Effect of screening and brief counselling for abused women on quality of life, safety planning and mental health: A primary care Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial (WEAVE)

Presented by Associate Professor Kelsey Hegarty, Department of General Practice, The University of Melbourne

When: 11.00 am – 12.00 pm, Monday 20th August 2012
Where: Room 302, Level 3, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

This presentation will outline the exciting results of four years’ work on a trial designed to determine the effectiveness of screening plus a brief counselling intervention delivered by GPs for women experiencing intimate partner violence. 55 GPs across Victoria participated in WEAVE, enabling the project to screen around 20000 women for fear of a current or previous intimate partner. 52 GPs (and 272 women) were ultimately randomly assigned to usual care, or an intervention involving GP training followed by invitations to participating women to attend up to 6 sessions of brief GP counselling. The screening and counselling intervention was evaluated based on women’s quality of life, safety and mental health one year later. This is an important study which again underscores the prevalence (one in 10 women in the last year) of this hidden social epidemic, as well as showing women’s willingness to disclose violence to GPs. Finally, it suggests a promising model for supporting GP training in this challenging area and for supporting women to achieve safer, healthier lives without violence.

Kelsey Hegarty currently works as an Associate Professor in the Department of General Practice at the University of Melbourne and in general practice in inner city Melbourne. She leads a program of research on Abuse and Violence in the Primary Care Research Unit. During the last decade Kelsey has contributed at both national and international levels to the intimate partner violence field. She has developed a mutli-faceted program of research in family violence, and developed a new measure of domestic violence the Composite Abuse Scale, which is the first validated multidimensional measure of partner abuse and is available in 6 languages.

No RSVP required. For further information please contact:

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