

Australian Institute of Health Innovation

AIHI Newsletter December 2018



Christmas Greetings

While our article below warns that winter is coming – it's only true for half the world. Those of us in Australia are looking forward to a Christmas break of sunshine, writing, thinking, and more sunshine.

On behalf of my fellow Directors, Professors Johanna Westbrook and Enrico Coiera, and all at AIHI, I take this opportunity to wish you a happy, safe and restful Christmas. You can always follow our activities on twitter [@AIHI_MQ](https://twitter.com/AIHI_MQ) or visit our [website](#) for information about our research.

Best wishes

Jeffrey Braithwaite

Year in Review

Here at the Australian Institute of Health Innovation, we have had a busy and productive year. Most recently Professor Johanna Westbrook and Dr Neroli Sunderland from the Centre for Health Systems and Safety Research, provided leadership in the debate around [unprofessional behaviour in healthcare](#). Our team called for evidence-based interventions to improve corporate culture.

Just last week, Dr Robyn Clay-Williams and Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite joined with Professor Erik Hollnagel – a great friend of AIHI and international expert on Safety-II – to present a masterclass on changing the way we think about improving patient safety and delivering care to patients in the increasingly complex world of healthcare. This underpins the messaging we have taken to policy-makers and industry this year, advocating for a different response to the intractable issues in our Australian healthcare system that delivers care in line with guidelines 60% of the time, has consistent 30% waste of resources and 10% harm to patients.

Professor Enrico Coiera, Founding Director of the Centre for Health Informatics, has called for greater investment in [artificial intelligence in healthcare](#) and the informatics team has provided informed commentary around the safety of social media and health apps for public healthcare advice.

Many of us have been deeply involved in addressing issues within the aged care industry. We welcomed the announcement of a [Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety](#) and have commented in the media and in industry and academic circles on ways to improve not only the health but also the well-being of people in residential and community care. We have a lot to contribute in this field including [evidence-informed support](#) for providers.

Through the [NHMRC CareTrack Aged: appropriate care delivered to Australians living in residential aged care](#) project we will provide valuable benchmarking data for improvement across the system, measuring care that is in line with guidelines and the quality of life experienced by older Australians in residential facilities.

The Macquarie University MD Program commenced this year and we are pleased to announce that Professor Frances Rapport from the Centre for Healthcare Resilience and Implementation Science has been appointed Academic Lead, MD Research. Professor Rapport will continue her busy research program with AIHI and lead the research component of the University's MD program. We look forward to welcoming MD students here.

The future is bright with 37 higher degree research students enrolled with AIHI this year and we are pleased to be anticipating 14 PhD and Masters completions in 2019.

NHMRC Centre Activities

The [NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability](#) has hosted a number of successful events drawing together participants to tackle interventions to improve the sustainability of Australia's health system. With multiple publications from investigators in its first year of operation, the Partnership Centre has already made a significant contribution to the body of knowledge around health system sustainability. A national forum is planned during the week of 6

May 2019 to share research outcomes to date and co-design implementation trials with system partners.

The [NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Implementation Science in Oncology](#) is up and running with a full complement of staff, first ethics approvals recently granted, its first article accepted for publication in Cancer Medicine and two research students commenced. The team is looking forward to a busy and productive 2019.

The [NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Digital Health](#) had a fruitful year with three work placements secured under the Australasian College of Health Informatics (ACHI) Fellowship by Training Program. CSIRO and the Australian Digital Health Agency provided these career development opportunities.



Winter is coming

Even if you are not a fan of the HBO mega hit TV series, Game of Thrones, you have probably heard of it. Dr Reidar Lystad usually spends his time investigating the causes and outcomes of injury for the Centre for Healthcare Resilience and Implementation Science, publishing this year on [traumatic brain injury](#) and children's sports injuries.

In Dr Lystad's spare time however he has produced the first comprehensive epidemiological study examining mortality and survival of characters in the Game of Thrones television series published this week in the entertaining Christmas edition of the [Journal of Injury Epidemiology](#) and covered worldwide by news outlets.



Artificial Intelligence for healthcare

Professor Enrico Coiera spoke at the launch last week of the Government's \$240m Frontier Health and Medical Research Program by The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Minister for Health. Professor Coiera announced the formation of the Australian Alliance for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare with more than 50 potential partners having expressed interest so far including research institutions, technology industry partners, peak bodies, government agencies, clinicians and consumer groups.

Professor Coiera stated "Investing in frontier technology for artificial intelligence in healthcare is essential to building a sustainable health system for all Australians and putting us at the forefront of the global innovation economy."

Disability deaths linked to documentation

In Australian-first research, a team from the Centre for Health Systems and Safety Research and the University of Technology Sydney found that [failures in documentation](#) of care and safety needs were linked to the risk of death and death for almost 47% of people with disability living in residential care. The team has called for better education of the healthcare workforce into the needs of people with disability.

Dates for the diary

8 February 2019 – "[Designing your systematic review for maximum impact](#)" Workshop hosted by the NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability and the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Digital Health.

21 February 2019 – [Dr Diane Watson](#), Bureau of Health Information for the AIHI Seminar Series

Other links

[Latest AIHI publications](#)

Latest information on our [research projects and centres](#)



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The **Australian Institute of Health Innovation (AIHI)** at Macquarie University conducts world-class research with national and international research communities, governments, policymakers, providers of health services, managers, clinicians, patients and the community. Our work underpins health reforms and systems improvement, providing new tools, perspectives and evidence to help stakeholders who are interested in making the health system more effective, efficient and productive. Our overarching aim is to produce new, high quality research evidence to support change, prevention and improvement.

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