**Project title**: Integrated primary care and eHealth in SW Sydney

Note: this is a 6UOC course.

**Background**: The UNSW General Practice Unit (GPU) research activities provide opportunities for Masters projects in (i) **quality integrated primary care**, and (ii) **eHealth**. To support its clinical research program, the GPU has established a major informatics infrastructure – the *electronic Practice Based Research Network (ePBRN)*. The ePBRN data repository contains pseudonymised observational data extracted from health information systems in general practice, primary and secondary care services, including outpatient, ED and inpatient services. These data are linked, enabling a range of translational research into comparative effectiveness and safety of services. We have used this asset to conduct descriptive studies, identify cohorts and develop predictive models for use of health services and relate them to relevant outcomes.

We work closely with SW Sydney Primary Health Network (SWSPHN) and Local Health District (SWSLHD) Community Health Services to develop, implement and evaluate innovative and culturally appropriate models of care at the primary-secondary care interface. We use a range of quantitative and qualitative methodologies, along with the use of observational data in electronic health records (EHRs), to conduct translational research into health services, systems, and eHealth. We work with all clinical domains including prevention and management of cancer, infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases in acute and subacute settings and for specific populations such as CALD peoples.

This data and environment in SW Sydney enables many research projects using a range of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Studies can be conducted into:

1. morbidity, medications and health practice in a health neighbourhood;
2. facilitators and barriers of effective integration of systems & services;
3. facilitators and barriers of effective implementation of and access to person-centred integrated primary care, health education and other programs, including eHealth programs;
4. strategic, managerial and clinical reforms to promote quality of and access to care; and
5. data quality assessment, analysis and interpretation of data from the ePBRN data repository.

**Aims**:  
1. Conduct a Masters level research project, such as:  
   a. Evaluation of the implementation of and access to, say, an integrated primary care program in the prevention and management of chronic diseases.  
   b. Identification and critical discussion of socio-cultural and ethical issues associated with the introduction of an eHealth intervention.
2. Publish important findings on the subject through the preparation and submission of a paper to a peer-reviewed journal

Methods
1. Literature review of the topic selected
2. Quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods may be used, depending on the research question and in which of the 5 domains listed above. Examples could be:
   a. Conduct and analyse interviews with an appropriate number of patients and/or providers; or
   b. Conduct a survey of relevant stakeholders in the health program or intervention
   In most cases, Masters student will be directed to projects that already have ethics approval;
3. Preparation of a high quality academic report with the findings, inclusive of a brief literature review, methods section and discussion/conclusion, with support from supervisor
4. Report to be submitted for publication as article in a peer-reviewed, international journal

Timeframe: Semester 1, 2018. The project will be conducted and completed within the term, to be submitted for assessment by the end of S1, as per the School’s assignment submission policies. Details for submitting the report for assessment will be sent to the student at the start of semester. The final draft of the article will be due for submission to a journal shortly after marking and feedback have been received by the student.

Workload: It is expected that this project will require at least 8-10 hours of work per week, with fortnightly meetings with the principal supervisor.

Skills: This study will provide the student with advanced skills in qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods research, critical data analysis and high-level written communication skills. The student will be supervised during the conduct of the project, and supported in the preparation of a manuscript to be submitted for publication to a peer-reviewed academic journal. If possible, and subject to the student’s agreement, he or she may have the opportunity to present their work to the School and/or a research team.

References
