

# The Cancer Epidemiology Research Unit (CERU) Cancer Council NSW

**Karen Canfell DPhil**



# Research Division

- **“Our mission is to engage in the highest quality research in epidemiology, biostatistics and behavioural science to better understand the causes, management, outcomes and impact of the leading and emerging cancers”**
- **Division:**
  - **Cancer Epidemiology Research Unit (CERU) in Sydney**
  - **Centre for Health Research and Psycho-oncology (CHeRP) in Newcastle.**
- **Division Director: A/Prof. Freddy Sitas**
- **Division: 68 staff; 12 volunteers; 5 PhD students**
- **CERU Manager/Senior Epidemiologist: Prof. Dianne O’Connell**

# CERU Health Services Research

- **Prostate cancer outcomes study**
  - Effects of treatment for prostate cancer
  - Over 2000 men aged <70 years with prostate cancer
  - Treatment choices and supportive care needs

***Dr. David Smith***

- **Evidence based guidelines for management of advanced prostate cancer**
  - Systematic review of the evidence
  - Now out for comment, NHMRC website

***Prof. Dianne O'Connell***

# CERU Health Services Research

- **Aboriginal patterns of cancer care (APOCC)**
  - Linked data analysis & interviews
  - Pathways to diagnosis and patterns of care
  - Determine whether Aboriginal people are being diagnosed with cancer at later stages
  - Describe barriers to being diagnosed

***Rajah Supramaniam***

- **Patterns of care**
  - Colorectal, lung cancer
  - Pathways to diagnosis thyroid cancer

***Prof. Dianne O'Connell***

# Modellers sans frontières

## Evaluating cervical cancer screening in the era of HPV vaccination –

### Screening/program evaluations:

#### ■ Australia:

- MSAC LBC, Automated cytology (2008-9)
- MSAC HPV DNA triage testing (2008-9)

#### ■ New Zealand:

- Evaluation of LBC; HPV triage (2006-8)
- Evaluation of HPV test of cure (2006-7)
- Evaluation of HPV vaccination impact on screening (2008-9)
- NZ Women and HPV study (2009-10)

#### ■ England :

- Epidemiologic evaluation of screening interval change (2004)
- Systematic review of normal endometrial cells in cervical smears (2008)
- HPV testing at pilot and sentinel sites (2009-10)



July '09

Other funding: NHMRC // Cancer Council NSW //  
American Cancer Society-UICC fellowship



# CERU Cancer Causes Research

- **45 and Up Research**

- E.g. Examined the effects of smoking, exercise, diet, BMI on a number of health outcomes including cancer, in over 250,000 study participants.

***Dr. Marianne Weber***

- **Cervical Health Study**

- Sample size of 3300 will be recruited through the pap test register from 2006-2010.
- Case control study of hormonal co-factors for CIN 2/3

***A/Prof. Freddy Sitas***

# NSW CLEAR Study

- **Major cancer biobank initiative**
- **Lifestyle and genetic risk factors for cancer**
- **Designed to be complementary to 45 and Up**
- **Over 3,300 participants enrolled (15 Sept 2009)**
  - 2,500+ cases
  - Target enrolment 10,000 by May 2011
- **Questionnaire translated into several languages**  
Including Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese, Greek and Italian
- **Recruitment via ClinCRs, hospital-based, special events; Online consent & questionnaire**  
*Investigators: A/Prof Freddy Sitas, Dr Karen Canfell, A/Prof Emily Banks, Prof Michael Barton, Prof Dianne O'Connell, Prof Robyn Ward*

# More info...

- <http://www.cancercouncil.com.au/html/research/download/Final%20CRD%20Annual%20Report%20LW.pdf>
- Google “Cancer Council NSW Research Report”