

Franklin Women

April 2016 Newsletter

I am biased, but I really love our newsletter. Although my favourite section changes each month, one of the most practical is definitely 'What happened this month'. It's usually filled with awards, reports and resources recently published and relevant for the FW community, but this month it also includes the [latest FW blog](#). You see, this blog post is very important to us as it is about the Strategic Planning session we held earlier this year. It was such a great experience that we want to share with you the main outcomes for the FW community, but also what we learnt about strategic planning along the way. It is always hard to set aside time for bigger picture thinking but it is so important to do, whether just for yourself, your team or an organisation you lead. We hope our blog offers some inspiration...

We have some long-time FW members writing for us this month: Emily shares her experiences with finding the 'right' time for a PhD; for Journal Club, Megan shares her latest research informing HPV cancer screening programs; and Virginia busts all those myths about open access publishing – hoorah!

Happy reading!

Melina and the FW team



What happened this month

- The [Advisory Board for the Medical Research Future Fund](#) was announced early this month, with Professor Ian Frazer appointed as Chair
 - Applications are now open for the [UNSW Top 5 Under 40 science communication competition](#) – who are you encouraging to apply?
 - Kate Jenkins launched her term as Sex Discrimination Commissioner with an event at the National Press Club on [gender equality from household to workplace](#)
 - Chief Scientist Dr Alan Finkel released a publication on Australia's [STEM workforce](#) and also an [interview](#) about the key findings
 - The [AMP Tomorrow Fund](#) and the [NSW Health Early-Mid Career Fellowships](#) are now open for applications
 - Finally, the latest installment of the [FW Blog](#), complete with details of our recent strategic planning day and tips for you if you want to hold one of your own!
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FW Journal Club

This month's Journal Club comes from [Megan Smith](#), [Program Manager of the Cancer Screening Group at Cancer Council NSW](#) and [part-time PhD student](#).

[Smith M, Lew JB, Simms K, Canfell K. Impact of HPV sample self-collection for underscreened women in the renewed Cervical Screening Program. Medical Journal of Australia 2016;204\(5\):194. doi:10.5694/mja15.00912](#)



What were the aims of this research? The aim was to provide some quantitative information for women and health practitioners to help inform decision-making about HPV self-collection for cervical screening. From 2017, self-collection will be offered to some women; however, there wasn't much in the way of detailed quantitative information which would allow women to weigh up the benefits and harms of different choices, and for health professionals to use to discuss options with their patients.

What are the top 3 take home findings of your research? 1. Even undergoing one round of HPV-based screening would substantially reduce a woman's risk of cervical cancer. 2. While one round of screening with self-collection is very beneficial, the benefits of joining the mainstream program of 5-yearly HPV screening with clinician-collected samples is far greater. 3. The quality of the HPV test used matters – it will be important that the tests labs use to analyse self-collected samples are sufficiently accurate.

How does this research contribute to the field? We really hope that these results will be helpful in informing discussions between clinicians and women, and in decision-making. In the future, they could be used to inform [a decision aid](#) about cervical screening and self-collection for unscreened and underscreened women.

What is your current role and organisation and how long have you been there for? I currently work in the Research Division at Cancer Council NSW. I've been working in my current research group, which focuses on modelled policy evaluations for preventing HPV-related disease, for 10 years.

What new skills or projects are you currently working on? Most of my projects look at the impact of new technologies or approaches to preventing HPV-related disease, as well as their impact on women, healthcare resources and cost-effectiveness. I'm also interested in how these interventions affect certain [subgroups](#). Outside work I'm trying to work on my ukulele skills – inspired by my grandfather, and a group of parents from my son's school.

Who is a woman that inspires you? So many! I'm inspired by being surrounded by so many talented women, especially in my work where most of my colleagues are female. I admire many family and friends too – women who are creative and make beautiful things; great leaders, communicators or organisers; sources of great strength in their families; and

some who have bravely taken risks on projects they are passionate about – it's been a joy and inspiration to see their successes!

What food have you eaten too much of in your life? Here I am inspired by Edith Piaf – *je ne regrette rien* :)!

Have you published recently? Firstly congratulations! Secondly drop us a line at hello@franklinwomen.com. We'd love to hear from you and are always on the lookout for journal club contributors for our newsletter. 😊

Open access publication myth busters!

Many say open is the future of publishing but there are still misconceptions. [Virginia Barbour](#), Executive Director of the Australasian Open Access Strategy Group, busts some open access myths for us:



You'd have had to have been in a nice comfy cave for the past 15 or so years to have missed the many discussions, not always very collegial, about opening up access to academic research: open access (OA) in short. The premise is compelling and is what attracted me to move more than 12 years ago from being an editor at an established subscription journal to a start-up organisation, [PLOS](#). There, I was one of the three co-founders of what has become an important OA journal, [PLOS Medicine](#). What drove me and my colleagues was this belief: that research publications need to be findable, usable and reusable by anyone,

anywhere who needs them, in order to ensure that research can fully contribute to healthcare, new discoveries, innovation and the exchange of ideas.

In past decades, when research was distributed by paper copies, it was really hard to make this happen. Now, however, with technology we have the ability to share information seamlessly. We're not there yet, so, what are the challenges that might remain? Here are some questions I hear a lot.

