

PRC for Physical Activity and Nutrition (PRC-PAN) 2017 Annual Report

Named Research Investigators:

Professor Ron Plotnikoff	Associate Professor Mitch Duncan
Professor Clare Collins	Associate Professor Erica James (0.4FTE)
Professor Philip Morgan	Associate Professor Tracy Burrows
Professor Robin Callister	Dr Melinda Hutchesson
Professor Manohar Garg	
Professor David Lubans	

Key Highlights from 2017

Research Income/Grants

39 externally-funded grants awarded/commenced with 9 x Category 1 grants (including 8 NHMRC), 7 x Category 2 grants, and 23 x Category 3 grants (over \$8.9 million in total).

Notable grants for 2017 included:

- \$1.7M Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation grant awarded to Dr Megan Rollo (and Associate Professor Burrows & Professor Clare Collins) to develop and test a new dietary intake assessment system using images and sensors
- \$1M NHMRC Partnership Grant awarded to Professor Ronald Plotnikoff for the *eCoFit* research project with Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Councils.
- \$983K NIB Foundation Partnership grant awarded to Professor Clare Collins for nutrition assessment and support for young Australians
- \$379K HMRI grant awarded to Professor Philip Morgan for Embedding the DADEE Program in local communities which has involved 45 new facilitators trained and the program for Dads and Daughters now running 4 nights per week
- \$350K Greater Charitable Foundation grant awarded to Professor Philip Morgan for the *Healthy Youngsters Healthy Dads Program* –the first community health program specifically for Dads and their pre-school aged children
- Associate Professor Mitch Duncan awarded 4-year NHMRC Career Development Fellowship
- Dr Myles Young awarded a National Heart Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellowship for the SHED-IT online program targeting overweight and obese men with depression.



Publications

141 unique journal articles [co-]authored by our 10 Named Research Investigators with 70% of these publications being ranked in the Top Quartile journals in our fields.

Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Students

Our 10 named researchers [co-]supervised over 50 HDR students and had 9 HDR completions in 2017.

International collaboration

In 2017, PRCPAN hosted 13 international visiting academics from the USA, Canada, Netherlands, Denmark, Slovenia and Hong Kong including 11 public seminars/presentations delivered by international academics. In addition, PRC-PAN hosted 11 international interns at the Centre in 2017 from the USA, Netherlands and Belgium.

Our 10 named researchers published on average 32% of their journal articles with international co-authors (the majority of these were from USA, Canada, and UK).

Awards to PRCPAN staff and students

- Professor Clare Collins awarded HMRI's Award for Research Excellence 2017
- Professor David Lubans awarded HMRI's Mid-Career Researcher of the Year 2017
- DADEE Program recognised via a NSW State Parliament Community Recognition Statement and a National Play Your Part Award from the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) in Canberra awarded by the Governor General.
- Dr Tracy Schumacher awarded Inaugural nutrition award Memory of founding Nutrition and Dietetics Professor Dave Roberts
- Professor Lubans awarded UON Mid-Career Research Excellence & Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Supervision Excellence
- Dr Narelle Eather awarded UON Early Career Research Excellence
- Hannah Brown awarded Neville Eric Sansom PhD Top Up Scholarship
- Jacklyn Jackson and Jessica Ferguson both awarded HMRI's Greaves Family Scholarships
- Lisa Vincze awarded Best New Researcher Dietitians Australia Association Conference
- Dr Melinda Hutchesson awarded Best Poster Presentation Dietitians Australia Association Conference
- Jessica Ferguson awarded Professional Program Travel Grant, Dietitians Association of Australia



- Li Kheng Chai awarded Emlyn and Jennie Thomas Postgraduate Medical Research Top-up Scholarship
- Dr Rachel Sutherland awarded Best RCT ISBNPA in Canada
- Dr Lee Ashton awarded Best Student Oral ISBNPA in Canada
- Dr Jenna Hollis awarded Best Review ISBNPA in Canada
- Dr Kristen Cohen awarded Higher Degree by Research Excellence
- Hannah Brown awarded Neville Eric Sansom PhD Top Up Scholarship
- Dr Jenna Hollis awarded Jennie Thomas Medical Research Travel Grant
- Jessica Ferguson awarded New Investigator Award and Travel Grant by the International Society For The Study of Fatty Acids (ISSFAL)



2017 PRCPAN Events

- *Pint of Science* event - Associate Professor Tracy Burrows and Dr Lee Ashton at The Edwards
- *The Great Debate*
- 11 Public Seminars hosted with international collaborators.
- PRCPAN hosted 5 staff Forums in 2017.

Trademarks

- Prof Manohar Garg's group invented a novel surrogate marker for Metabolic Syndrome and Insulin Resistance called 'InsuTAG' which was trademarked and registered in 2017.
- Development and testing of new portion size estimation tools that have been trademarked - ServAR and IFU led by Professor Clare Collins.



Other 2017 achievements

- PRCPAN's first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) commenced in 2017 - The Science of Weight Loss (led by Professor Clare Collins and Associate Professor Tracy Burrows) which enrolled over 45,000 people from 181 countries.
- 4 PRCPAN women promoted – Dr Melinda Hutchesson and Dr Megan Rollo promoted to Senior Lecturer, and Leanne Brown and Janet Wallace promoted to Associate Professors.
- PRCPAN launched 6 Strategic Pillars - *Impact, Internationalisation, Sustainability, Equity and Social Justice, Innovation and Interdisciplinary; and Community Engagement* to specifically address the UON's strategic plan objectives. Events coordinated by the PRCPAN Pillars in 2017 include PRCPAN's first Great Debate, Journal Clubs, Seminar series, researcher workshops and a researcher conference.
- SBS Documentary on Food Addiction by Associate Professor Tracy Burrows



Losing weight made easier with Newcastle University short course | VIDEO

Anita Beaumont
1 Apr 2017, 6 a.m.

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Short course: The UON team involved in the online health course. From left to right, Dr Lee Ashton, Dr Rebecca Williams, professor Clare Collins, associate professor Tracy Burrows and Dr Megan Rollo.

- First industry partnership (UoN and Department of Education) to enable large-scale promotion of muscle-strengthening Physical Activity among adolescents led by Professor David Lubans
- Regular nutrition guest with Dr Karl (Triple J, BBC, ABC) - Professor Clare Collins.

