

Elected members of the 2019-2020 IPDLN Executive Committee

Dr Merran Smith – New IPDLN Director 2019-2020 – Chair of Executive Committee

Merran Smith commenced as the inaugural Chief Executive of Australia's Population Health Research Network (PHRN) in April 2009. Prior to joining the PHRN, Smith was a Director in the Western Australian Department of Health. She was in charge of the Department's Health Information Centre for more than 10 years and was responsible for establishing data linkage as a core Department of Health service during this period. She also participated in a number of significant nationally funded population health research projects. Dr Smith has served as Chair or Member of a number of Australia's peak national health information committees.

Dennis Culhane (USA) – Newly elected member

Dennis Culhane is the Dana and Andrew Stone Professor of Social Policy at the School of Social Policy and Practice at The University of Pennsylvania. Culhane also directs Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP), an initiative that promotes the development and use of integrated data systems by state and local governments for policy analysis and systems reform. Culhane is an internationally recognized social science researcher with primary expertise in the field of homelessness. His work in this field positioned him as an early innovator in the use of linked administrative data for program evaluation and policy analysis, particularly for populations that are difficult to assess and track. Culhane's work has resulted in federal legislation requiring all cities and states to develop administrative data systems for tracking homeless services in order to receive HUD funding. Since the system's implementation, Culhane has provided technical assistance to jurisdictions around the U.S. on using administrative data to inform the local policy-making process. Among other projects, Culhane's currently working with colleagues in New York, Massachusetts, and Los Angeles County on a multi-site data-based analysis of health care utilization and long-term care use by individuals who are aged 55 or over and experiencing homelessness.

Dr William Ghali (Canada) – Past Director

William Ghali is Scientific Director of the O'Brien Institute for Public Health.

Ghali is a General Internist (MD, University of Calgary; FRCPC, Queen's University) with methodological training in health services research and epidemiology (MPH) from the Boston University School of Public Health. He is a principal in the University of Calgary World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre in Disease Classifications and health information. Ghali recently completed two terms as a Canada Research Chair in Health Services Research, and has also been funded as a Senior Health Scholar by Alberta Innovates Health Solutions. Ghali has held millions of dollars of peer-reviewed research funding from various agencies, has published over 350 papers in peer-reviewed journals, and has been the recipient of numerous local, national, and international awards. He is involved in a number of research initiatives, with specific focus on interdisciplinary approaches to evaluating and improving health system performance to produce better patient outcomes and improved system efficiency. Dr Ghali has done a number of systematic reviews, both academically and on contracts, including two major commissioned reviews on EtOH and heart disease.

Ruth Gilbert (UK) – Newly elected member

Ruth Gilbert is Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at University College London. Gilbert has leading roles in UK research initiatives that centre on the use of administrative data for research (Administrative Data Research Network, Health Data Research UK, Child and Family Policy Research Unit). Gilbert's work focusses on improving the health and social welfare of children and families, using data linked within families and across sectors such as education, social care and health to inform policy and practice.

Kerina Jones (UK) – Newly elected member

Kerina Jones is an Associate Professor of Health Informatics at Swansea University, and the academic lead for Information Governance and Public Engagement (IG&PE) to ensure data protection and maximise socially-acceptable data utility across the various Swansea University-based data intensive/linkage initiatives, including: the SAIL Databank, Administrative Data Research Centre Wales, Farr@CIPHER and the HDRUK collaboration between Swansea University and Queen's University Belfast. Jones led the active Innovative Governance working group of the Farr Institute, the members of which continue to work collaboratively to advise and influence the developing data governance landscape to promote the safe reuse of data. Jones leads an IG&PE research programme including work to inform cross-centre research and how emerging data types, such as genetic data, can be used in conjunction with health record data. This includes a programme of public engagement; Jones enjoys working with the public on the use of anonymised data for research.

Rachael Moorin (Australia) – Newly elected member

Rachael Moorin is an Associate Professor of Health Systems & Health Economics at Curtin University, Western Australian and a past co-director of the IPDLN (2011-12). Rachael has been awarded competitive research grants as chief investigator totalling more than \$12 million from state and national funding agencies; and has been responsible for development of novel methods for analysing complex linked administrative health data since 2003. Her research focusses on using these data to promote evidence-based care; reduce ineffective, wasteful or harmful care; reduce unnecessary downstream health care use and costs, and improve health outcomes for patients with a range of chronic conditions.

Rainer Schnell (Germany) – Newly elected member

Rainer Schnell holds the chair for Research Methodology in the Social Sciences at the University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. He has been the Director of the Centre for Comparative Surveys at City, University of London 2015-2017. Rainer Schnell founded the German Record Linkage Center and was the founding editor of the journal Survey Research Methods. He is the author of books on Statistical Graphics (1994), Nonresponse (1997), Survey Methodology (2012), and Research Methodology (11th ed. 2018). His research focuses on nonsampling errors, applied sampling, census operations, and privacy preserving record linkage (PPRL). Most of his current work is dedicated to cryptographic hardening of Bloom Filter based PPRL. He is an Editor of the International Journal of population Data Science and has been an IPDLN member since 2014.

Dr Michael Schull (Canada) – Past Director

Michael Schull is chief executive officer at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, and professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Schull's research focuses on health service utilization, quality of care and patient outcomes as they relate to emergency care, and the study of interventions designed to reduce emergency department waiting times. His studies use administrative datasets and linkages with clinical data, and examine the causes and consequences of emergency department overcrowding, variations in patient waiting times and pre-hospital care. He is currently working with other researchers and health system decision-makers to evaluate policy interventions designed to reduce emergency department waiting times, and innovative ways to better integrate health care between hospital and community providers. Dr Schull practices as an emergency medicine specialist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto.