3. **Pharmacoepidemiology - Medication Safety and Pharmacoepidemiology in WA.**

Investigations of medication safety and pharmacoepidemiology and pharmocovigilance are priorities for Australian and international research. The Commonwealth Government has just recently allowed data from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme to be linked with administrative data from the WA Health Department. As a result, WA researchers are now in strong positions to investigate the scope of prescribing practice and the safety record of certain pharmaceuticals. One of our NHMRC-funded research projects will examine the health outcomes of medications prescribed for the elderly and especially for those with diminished capacity to manage their own health. Other priority areas for research are the use of high risk medications that precipitate unplanned hospitalisation and laboratory monitoring of anticoagulation therapy. The results of our studies have major implications for medication policy in Australia and could stimulate a revision of policies aimed at prescribers, pharmacists and consumers. The research team utilises skills in health service research, pharmaco-epidemiology, primary care and medication safety.

**Lead:** Dr Renate Zilkens  
**Team:** Professor David Bruce, University Department of Medicine, Fremantle Hospital

**Recent publications:**

