS researchers from UNSW and Oxford University, Associate Professor Luke Allen, Dr Shona Bates and Professor Michael Kidd, along with colleagues from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, provide recommendations to address healthcare inequities which continue to persist despite recurrent global commitments to 'health for all'. [Read more.](#)

Does Healthcare Deliver? Results from the Patient Reported Indicator Surveys (PaRIS)



The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental organization with 38 member countries, including Australia, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade. The Patient-Reported Indicator Surveys (PaRIS) is an initiative of The OECD where countries are working together on developing, standardising and implementing a new generation of indicators that measure the outcomes and experiences of healthcare that matter most to people. ICFHS Director, Professor Michael Kidd AO, served as a member of the International Advisory Panel supporting this OECD initiative. [The report](#) was launched on 20 February 2025.

UNSW Health Translation Hub to Drive Global Health Systems Reform



Located within the Randwick Health & Innovation Precinct, the UNSW Health Translation Hub (UNSW HTH) will house experts from multiple disciplines, working to reform healthcare systems at local, national, and global levels. This work at UNSW is supported by the International Centre for Future Health Systems (ICFHS) along with groups like the School of Population Health, the Centre for Big Data Health Research and the Law and Health Justice Partnership. [Read more](#).

ICFHS Director speaks at the Universities Australia Solutions Summit in Canberra



ICFHS Director Professor Michael Kidd AO participated in a panel discussion at the Universities Australia Solutions Summit aimed at identifying national and global health workforce challenges and possible solutions. The panel highlighted the important role universities play, and the obligations of our universities to the communities they serve, in the sustainability of our healthcare system. [Read more](#).

ICFHS researchers publish on survival benefits of smoking cessation after a cancer diagnosis



This work, led by ICFHS Associate Professor Freddy Sitas, was done in collaboration with Seoul National University, South Korea, Tohoku University, Japan, and Liverpool Hospital, South West Sydney Local Health District. Estimates show that for a cancer with a high survival rate, patients can gain up to two years of median survival if they quit smoking. These gains are similar to other standard cancer treatments. [Read more](#) & [link to the article](#).

On 24th March 2025, Associate Professor Freddy Sitas was interviewed by Ron Wilson on 2SM Radio Breakfast program regarding his research on quitting smoking and reducing cancer risks. Please find the link of this program [here](#).

ICFHS team publishes new study on patient enrolment in primary care



lower incomes, and individuals with certain health conditions. [Read more.](#)

This work, led by ICFHS researcher Dr Jialing Lin, in collaboration with colleagues including Professor Michael Kidd AO, Dr Shona Bates, Associate Professor Luke Allen, Associate Professor Michael Wright, Professor Limin Mao, Dr Rafal Chomik, and Dr Chris Dietz, was published in *BMC Primary Care*. The study found that some groups of people are less likely to enrol in patient enrolment programs in primary care, including men, immigrants, people living in big cities, those with

ICFHS researcher, Dr Jialing Lin, writes in *The Conversation* about uptake of MyMedicare



Dr Jialing Lin has written for *The Conversation* about what Australia can learn from other countries to boost the uptake of MyMedicare, Australia's new voluntary patient registration model which aims to formalise the relationship between patients, their general practice, general practitioner and primary care teams. While we don't yet know who is enrolling, international experience suggests that to increase enrolment rates and see the benefits of improved access and continuity of care,

MyMedicare will need targeted strategies, including specific initiatives to support enrolment by people who are immigrants, people who are members of lower-income groups, and people with mental health issues. [Read more.](#)

Our publications

- [Evaluating primary care expenditure in Australia: the Primary Care Spend \(PC Spend\) model](#)
By **Michael Wright, Shona Bates, Andrew Bazemore, Michael Kidd**
- [Global primary care: what it is, what it isn't, and why it matters to us all](#)
By **Luke Allen, Michael Kidd**
- [Ten pressure points in primary care during COVID-19: findings from an international narrative review](#)
By Sally Dykgraaf, Anne Parkinson, **Michael Wright**, William Wong, Jane Desborough, Lauren Ball, Elizabeth Sturgiss, **Garang Dut**, Katelyn Barnes, Danielle Butler, Steph Davis, Kirsty Douglas, Candan Kendir, Danielle Martin, **Robert Marten, Katherine Rouleau**, Shannon Barkley, **Lucas de Toca, Michael Kidd**
- [Infrastructure, Cities, and Global Health Diplomacy](#)
By Evelyne de Leeuw, **Patrick Harris**
- [Guest Editorial: Role of general practice in disaster health management](#)
By Penelope Burns, Michelle Hamrosi, **Michael Kidd**
- [Cities, Infrastructure and Health](#)
By **Patrick Harris, Nicky Morrison**
- [Clinical errors and mistakes: civil or criminal liability?](#)
By **Albert Lee, Monique Anawis, Roy Beran, Tracy Cheung, Calvin Ho, Hwan Kim**
- [The Lancet Commission on Transforming Primary Health Care in the Post-COVID-19 Era](#)
By William Chi-Wai, Vivian Lin, Xiaoxuan Fang, **Michal Kidd**
- [Global health inequity and primary care](#)

By **Luke Allen**, Luisa M Pettigrew, Josephine Exley, Harry Collin, **Shona Bates**, **Michael Kidd**

- [Improving primary care through multidisciplinary teamwork: possibilities and challenges](#)

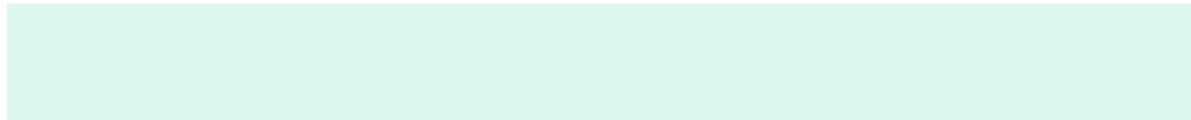
By **Michael Kidd**, **Shona Bates**, David Greenfield

- [Uptake of patient enrolment in primary care and associated factors: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#)

By **Jialing Lin**, **Shona Bates**, **Luke Allen**, **Michael Wright**, **Limin Mao**, **Rafal Chomik**, **Chris Dietz**, **Michael Kidd**

- [It is never too late to stop smoking. Applying working estimates of smoking cessation on five-year overall survival gains after a cancer diagnosis](#)

By **Nouhad El-Haddad**, **Yang Li**, Geoff Delaney, Heewon Kang, Shalini Vinod, **Margo Barr**,
Takahiro Tabuchi, **Michael Kidd**, **Freddy Sitas**



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