By making all work freely available doesn't that make it low quality?

No! OA is about optimising access and reuse of information. It's entirely compatible with the high quality curation that journals do. It is also, however, underpinning the explosion of [innovation in publishing](#) that is now happening and we are seeing many new publishing models emerge. A good site to help you navigate publishing is [Think, Check, Submit](#).

Won't increasing access make it more expensive for me as a researcher?

It's a false belief to think that subscription publishing, whose cost is hidden to researchers, is cheaper than alternative OA opens which may be funded via article processing charges (APCs), which are visible to researchers. Overall in Australia hundreds of millions of dollars are spent yearly on subscriptions. If you work in an academic institution, I suggest you ask your librarian how much they pay. OA has, at large scale in some countries, been [shown to be potentially cheaper](#) than subscription publishing.

But the system is complex and there are no simple ways to switch things around. In the meantime, many OA journals have no APCs, or you can add your accepted version into your institution's repository without cost and make research available that way, which is the model supported by funders in Australia. OA may also be paid for by via institutional or library consortial agreements such as [SCOAP3](#) or [Open Library of the Humanities](#) or [Knowledge Unlatched](#).

In the end, full OA will need a wholesale reworking of scholarly publishing to make sure that not just research articles, but also books, data, software and code are open and there are moves in place to try to make that happen. In the meantime, costs should not put you off making your work open.

That's all well and good – but I can't make anything change on my own. This is up to the policy makers to change.

Yes and no –much change in publishing has been driven by a few passionate individuals, like these [academics](#), or those who started PLOS, or many librarians allying with editors like me who wanted to change the system. The more individuals that step up and say they want to make the system better, the quicker it will change. True, policymakers need to be on side – but it needs everyone to help make the change. If you are interested in knowing more take a look at the [Australasian Open Access Strategy Group](#), which I'm the Executive Director for, which works for OA in this region!

Virginia is also Chair of the Committee on Publication Ethics and works part time as an advisor in the Office of Research Ethics and Integrity at QUT. The views expressed here are personal and not necessarily that of any of these organisations.

Unconventional career paths – the new black?

New PhD candidate [Emily King](#) writes about her unconventional career trajectory to date, and how that has helped her prepare for a more successful research degree.



It's official! Back to the student life, at 26! This time I'm not going with the grain...most of my friends are definitely NOT at uni. But yet, from all of the (much more financially pleasing) options, I chose this year to commence a PhD. So I wanted to share what prompted this decision and the benefits I found in taking a bit of a different career trajectory.

1. Industry experience: After honours I wanted a break from the lab. I'd never heard of a medical representative before but did some research and gave it a go. The first few months in the field were eye-opening and challenging! But as I progressed, I learnt to adapt my communication style for different clients and how to negotiate. Though this particular job wasn't for me, these skills, industry experience and contacts were surprisingly useful to me as a scientist down the track.

2. *La bella vita?*: I later resigned and moved halfway across the world to Italy. I had no contacts and no knowledge of the language. I was given wrong information and directions. My passport was stolen. That's not even the half of it! But to make ends meet, I opened myself to unlikely opportunities, even auditioned for a voice-over position! I learnt Italian and how to understand, appreciate and accept alternative ways of living. I started my own business. Essentially, I learned how to better handle difficult situations and people, invaluable skills for any research career!

3. Getting reacquainted with science: On return, after 3 years out of science, it was pretty challenging to get back in. I feared I had lost and wasted too much time. But later I was told that the independence required to establish myself in a foreign country is what got me the job, as I was going to need that to succeed in research! It took a long time to trust in my technical abilities again and confidently take charge, but by the end I had introduced new techniques and equipment to take the project forward.

Having just started a PhD in a new lab (and state), I anticipate that there's much more to learn. However, I'm confident that my slightly unorthodox career path to-date has me better-prepared than I otherwise would have been. And I'm exactly where I want to be.

Emily is a new Melbournian and PhD student at Baker IDI. When not science-ing, she has a live music obsession, ginger addiction and a new-found adoration of languages.

We are loving right now...

Arty science!! At FW we love how [art](#) provides an opportunity to [communicate science to the world with a new perspective](#). Here are our fave science–art linkages...

- Check out these awesome science illustrations and animations by [Rachel Ignatofsky](#) and [Synaps Communications](#)
- Fun creative approaches like dance are helping to [teach biology to students](#) – we're so keen to try the DNA boogie and mitosis mamba ourselves!
- [Choreographers](#), [dancers](#) and [artists](#) have been invited on journeys to the ant/arctic to communicate these wondrous spaces and effects of climate change to the public
- You could own some of your very own stunning science inspired [art](#) and [jewellery](#)
- Feeling inspired? Check out this Australian art/science collaboration resource [Synapse](#), including a database of current collaborators
- Finally, seeing all the excellent science collaborations really makes us [smile](#) 😊

We want to include your contributions in our newsletter. If you have published your work recently or are doing (or know of) something that other women in our field would be interested in, drop us a [line](#). Want to receive our newsletters directly to your in-box? [Subscribe here](#).