It has been a long time since our last newsletter and much has changed! The enormous amount of data generated during PARTY 1 is being prepared for publication, with a number of manuscripts in progress. The final data collection for PARTY 2 is underway following the twelve months study period. If you haven’t yet you will soon see our Research Assistants in your practice busy recruiting young people and parents to fill in surveys. Once we have enough surveys from young people and parents we will be asking ALL staff from EVERY practice to complete a staff survey. Please take the 10-15 minutes needed to fill in the survey—the information you provide will help us to work out if any changes have occurred in your practice over the past year. The data collection for PARTY 2 should be completed by the end of March 2013 and we hope to have preliminary reports available to all practices by mid 2013.

As the year comes to a close and the end of PARTY 2 draws near we would like to take the opportunity to thank all practices—staff and patients—for their assistance in the research project. Together we can hopefully work out better ways of looking after the health of young people.

Wishing you all a safe and happy festive season and a wonderful year ahead in 2013.

From the PARTY team

iPod GIVEAWAY!!

All young people who complete a PARTY 2 survey are eligible for a 1 in 500 chance to win an iPod, and we have almost enough interested young people to conduct our first iPod draw for Wave 2. We expect to be in touch with the lucky winner very soon!
In January Caroline Hart and her partner Rob welcomed the safe arrival of baby Alexander. Congratulations Caroline on taking on this new role!

PARTY Project Coordinator Jenny Anderson was offered a job in Geelong that was too good to refuse and left the project in July. Caroline returned part-time from maternity leave to manage the project until a new Coordinator was appointed.

Due to family commitments Fan Yang relocated to China during the year, but fortunately is able to continue her involvement with the PARTY project. She is advising on the management of the data arising from PARTY 2 and assisting in preparing PARTY 1 publications.

Ann-Maree Duncan commenced as the new Project Coordinator in October. Ann-Maree has a background in medical research but has most recently been assisting in the development of a youth-friendly model of genetic counselling. She will oversee the final block of data collection for Wave 2.

After helping Ann-Maree to settle in to her position, Caroline will be leaving to concentrate on her Ph.D. studies. She will still have some involvement with PARTY in preparing another manuscript for submission.

Congratulations to Shelley Walker on the recent completion of her Master of Primary Health Care degree. Shelley’s thesis was titled ‘Giving meaning to the phenomenon of sexting from young people’s perspective’ and was undertaken part-time while she was also working as a researcher on the PARTY project. Shelley, along with her family, is spending a year in Cambodia on an AusAID funded project, working with a local NGO to build capacity in research and evaluation.

To ensure the successful completion of the Wave 2 data collection for PARTY 2, a new group of research assistants were recruited in October. We welcomed Laura, Mim, Hok, Jennifer and Michelle to join our more experienced team of Adrian and Natalie. We have also recently welcomed Emma to the team to perform the survey recruitment at our regional practices. If you see one of our Research Assistants at your practice please give them a friendly welcome!

Finally, we say farewell to Anne-Emmanuelle Ambresin, who is a paediatrician from the Multidisciplinary Unit for Adolescent Health at University Hospital, Lausanne. She has been working with the PARTY project over the past two years while achieving top marks for her Masters degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Anne-Emmanuelle and her family are sad to be leaving Australia, but have a holiday in Thailand to look forward to on their way home to Switzerland. We hope to see them all back in Melbourne before too long.
The PARTY 1 study generated a large amount of data that has taken some time to analyse. Many manuscripts are currently in preparation, including one presenting the main findings of the study. The following are papers relating to the PARTY project that have already been accepted for publication:


Other articles published over the past year include:

Reid SC., Kauer SD., Khor AS., Sanci LA., Kennedy AD., Patton GC. A mobile phone application for the assessment and management of youth mental health problems. *In press Australian Family Physician* 2012


GRANTS: PARTY would not be possible without the generous support from a variety of funding bodies. PARTY 2 is funded by a 5 year grant: 2009-2013 Re-orienting general practice systems toward youth friendly care: a cluster randomized controlled trial. L Sanci, G Patton, A Shiell, J Pirkis, S Sawyer, P Chondros. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Previous support for PARTY has been provided by beyondblue, the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute (APHCRI), and the Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council.

PARTY researchers are also associated with other key national and state funding initiatives:


UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

Anne-Emmanuelle Ambresin will make an oral presentation at the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine annual meeting in Atlanta in March. Her paper is titled “Impact on general practitioner’s detection of mental health issues”.
General Practitioners!!
If you are participating in the PARTY 2 Research Project you are eligible to claim 40 CPD points from the RACGP for the current 2011-2013 triennium. The claim is administered via the PARTY 2 project to ensure that the data collection requirements of the research project have been met. Your practice will soon receive information about the process for claiming these points.

GPs participating in the intervention arm of the study and attending 3 PDSA cycles as part of the project may be eligible for an ADDITIONAL 40 CPD points. This is via a separate application process and GPs need to contact the RACGP for further details: http://qicpd.racgp.org.au/qicpd-home

LOOKING FOR CPD POINTS?

HONOURS STUDENTS

In 2012 we had two students complete Honours projects using data from the PARTY 1 study.
Ms Millicent Palmer ‘Overweight and obese adolescents in general practice’, B.Bmed (Hons)
Mr Sam Walker ‘Musculoskeletal conditions in adolescent males: an opportunity for preventive care’, B.Sc (Hons)
Both students produced highly regarded theses and passed well. Congratulations Milly and Sam!

OTHER INITIATIVES

Our project leader, Lena Sanci, has always had a strong professional interest in youth health and is presently involved with an initiative to investigate how the use of technology in young people’s lives can positively influence their mental health and wellbeing. The Young And Well Cooperative Research Centre (youngandwellcrc.org.au) has engaged partner organizations from academic, non-profit, government and corporate sectors to promote cybersafety, mental health and wellbeing through three complementary research programs: Safe and Supportive, Connected and Creative, and User-Driven and Empowered. Crucial to the success of this project is the involvement of young people in every aspect of the research and as key stakeholders in its governance. Partner organizations in the CRC include Inspire Foundation, Australian National University, beyondblue, Brain & Mind Research Institute, the Butterfly Foundation, headspace, Murdoch University, Orygen Youth Health, Queensland University of Technology, University of Melbourne, University of South Australia, University of Western Sydney and VicHealth.
Everyone here at the PARTY project would like to wish you and yours a very peaceful festive season, and a safe and enjoyable start to 2013.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

THANK YOU for all of your support during the last 12 months. We know many of you work in very busy practices and we really appreciate the time you have given to the project.

"Joyeux Noël"  "Chuc Mung Giang Sinh"

"Froehliche Weihnachten"  "Bon Natale"

"Nollaig Shona Dhuit"  "Kala Christouyenna"

"Bada Din Mubarak Ho"  "Sung Tan Chuk Ha"